

April 1, 2015

Middle Georgia Section Members,

As your Councilor, I attended the 249th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Denver last week. In addition to attending technical sessions, I served on the Committee on Meetings and Exhibitions Committee & its Regional Meeting Subcommittee. Those duties occurred on Saturday and Sunday. On Wednesday, I represented our section at the Councilor Meeting. This email is a report from that meeting.

In Denver, we had 13,940 attendees- 7,307 members and 5,141 students.

2016 President-Elect This first action was to vote for the nominees for 2016 President-Elect position. Sunday evening there was a Roundtable event I attended where each of the four candidates gave speeches and responded to questions. This year's candidates were G. Bryan Balazs, from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA, Allison Campbell, from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA, David Lohse retired from ExxonMobil Research & Engineering Company, Annandale, NJ and Chris Welch from Merck Research Laboratories, Rahway, NJ. As you can see that in 2016, the President Elect comes from industry. The Society rotates it annually between academe' and industry. Although all candidates were well qualified and had substantial leadership experience both in our Society and in industry, I felt Dr. Balazs and Campbell gave the best answers to questions during the Roundtable. So, this morning I voted for them and they are now our nominees which will come to you for election this coming fall.

Job Task Force Donna Nelson, our current President-Elect, in her report to Council is making a major effort to reduce the mismatch between the number of chemistry related jobs available and the number of job seekers. She has set up an 11 member Task Force to investigate how the ACS can address this problem.

HS Teachers Stipends Tom Barton, Past President, has a program to provide stipends of \$200 each to defray the costs of regional meeting attendance for up to 20 HS teachers per meeting. I would encourage all HS teachers to apply for these funds to support your attendance to SERMACS in Memphis next November. I would send an email to him via the ACS website.

ACS ChemWorx completed its first full year of operation as a novel, award winning, free service for research management. If you have not investigated this service, I would recommend you look at it.

American Association of Chemistry Teachers is off to a good start with >1,600 members of which >80% at K-12 teachers. Dow Chemical Company has pledged \$1 million as AACT's sole founding partner. The AACT website has 120 high school, 18 middle school, and 13 elementary school resources in 15 categories – Lots of resources for K-12 teachers.

Adventures in Chemistry At www.acs.org/kids there is a new website, *Adventures in Chemistry* designed to catch the interest of pre-K and elementary school children. Parents- this may be better than video games.

You Tube Videos The Office of Public Affairs launched *Reactions*, a weekly video series that uncovers the chemistry of everyday life. They have produced 45 episodes and have received more than 6.2 million views on YouTube.

2016 dues have escalated 2.49% (the CPI) to \$162.00

Meeting Registration Fee The most controversial issue can from a Board of Directors. They have had a three study investigating why national meetings have been losing money over the past seven years. These task forces recommended placing a surcharge of \$15 per year onto the CPI inflated meeting early regular registration in 2016. That would mean the registration next spring would be \$415. Council passed a resolution requesting the background data causing the annual shortfall in national meeting revenues asking for the data at our next meeting in Boston.

Meeting Program Book In 2016 the printed program book will not be free. Early registrants can purchase it for \$10 and on-site registrants for \$20. It will not be mailed, but available for pickup at the meeting. Of course, only those of us “long in the tooth” complained about this because most at using the meeting APP on their phone to view the program guide or downloading the pdf file at home.

Local Section Activity Committee has a Local Section Innovative Projects Grant Program” (IPG). Local sections are encouraged to submit proposals for the June 30th deadline. Look at www.acs.org/getinvolved (click on Local Section Volunteer Resources and then Funding & Financials).

International Activities Committee nominated the formation of two new international chapters: India and Taiwan. The India Chapter will be headquartered in Mumbai with subchapters in Delhi & Bangalore. Their formation was approved unanimously.

ACS International Research Experience is an NSF program to place US chemistry students in Europe and Southeast Asia for 10 weeks. In summer 2014, 17 students from institutions with limited access to research facilities were in the program.

2016 NCW Week This year’s theme for National Chemistry Week is “Chemistry Colors Our World”. To learn more: www.acs.org/outreach.

If you have any questions about your professional association, please contact me at bohharg@yahoo.com.

Bob Hargrove