



ACS
Chemistry for Life™

Councilors' Report from 238th ACS Meeting

Washington, DC, August 19, 2009

Lucy Eubanks and Royce Woosley, Councilors

The meeting of the **ACS Council**, a major governance function of the SOCIETY, took place on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. Councilors heard many reports from Society Officers and Committee Chairs. This is a summary of what we perceived to be items of interest to our Local Section.

Nominations and Elections

There are three **candidates** for **President-Elect of the SOCIETY** for 2010.

Nancy B. Jackson, International Chemical Threat Reduction Department Manager, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

Cheryl A. Martin, Currently on sabbatical; former Corporate Vice President and General Manager, Rohm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, PA

Mary Virginia Orna, Professor of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY
All ACS members will vote for President-Elect this fall, either electronically or by mail.

There are five **candidates** for **Directors-at-Large** for 2010-2012.

Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, DC

H. N. Cheng, Research Chemist, US Department of Agriculture, New Orleans, LA

Ray A. Dickie, Retired, Ford Motor Company, Efland, NC

Valerie J. Kuck, Retired, Lucent Technologies, Montclair, NJ

Howard M. Peters, Retired, Peters, Verny, LLP, Palo Alto, CA

ACS Councilors will vote this fall for two of these candidates. There is no election for Director in our District IV this year.

Incumbents continuing in the **2009 presidential succession** are:

President, Thomas H. Lane

President-Elect, Joseph S. Francisco

Immediate Past President, Bruce E. Bursten

Petitions: The Council was asked to take action on two amendments, the first to amend the ACS Constitution and a second to amend the ACS Bylaws. The **first** was **The Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition**, proposed for **urgent action**. Such a request requires a 75% affirmative vote and after considerable discussion, the request **failed**, only gathering just over 50%. It will instead be up for action at the next Council meeting in San Francisco in March of 2010.

The **second** petition, dealing with **Election Timelines and Procedures**, also generated considerable discussion. The Council voted to **recommit** the petition to the Committee on Nominations and Elections with instructions for revision. The discussion revealed an interest in separating the two issues addressed by the title. This petition (or petitions) will likely be up for action in San Francisco.

A **third** petition was presented for consideration by the Council. This petition would remove the **Admissions Committee** from the Bylaws and transfer its functions to the Council Committee on Membership Affairs. Action is expected at the San Francisco meeting.

Registration Report: The ACS “fall” national meeting in Washington attracted **14,319 registrants**, making this the largest Washington ACS meeting in history. The meeting drew 8,575 regular attendees, 3,159 students, 462 guests, 1,447 exhibitors, and 676 exhibition only attendees.

Membership Activity: The **transfer** of former **Student Affiliates** to **Student Member** status was completed in June, 2009. As of July 31, the Society had 9,732 Student Members, of which 6,500 had been Student Affiliates. Associate Members have also become regular Members, although a number was not given.

Dissolution of the Division of Chemical Technicians: The Council **voted to disband** the Division of Chemical Technicians (TECH), effective December 31, 2009, at their request. The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) agreed that TECH had, since its founding in 1991, accomplished its mission of enhancing the status of technicians in the ACS and integrating technicians into other technical divisions.

ACS Finances: The Society is projected to end the year with a net contribution from operations of \$11.2 million, or \$528,000 favorable to the 2009 approved budget. The favorable projection is largely the result of Contingency Plan actions and expense management initiatives implemented in early 2009, which are expected to fully offset revenue shortfalls in the Approved Budget across several categories. The financial situation meets all Board guidelines except for the amount of money in the reserve fund.

Chemistry Ambassadors: This is a new program designed to equip ACS members to be more effective spokespersons for chemistry. Information may be found at www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors.

Board–Presidential Task Force on Education: This task force was charged with: **1)** reviewing recommendations contained in national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education reports released during the past five years; **2)** identifying specific actions that the Society could undertake in response to these recommendations; and **3)** creating a priority list of actionable items where the Society can have a unique impact on STEM education. A new **Science Coaches** initiative was one of the task force’s recommendations and has been funded by the Board, starting in 2010.

Career Fair Report: The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) reported that 43 employees posted 326 jobs for the DC Career Fair, attracting 983 applicants. The showing by employers in Washington was better than the historically low number set at the spring 2009 ACS national meeting in Salt Lake City.