

Councilor Report from San Francisco ACS Meeting, April 1-5, 2017

On Saturday, April 1, I chaired the Regional Meeting Sub-committee of the Committee on Meetings & Expositions (M&E) from 2-5PM and attended the open meeting of the entire M&E on Sunday from 7AM-12PM.

Council met on Weds from 7AM-12PM. Here's some news from the meeting:

- a. Council voted on the nominees for Chair-elect of the society. The candidates were Bobbie Charpentier from the Santa Clara section, Mark Frishberg from the California section, Anne Gaffney from the Idaho section, and Willie May from the Chemical Society of Washington section. I voted for Charpentier and May to be the candidates for election. The total Council voted the same way.
- b. At this meeting there were three interesting Presidential symposia: *LGBT Graduate & Postdoctoral Student Chemistry Research*, *Holy Grails in Chemistry- Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Accounts of Chemical Research*, & *Science for a Sustainable Energy Future*. I was able to attend two of them and they were informative.
- c. Several committees and the Board of Directors are studying the legislation in North Carolina and Texas regarding what has become called "Bathroom Bills". It has been decided that regional meeting boards will determine how those bills will affect their meetings. At the national level, however, the Board has been asked to contact the state officials of those two states to ask them to resend these bills- particularly Texas in as much as we are scheduled to have a national meeting in San Antonio in 2021. I feel certain that we will pull out of San Antonio if the Texas bill is ratified this spring.
- d. A Board Task Force has been developing a "Strategic Plan for 2017 and beyond" (strategy.acs.org) They have come up with four goals: Provide Information; Empower Members and Member Communities, Support Excellence in Education, Communicate Chemistry's Value. The core values are: Passion for Chemistry and the Global Chemistry Enterprise; Focus on Members; Professional, Safety & Ethics; and Diversity and Inclusion.

I might note that Safety and Ethics seem to be getting more emphasis. There is a new Chemluminary award for Ethics.

- e. Committee on Budget & Finance reported that the net revenues for 2016 was \$23.8 million some \$7M higher than 2015. The Society is financially stable. Council voted to increase dues for 2018 according to our bylaws using the CPI of 1.0305 inflating member dues from \$168 to \$171. The Committee on Education reported the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT) increased its membership in 2016 10% to 4052. 88% of members are K-12

teachers. Since launching in 2010, *middleschoolchemistry.com* has received over 10 million visits from 234 countries. There are 20,609 student members and 513 active student chapters (1,123 in total) and 28 international student chartered.

- f. The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs reported that the unemployment rate of members in 2016 was 2.6%, a slight drop from the previous year. Unfortunately, they are discontinuing the annual survey of new graduates because the return rate of 12.3% is insufficient. They are investigating other ways to obtain the data. They also formed a Visa Working group to study what effects the new Trump visa actions will have upon international ACS members & friends.
- g. The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that this meeting set a new record for San Francisco with 14,639 papers presented. There were 18,709 attendees (6,914 students & 3,356 internationals).
- h. The Committee on Divisional Activities announced the themes for upcoming meetings:

Washington, Fall 2017-Chemistry's Impact on the Global Economy

New Orleans, Spring 2018-The Food, Energy, Water Nexus

Boston, Fall 2018- Nanotechnology

Orlando, Spring 2019- Chemistry of New Frontiers

- i. The Committee on Local Section Activities asked members to participate in Earth Day and the March for Science on April 22. This year's theme is "Chemistry helps feed the World". They also announced a \$500 increase in the amount of their Innovative Project Grants to \$3,500. The deadline for applications is May 31. I'd encourage members to submit a grant to LSAC.
- j. The Women Chemists Committee reported that the second edition of Mom the Chemistry Professor was reviewed and is now in print. I'd encourage our women chemists to purchase a copy and make it available to other women in our section.
- k. The Committee for Professional Training highlighted that there are two new resources available: Guidelines for Lab Safety in academic institutions and a Job Hazard Assessment tool. These are available on their website: www.acs.org/cpt.
 - Finally, Mike McGinnis, our former Chair & Councilor who now Chair of the Committee on Community Activities announced that the NCW 2017 theme is "Chemistry Rocks"- distinguishing between rocks, minerals, and gemstones. Inasmuch as we have a large kaolin industry in our area, let's collaborate with them this fall during National Chemistry Week. Last year NCW had more than 80% of sections participating and distributed more than 130,000

English copies and 18,000 Spanish copies of *Celebrating Chemistry*, the hands-on activity publication. It was look to hear Mike's committee work.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to represent the Middle Georgia section at the national level. I welcome your concerns and comments.

Bob Hargrove
Councilor, 2017-2020

PS: Unfortunately, I got caught up in the Delta Airline flight cancelation mess on Wednesday resulting in my returning home very late Sunday night instead of Wednesday evening, which is one reason this report has been delayed.