

March 28, 2015

Report on: ACS Spring 2015 NATIONAL MEETING – Denver, Colorado

Four of ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance at Denver.

The meeting attracted approximately 13,940 attendees and an exposition of 363 booths.

The Candidates for President- Elect, 2016 are:

G. Bryan Balazs and Allison A. Campbell

The Candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2016-2018 term: William R. Leenstra, Ingrid Montes, Mary jo Ondrechen, and Thomas W. Smith. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on October 2.

As part of a regular performance review, the Council voted unanimously to continue the Committee on Ethics and on Science.. Continuation on Science also requires Board concurrence.

The Council voted to set the member dues for 2016 at the fully escalated rate of \$162. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjusted formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 13, 940. Of these, 7,307 were regular registrations, 847 were exhibitors, 5,141 were students, 360 were exposition only, and 285 guests. The exposition had 363 booths with 240 companies. The meeting had over 10,246 papers presented.

The Committee on Meetings and Expositions recommends that the Early Member Registration Fee for 2016 national meetings be \$415, per the National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan. As part of the continuing ACS sustainability effort and to encourage the use of the ACS mobile app and online program, M&E has decided to discontinue free distribution of the hard copy program book starting in 2016. Those who pre-register for the meeting may purchase a copy of the program book for \$10 (pick up on site), and copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. The PDF version of the national meeting program will be more prominently displayed on the ACS website for those who would like to print portions for themselves.

Following a discussion on the revenue supporting National Meetings, the ACS Council respectfully requested that the Board of Directors delay the implementation of the technical meeting additional fee to the meeting registration fee, until the Board presents an analysis (preferable at the Boston national meeting) of the projected break even fee, including the net revenue from the National Meeting Exposition.

On recommendation of the Committee on International Activities and subject to the concurrence of the Board of Directors, the Council voted to approve petitions to charter the India International Chemical Sciences Chapter and the Taiwan International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

In 2014, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$ 17.9 million, which was \$4.2 million favorable to budget. Total revenues were \$499.0 million, \$0.7 million or 0.1 per cent higher than budget. Expenses ended the year at \$481.1 million, \$3.5 million favorable to the budget. This variance was largely attributable to a continued emphasis on expense management across the Society. Despite favorable operating results, the Society's financial position weakened in 2014, with Unrestricted Net Assets declining \$62.3 million, to \$144.7 million at year-end. This decline was the result of a significant accounting charge related to the Society's two closed retirement benefit plans.

SOCED reported that more than 1,900 individuals have joined the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT) which launched last year, 88 percent of whom are K-12 teachers in chemistry. The Dow Chemical Company was announced as the Sole Founding Partner of AACT with a gift of \$1 million.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs reported the 2014 New Graduate Survey Results which show the unemployment rate for new graduate chemists has dropped from 14.9 percent in the 2013 survey to 12.4 percent as of 2014. The drop is principally due to more new bachelor's degree chemists finding employment. ACS members experienced three successive years of lowered unemployment, which could hint at a positive outlook for chemists in coming years. While unemployment is down, salaries have been overall stagnant.

The ACS Career Fair had 715 seekers, 27 employers, 85 positions and 10 booths. The Virtual Career Fair had 918 seekers, 6 employers, and 38 positions. Additionally, 368 resume reviews, 218 mock interviews, and 23 Career Pathway workshops were conducted during the meeting.

The Committee on Local Section Activities awarded 15 Innovative Project Grants for a total of \$38,389, and is continuing to offer a mini-grant to Local Sections that attended the 2015 Leadership Institute to partner with neighboring sections to host an activity that would bring value to all members in a specific region. The committee is also planning to fund 16 grants totaling \$4000 for the Bridging the Gap: Teachers of Chemistry K-12 Nano-Grants.

The Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) voted to fund ten innovative Project Grants totaling \$54,000. The committee will consider another set of IPG proposals during the Boston National Meeting in August, 2015; the deadline for that round of submissions is July 1, 2015.

The Committee on International Activities reviewed and approved new chapter applications initiated by members in Brazil, Nigeria, Peru and United Arab Emirates.

The Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) has endorsed President Diane Schmidt's campaign to invite faculty from PhD granting U.S. institutions to give ACS membership as an award to outstanding students in chemistry. Schmidt will match each gift by paying a student's membership from her Presidential Funds.

The Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA) highlighted the power of ACS member engagement in government affairs by relating the bipartisan effort, despite partisan roadblocks, to secure a resolution for National Chemistry Week in the United States Senate by Senator Chris Coons, a Democrat from Delaware, and Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. The extra effort invested by ACS members in Pennsylvania to ensure that the resolution had bipartisan sponsorship helps to underscore that science is an issue where both parties can come together.

Pittsburgh Section
Councilors

Respectfully submitted,
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