

August 26, 2016

Dear ACS Members of Middle Georgia section,

I attended the recent ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia from Saturday, August 20 through Wednesday, August 24. Saturday afternoon I chaired the Regional Meeting Sub-committee of the Committee on Meetings & Expositions, and then on Sunday morning attended to Open meeting of M&E. I am happy to say that regional meetings across the country are healthy and we are fortunate to be in the Southeast Region clearly the best run region in the country. Its meetings are always great. I recommend you consider attending the 68th meeting of SERMACS in Columbia, SC October 23-26. See <http://sermacs2016.sites.acs.org/>

Here's a summary of the proceedings of Council:

1. ACS President, Donna Nelson reported that in conjunction with the diversity and computers in chemistry theme of the spring meeting in San Diego, she participated in an interview with Dr. Vaneica Young, the only female Black Professor to have risen through the ranks and retired, and her computer scientist sister. You can download it at

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/board/vaneica-young-interview-by-donna-nelson.html>.

2. ACS President-elect, Allison Campbell announced her presidential symposia themes for 2017:

Spring- San Francisco, CA- "*Energy for a Low Carbon Future: Grand Challenges for Chemistry*" and "*Holy Grails in Chemistry: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Accounts of Chemical Research Journal*"

Fall- Washington, DC- "*Building a Safety Culture Across the Chemical Enterprise*" and "*The Chemistry of our Planet: Understanding and Mitigating Environmental Impacts*".

3. Immediate Past President, Diane Schmidt reported the NIH has published "A Guide to Safety Culture in Our Universities" <http://www.aplu.org/library/safety-culture/file> We are encourage to emphasize safety in all our efforts in chemistry.

Also, the new organization, the American Association of Chemistry Teachers, <https://www.teachchemistry.org/content/aact/en.html>, as of June 23, had 3760 members with K-12 teachers making up 88% of its membership. All of us should encourage our K-12 science & chemistry teachers to join this new organization.

4. On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs, the Council approved a petition to amend the ACS Bylaws to extend the Unemployed Members' Dues Waiver, which will extend waivers for unemployed members' dues from the current two years to three years, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

5. The Council conducted a special discussion to gather input on proposed recommendations from the ACS Presidential Task Force on the U.S. Employment of Chemists. The task force has been examining and considering all known influences that can impact employment in the chemical sciences. Councilors were invited to share their thoughts, comments, and suggestions on the proposed suggestions to date, in preparation for the report's expected release later this year.

6. The Local Section Activities Committee continue to encourage local sections to submit proposals for Science Café' Mini-Grant, up to \$500 each, for hosting science cafes to promote scientific literacy and provide fun, educational science events in local sections. If you would like assistance in writing a proposal, please contact me.

7. The Committee on Community Activities announced the National Chemistry Week theme to the "Solving Mysteries through Chemistry" which will be celebrating October 16-22, 2016. The Middle Georgia section typically makes grants to area colleges to support NCW. Please submit your grant, including activity and budget proposal, by October 1st. If you want more information, contact me.

8. In response to the successes of PacificChem held odd numbered years in Hawaii in December, the ACS is planning an Atlantic Basin Conference for Chemistry (ABCCChem) to be held in Cancun, Mexico in January, 2018. Keep a look out for this meeting opportunity.

As of Tuesday evening, August 23, *Philadelphia Meeting Attendance* was Attendees 7,437; Students, 3,249; Exhibitors, 1,181; Expo only, 613; Guest, 320 for a **Total of 12,800**

.....
Our Middle Georgia section needs its members to volunteer to serve as Chair (1 yr), Chair-elect(1yr), Secretary(2yr), Treasurer(2yr), Councilor(3yr), and Committee Chairs. All these positions are up for election this fall.

Nominations for these positions need to be made by October 15. Please send them to me: Hargrove_rj@mercer.edu or 478-250-3388.

.....
I thank you for permitting me to be your Councilor for the past three years.

Bob Hargrove