Recently, Kimberly Woznack, Rich Danchik, and Rob Mathers attended the 258th National Meeting of the ACS in San Diego as Councilors for the Pittsburgh Section. The following report summarizes some items of interest.

**Actions of the Council**

**Elections:** During the meeting, a series of elections were held. First, the Council elected Anne M. Gaffney, Lydia E. M. Hines, Will E. Lynch, Sally B. Peters, and Dee Ann Casteel to the Council Policy Committee (CPC). Then, the Council voted Michelle V. Buchannan, Charles E. Cannon, Alan A. Hazari, Amber S. Hinkle, and Thomas H. Lane to serve on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). Afterwards, the Council elected Lisa M. Balbes, D. Richard Cobb, Emilio X. Esposito, Jason E. Ritchie, and Stephanie J. Watson to 3-year terms the Committee on Committees (ConC).

**Other Council Actions:** In order to balance population among ACS districts, the Council voted that the Pittsburgh Local Section transfer from District II to District III.

Based on recommendations of the Committee on International Activities and the Council Policy Committee, the ACS created an International Chemical Sciences Chapter in the Republic of Georgia.

**Highlights of Committee Reports**

**Budget and Finance:** During the last year, total revenues were $338 million and total expenses were $308 million. Based on this favorable financial performance, the ACS is expected to end the year in compliance with each of the five Board-established financial guidelines. For further information on finances, visit [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) and click on ‘About ACS’ at the bottom of the page and then click ‘Financial’.

The committee reauthorized funding for the ChemIDP and the International Student Chapters Programs. Subsequently, the Board approved a new funding request for the Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education Resources in the 2020 Proposed Budget.
Overview of San Diego Meeting: The theme of the 258th ACS National Meeting was “Chemistry and Water” and focused on a number of topics including water chemistry, sustainability, safety, and environmental stewardship. Within this theme, Rob Mathers, councilor for Pittsburgh Local Section, helped co-organize a symposium on the issue of plastics in the ocean. Attendance for the meeting was 12,409 including 995 exhibitors and 3,095 students.

2019 Career Data: Thirty-one employers interviewed 239 job seekers for 81 open positions. A significant number of Career Pathway registrations (1,180) and Career Consultants (555) also occurred during the meeting.

Actions of the Board of Directors

Committees: The Board received reports from committees on Budget and Finance, Professional and Member Relations, Strategic Planning, Executive Compensation, Pensions and Investments, ACS Governing Board for Publishing, Task Force on the Future of Meetings, and the Society Programs Globalization Board liaison. During these discussions, the Board voted to adjust registration fees for national meetings for inflation. As a result, advance member registration for 2020 will be $505.

Executive Director and CEO Report: Updates included activities of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and the ACS Publications Division. Other issues included ACS Core Value of Diversity, Inclusion, and Respect, status of Society membership, ACS financials, and activities associated with the International Year of Periodic Table.

Other Society Business: In order to encourage expansion of international activities and initiatives, the Board liaison for globalization summarized a recent Board survey and conveyed additional feedback from the Board on the globalization vision.

The Board received recommendations from the Committee on Strategic Planning as well as updates from the Task Force on the Future of Meetings. The task force has been reexamining the current portfolio of ACS conferences, evaluating governance, staff support structures,
revenue streams, financial goals, and recommending actions to ensure sustainability and future relevance of business models.

The Board also discussed components of the recently signed Chemistry Enterprise Partnership agreement with leadership of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). Discussions emphasized the shared vision of promoting and achieving diversity in STEM.