

Technician Activities in ACS

Governance:

Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA)

Started:

1964, as Committee on Technician Activities (CTA). The complementary Committee on Technician Education (CTE) was founded the same year.

Purpose:

Represent the interests of chemistry-based technicians in ACS governance

Notable Dates:

- 1967: CTA sponsors first ACS symposium of technician-presented papers. (Dr. Roger Adams, considered by many as the father of organic chemistry, attended. When asked what he thought about the papers. Dr. Adams replied, "These papers are more interesting and are better presented than most of what we have in the Organic Chemistry Division.")
- 1970: National Conference of Chemical Technician Affiliates (NCCTA) established as a subcommittee of CTA; CTE disbanded.
- 1972: NCCTA takes over technician programming at national meetings.
- 1975: CTA pushes to enable technicians to become affiliate members of ACS; NCCTA begins providing leadership training to technician volunteers.
- 1988: Bob Carver becomes first technician to chair CTA.
- 1991: NCCTA dissolved when Division of Chemical Technicians is formed.
- 2002: CTA becomes the Committee on Technician Affairs

Local Sections:

Technician Affiliate Groups (TAGs)

Started:

1970

Purpose:

Encourage technician participation in ACS local sections at a time when technicians were not considered for ACS membership.

Notable Dates:

- 1969: 1st TAG forms in Akron, OH
- 1972: 12 TAGs established
- 1991: TECH is formed and assumes oversight of the TAGs (begins tracking TAGs and collecting annual reports; offers awards for most innovative TAG, best local section/TAG interaction, and best overall TAG).
- 2008: 4 TAGs remain; one TAG becomes a local Committee on Technician Affairs (**Note:** the local committee is **not** affiliated with the governance committee).
- 2008: 3 of 4 remaining TAGs consider becoming local Committees on Technician Affairs

Technical Division:

Started:

Purpose:

Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH)

1991 (Probationary status); 1994 (Full status)

- Increase awareness of the important contributions that technicians make to science and industry.
- Promote the technical, professional, and leadership development of chemistry-based technicians.
- Advocate high standards of education, technical practice, and ethical conduct for members of the profession.
- Enhance communication about applied chemical technology by providing a vehicle for information exchange at the national, regional, and local ACS level.
- Support Local Section Technician Affiliate Groups (TAGs) which offer local opportunities for technicians to interact.

Notable Dates:

- 1989: National Chemical Technician of the Year Award established by NCCTA; later renamed National Chemical Technician Award.
- 2001: Division receives ChemLuminary Award from the Divisional Activities Committee (also in 2005, 2007, and 2008)
- 2003: Division receives “Grass Roots” award from the Committee on Membership Affairs

ACS Membership

Notable Dates:

- Late 1970's: Membership Committee turns down an application from a recent Nobel Laureate; ACS subsequently becomes more receptive to a broader range of membership qualifications.
- 2001: Graduates of associate chemistry or chemical technology programs with five years work experience are allowed to become full ACS members.
- 2009: Graduates of associate chemistry or chemical technology programs will be allowed to become full ACS members without prior work experience.