



Local Sections Activities Committee (LSAC)
Report from 238th ACS Meeting, Washington, DC
August 15, 16, and 18, 2009
Lucy Eubanks, Councilor

This report covers what I learned from the meetings of the **Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC)**. My subcommittee assignment is **Technology, Tools & Operations (TTO)** and I continue as the **LSAC Liaison to the ACS International Activities Committee (IAC)**. In addition, I have just been named the LSAC representative to the new **Leadership Advisory Board (LAB)**, the newly organized group responsible for overseeing the ACS Leadership Development Courses. This part of my Councilor's report touches on each area.

1. **LSAC:** Several successful programs administered by LSAC were reviewed. **Science Cafés** continue to be very popular with more Local Sections planning them each year. Local Sections are also applying for, and running **Leadership Development Courses** within their area. The **Merck Index Project** has drawn a huge response, with 116 Local Sections making requests for nearly 8000 indices, with more still available. They should be shipped in September. The **Sustainability Working Group (SWG)** reported on their inventory of current sustainability activities and urged Local Sections to plan activities related to this theme. Funding is available from several different programs of LSAC, including Innovative Program Grants (IPG) and Science Café grants. We were reminded that **Innovative Program Grants (IPGs)** can also be used to upgrade email systems or even to help facilitate moving to electronic voting. **Bridging the Gap**, a nano-grant program (\$250) designed to assist in the integration of student members into Local Sections, still has funds available. The deadline is approaching to apply for this type of grant – **September 15**. As of the end of July, there were more than 9,700 new student members of ACS, although I do not know the number within our Local Section. More information about LSAC and its programs can be found at www.acs.org/localsections.
2. **TTO Subcommittee:** Two main topics dominated our attention in Washington, the redesign of the annual report form and the planned migration of all Local Section websites to a new membership server. Don't look for major changes in the **Annual Report Form** for the next cycle, but reports starting in 2011 will likely have a very different look and feel. The plan is to reduce reporting requirements, particularly where there is redundancy or no

- longer any need for the data. Many of the existing questions also need clarification. The new design will make it possible to gather more complete data around top activities, making it easier for Local Sections to share best practices. The **Membership Server Replacement Program** was the topic of much discussion, including demonstration at the Open Meeting of LSAC on Tuesday, August 18. ACS is offering space and giving Local Sections the option of using this space with no charge, or going elsewhere with their web site. Our webmaster, Dwayne Grassie, who has been participating in early discussions of the new server, provided me with a list of specific questions for which we needed answers. The official responses have now been received and all this information turned over to George Heard, who chairs the WC ACS Web Committee, for further discussion and review.
3. **IAC Liaison:** Collaborative meetings were held in Washington with representatives of ACS, the **National Academies**, and **IUPAC**. These will result in future collaborative efforts, many of them focused around plans for the **2011 International Year of Chemistry (IYC)**. There are different projects that involve LSAC, including Boundary Projects linking ACS with Mexico and then Canada. The Committee on Community Activities (CCA) has chosen four themes for 2011, one per quarter. They are Health, Environment, Materials and Energy. Both **National Chemistry Week** and **Earth Day** will be part of the 2011 IYC, and not celebrated independently in 2011. Plans are developing for the **2012 International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO)** to be held in Washington, DC, and at the University of Maryland. This will be a huge undertaking, requiring the support of ACS and an army of volunteers.
 4. **LAB Representative:** The Leadership Advisory Board has been given the responsibility of reviewing and modifying, as needed, the content of the **ACS Leadership Development System**. LAB is also to generate and review policies for fiscal management of the system, for recruitment of new course facilitators, for marketing plans, and to set metrics for evaluation of the system. There is a consensus that both national and regional meetings are just too jam packed and that Local Sections can provide a much better learning environment. There again will be grants available from LSAC to enable Local Sections to run leadership courses. The **2010 Leadership Institute** will be held on **January 22-24** in Fort Worth, Texas. We are encouraged to send our Chair-Elect and/or other emerging leaders who might benefit from this Institute.
 5. Currently there are now over 19,300 members of the **ACS Network**, which is now open to anyone interested in chemistry, not just ACS members. There are now over 60 discussion groups. You can go to www.acs.org/network to join the network or to explore the available resources. You will need your ACS ID and password to access this network.

If you need more information or have any questions about this part of my Councilor's Report, please feel free to contact me at eubankslucy@bellsouth.net. The Eubanks/Woosley report on the Council meeting has been sent to the website for posting.