

## **ATTENTION TECH MEMBERS**

In recent issues of **ConnecTECH**, we sent **TECH** Members an important message concerning the urgent need for volunteers, for candidates for office and the future of the **Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH)**. This was the time for all members to speak-up and let their voices be heard. Unfortunately, we received no responses to these articles. Silence was interpreted as apathy by the membership of the **Division of Chemical Technicians**.

We needed to address this issue, by exploring the following two questions:

- Is there a future need for the **Division of Chemical Technicians**?
- If there is a need for our division, then who is willing to step up to volunteer for these roles?

We developed a process to address these questions and concerns—a process that culminated in an **Applied Chemical Technology Summit**. A taskforce was established that was empowered to evaluate the roles of **TECH** and the **ACS's Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA)** and how **ACS** reaches out to applied chemical technology professionals. The taskforce identified key focus areas for the **Society** to address the needs of chemistry-based technicians now and in the future. The summit was broken into two phases.

### **Phase I**

Information was gathered from chemistry-based technicians, educators in chemical technology programs, and employers of chemical technicians. Several surveys were sent out. Responses were received from over **600** participants.

### **Phase II**

A facilitated summit was held in **Washington, DC** with representatives of **ACS** governance, staff, **TECH**, **CTA**, and the **ACS's Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC)** and **Divisional Activities Committee (DAC)**. This summit was used to:

- Correlate the needs of technicians to the services presently offered by the **ACS**, **TECH** and **CTA**.
- Perform a gap analysis based on the results from **Phase I**.
- Evaluate the results of that gap analysis.
- Decide what path or paths, if any, make the most sense for continued technician involvement within the **ACS**.
- Identify possible solutions with maximum potential impact in order to close the gaps.

- **Develop action plans integrating the involvement of the ACS governance, TECH, CTA and other ACS identities.**

With the results and input from Phase I, the Applied Chemical Technology Summit was held Dec 12-14 in Washington DC. Over Twenty participants from CTA, TECH, the Woman Chemists Committee (WCC), Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), Corporation Associates, and ACS Staff meet to address the needs of the Applied Chemical Technology Professionals and how ACS could meet these needs.

The following were the recommendations of the summit to TECH and CTA:

1. Recommend a single entity at the national Society level to focus all efforts directed to the technician community. To initiate this action, the implications and consequences of dissolving the Division of Chemical Technicians have been addressed with the goal of having the Committee on Chemical Technicians become that primary entity.
2. Engage in relationship building with industry through Corporation Associates and the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.
3. Participate in regional programming.
4. Incorporate networking opportunities, mentoring, and continuing education into the initiatives with ACS Corporation Associates and the regions.
5. Catalogue tech-relevant ACS professional development offerings and communicate to appropriate audience.

Between December 2008 and January 2009, the TECH Executive team addressed the above recommendations as follows:

1. "In light of the recent Bylaw and Constitutional changes approved by the membership of the American Chemical Society, the leadership of the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH) now feels that the main purposes for the formation of the division 15 years ago have come to fruition. Technicians are indeed fully welcomed into the ACS! With this realization and looking towards the future, the TECH leadership feels that the division, specifically built around technicians, no longer needs to remain in place. It is vital now that technicians continue their participation within the ACS in a division aligned to their professional efforts. In this proposal, the TECH leadership recognizes the need for a technician voice within the ACS that can represent technicians on the governance level. We also feel that there are some key aspects of TECH that should continue into the future. Thus, we believe that a re-aligned Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) should be the identifying voice for technicians. We feel a reorganized CTA, much like the model already used by the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) and Women Chemists Committee (WCC), would be the strongest home for these efforts. Along with a refocus of efforts by CTA, it is important that the ACS jurisdiction over CTA represents the working technician in industry and/or governmental labs. To this end, the TECH leadership is bringing forth to its

members the proposal to finish the work of the Division of Chemical Technicians by year-end 2009. This year would be used to work with the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) in this effort and, if appropriate, working with CTA as it deals with the Committee on Committees (ConC) to restructure itself more like the YCC and WCC by 1-1-2010." The TECH Executive Committee is designing a plan to address these needs and we need your input. Part of the plan is to address the continuation of the following activities: the WEBSITE, Newsletter, Programming, leadership opportunities, and Awards, to name a few.

2. We now have a liaison to Corporation Associates through CTA.
3. Item #3 above was addressed with LSAC, TECH and CTA, More information will be available in the near future.
4. A list of potential courses that would interest technicians has been presented to representatives from the ACS Office of Continuing Education. The communication also addressed concerns of price and availability. TECH also debuted the new WEBSITE.
5. Item #5 above will be addressed in future meetings, ACS Staff will assist.