

CNC-ACS Councilor's Report

245th National Meeting of the ACS – New Orleans, LA

6-11 April 2013

Tim Ballard and Robert A. Yokley

Councilors Tim Ballard and Robert A. Yokley attended the 245th National Meeting and Exposition of the ACS in New Orleans April 6-11. The meeting officially started on Sunday, 7 April but Tim and Robert participated as members of the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) and the Committee for Environmental Improvement (CEI), respectively, on Saturday, 6 April. Robert also served as a member on the committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Standards (NTS) and the Committee on Community Activities (CCA). On Wednesday morning the General Council Meeting was held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. Highlights of the meeting are described below.

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2014: G. Bryan Balazs, Charles E. Kolb, Jr., Carolyn Ribes, and Diane Grob Schmidt. By electronic ballot, the Council selected G. Bryan Balazs and Charles E. Kolb, Jr. as candidates for 2014 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election. *Robert and I were both surprised that neither of the women nominees was successful. Be looking for your ballot in the mail.*
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* to serve as Directors from District II and District IV on the Board of Directors for the term 2014-2016. Nominees for District II included George M. Bodner, Jed F. Fisher, Alan A. Hazari, and Robert A. Pribush. Nominees for District IV included John P. Fackler, Jr., Rigoberto Hernandez, Larry K. Krannich, and John A. Whittle. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected George M. Bodner and Alan A. Hazari as District II candidates; and Rigoberto Hernandez and Larry K. Krannich as District IV candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all ACS members in District II and District IV for election of a Director from each District. *Robert and I have worked with Larry Krannich for several years and highly recommend his re-election.*
- Two vacancies on the Committee on Committees were created by the election of Ingrid Montes to the ACS Board of Directors and the appointment of H.N. Cheng as chair of the Committee on International Activities. Prior to the New Orleans meeting, the Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the Committee on Committees beginning 2013: Christopher J. Bannochie, Arindam Bose, David Lohse and Jason Ritchie. Christopher J. Bannochie and Jason Ritchie were selected to fill three-year and one-year terms, respectively.

- As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED unanimously to continue the Committees on Chemical Abstracts Service, Environmental Improvement, and Younger Chemists. Continuation of these three committees requires Board concurrence.
- At the 2012 fall meeting, Councilors called for a broader and long-lasting solution to requirements that Board electoral districts have parity in member populations. At this meeting, the Committee on Nominations and Elections reported on their discussions of a revised redistricting proposal which brings all six election districts within 400-1,000 members of the mid-point of the permissible range. This proposed action is designed to eliminate the need for frequent small changes for some time to come. The proposal will be up for vote at the fall Council meeting in Indianapolis.
- Despite the sluggish economy, ACS generated favorable operating results in 2012. Total revenue was \$490.7 million, which was \$6.1 million or 1.3% greater than the approved budget, and 3.9% higher than 2011. The Net from Operations was \$20.2 million, or \$4.3 million favorable to budget. This was largely attributable to better-than-expected performance by ACS Publications and CAS, and represents the Society's 9th consecutive year of positive operating results. While operating performance was favorable, Unrestricted Net Assets declined \$1.4 million to \$100.6 million. Finally, ACS ended the year in compliance with four of the five Board-established financial guidelines. *A long running legal battle between the ACS and the Leadscope company has finally been settled for \$22.6 million. This is a small victory for the ACS in that the original award was even higher. See the Links section for more information.*
- The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2014 at the fully escalated rate of \$154. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws. *In addition to the 25 free ACS publications articles (or chapters) per year, a new member benefit will be 25 free SciFinder activities. More details to follow.*
- After discussion, a vote to approve the Petition to Amend National Election Procedures FAILED (85% against, 15% in favor). The petition sought to shorten the campaign period for candidates for President-Elect and to charge the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) with proposing two candidates for President-Elect. Currently, N&E proposes four *nominees* from which Council selects two *candidates*. Under the petition, Council would no longer vote on a list of nominees. In collaboration with the Committee on Nominations and Elections, the Council Policy Committee authorized a joint task force on election timelines and procedures. This task force will examine the entire election system. *The vetting process for ACS presidential candidates will continue to include a selection by Council. Councilors are giving an opportunity to hear the nominees in a Town Hall meeting and at the General Council Meeting prior to casting their votes to select two as candidates for election by the general membership.*
- Society membership at the end of 2012 was 163,322 - 893 lower than the total for year-end 2011 despite recruiting 24,943 new members. The net loss occurred primarily in the Regular, full member category. There was continued growth in both the Student Member undergraduate and

international categories, which helped mitigate the overall decline in membership. The Membership Affairs Committee approved five pilot market data tests to increase membership. *Selected groups will have an opportunity to participate in pilot programs where dues are reduced in exchange for: extended renewal (2-3yrs) or automatic renewal or early renewal, etc.*

- As of this morning (April 11, 2013), the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 15,596 registrants, including 8,105 regular attendees and 5,793 students. The meeting had 11,232 papers presented.
- The Council VOTED to approve a new formula for the distribution of allocations to individual Local Sections beginning in 2014. The new allocation will be divided as follows: base allotment (49%); per member allotment (43%), and LSAC program funds (8%). *This new formula will be more sustainable than the previous one which had absolute dollars allotted regardless of the LSAC budget that year. Impacts to local section allotments from the National ACS will be minimal next year.*
- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Marinda Li Wu presented and moderated a discussion on “What else should ACS do to help members to thrive in the global chemistry enterprise?” ACS has established a strategic goal to “Empower an inclusive community of members with networks, opportunities, resources, and skills to thrive in the global economy.” In support of this goal, President Wu commissioned a task force entitled, “Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise,” to identify globalization opportunities and engage members in advocacy for improving the business and job climate. Following the presentation, 29 Councilors engaged in a robust discussion on what the Society currently offers or could offer to help members thrive in the global chemistry community.

CNC-ACS Councilor Participation on National ACS Committees

- Robert participated as a member of the National Committee for Environmental Improvement (CEI) and the committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Standards (NTS). Robert also serves as the liaison from CEI to the Committee on Community Activities (CCA). The CEI met all day Saturday (6 April) to address official ACS policy and outreach related to all aspects of the environment. The Pittsburgh and Syracuse local sections were awarded grants to assist with climate change programs. The NTS met for a half day Monday (8 April) wherein Robert was assigned to the communications/outreach subcommittee. The CCA met Saturday afternoon (6 April) and at various times on Sunday (7 April). The CCA coordinates numerous activities including National Chemistry Week (NCW) and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED). Robert has written numerous articles for the publication “Celebrating Chemistry” as part of NCW and CCED and future articles are in the planning stages.
- Tim participated as a member of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) and the sub-committee on Local Section Assistance and Development (LSAD). On Saturday April the

6th LSAC held an all-day closed meeting. A workshop was held on Annual Report Review Writing. The LSAD met in the afternoon and the health of a number of local sections (LS) was discussed. The LSAC continued on Sunday morning in closed session where - subcommittee reports were given. An open joint meeting with the Committee on Community Activities (CCA) was held on Tuesday the 9th. A new bulk e-mail system which will help LS keep in touch with their membership is in the pilot stage. A webinar will be held on Apr. 24th. Other technologies being looked at are improvements to FORMS, a central e-Archive for LS material, and a probationary period for new LS (like new divisions). There were 28 LS being watched by LSAD, 6 of which are deemed at-risk. One LS, Monmouth County, was approved for dissolution after a survey of membership. Thirteen IPG were selected for funding in the amount of \$45,550. Five Science Café and eight Strategy Café nano grants were awarded. A report was given on a YCC on-line hybrid even has heard. Participation of 28 LS was reported with 450 attendees at the remote sites. A one-time award of \$1500 was given to support attendee registration for a YCC follow up on-line hybrid event.

If you have questions, please contact Tim (tballard@en-cas.com) or Robert (robert.yokley@syngenta.com or TR6VOL@triad.rr.com). We wish to thank the CNC-ACS for the opportunity to represent our local section at this national meeting.

Links

m.wu@acs.org – contact information for ACS President Marinda Wu

www.acs.org/leadscopeqa - ACS vs. Leadscope questions and answers

www.acs.org/newmember - information on “Why should I join the ACS?”

nomelect@acs.org – email address for the Committee on Nominations and Elections

www.acs.org – then click on “About Us” and scroll down to ACS Financial Information for information on the Society’s finances

safety@acs.org – email address for comments and suggestions about chemical safety to the Committee on Chemical Safety

www.acs.org/bulletin5 - ACS governing documents including information on petitions and certified bylaws for all units

bylaws@acs.org – email to send petitions (deadline May 22)

www.acs.org/ei - information on the ACS Entrepreneurial Initiative

www.acs.org/sequester - location for completing the survey on sequestration

www.acs.org/supportfedscience - information on ACS materials related to federal S&T funding

www.acs.org/ethics - information on the ACS Committee on Ethics

<http://nationalethicscenter.org> – “Ethics CORE” web address and the chemistry landing page which links to chemistry related ethics content (click ‘resources by discipline’ then click ‘chemistry’)

Local Section Resources

www.acs.org/getinvolved - grant information, important deadlines and officer resources

www.acs.org/forms - submit annual reports, record meetings, activities and events year round

speakers@acs.org – nominate speakers for Online Speaker Directory

outreach@acs.org – information on “Celebrating Chemistry” for 4th – 6th graders