

Report to Colorado ACS Section
SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE ACTIONS/REPORTS
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
237th ACS NATIONAL MEETING
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
MARCH 22-26, 2009

Five members of the Colorado Executive Committee Attended the Council Meeting and related activities during the conference: James Schreck, Peter Dorhout, Sandra Bonetti, Susan Schelble, and Angela Powers. The ACS spring national meeting had attracted 10,668 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 5,781; Students 3,439; Exhibitors 780; Exposition only 411; and Guests 257.

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL Pertinent to Colorado

Election Results

The following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2010: Berkeley W. Cue, Jr., Nancy B. Jackson, Cheryl A. Martin, and Dorothy J. Phillips. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Nancy B. Jackson and Cheryl A. Martin as candidates for 2010 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

The election to select candidates from the list of nominees to represent District V on the Board of Directors for the term 2010-2012 included: Thomas J. Barton, Judith L. Benham, Peter K. Dorhout, and John W. Moore. By mail ballot, the Councilors from this district selected Judith L. Benham and Peter K. Dorhout. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members of District V for election of a Director from their district.

The Society's Finances

The Council and Board of Directors received extensive briefings on the Society's finances, which showed that in spite of the economic challenges faced in 2008, the Society's operating performance held up well. Total revenue was approximately \$450 million, up just over 3% from 2007. The Society's Net from Operations was \$9.7 million, and \$560,000 favorable to budget. This is the fifth consecutive year of positive operating results.

However, in 2008 ACS was adversely impacted by the historic collapse in the capital markets, which resulted in a sharp decline in the Society's unrestricted net assets from \$212 million at December 31, 2007, to \$60 million at December 31, 2008. There were two factors driving this decrease, both related to the poor performance in the capital markets. These are

substantial investment losses and a sizable increase in pension liability from the Society's Defined Benefit Pension Plan. For this and other reasons, action was taken in 2007 to close the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, and, in 2008, to freeze benefit accruals for all Defined Benefit Pension Plan participants in 2009.

It is in this context that the Board received a detailed briefing from management at this meeting on the framework of the 2009 Contingency Plan. In 2006, the Society had the foresight to develop a robust Contingency Plan that contemplated potential threats from many different sources, their probability of occurrence, likely duration and financial impact. The updated 2009 Plan covers all operating and administrative units as well as member programs, and identifies new and emerging threats. ACS management has also updated the mitigation strategies to respond to the threats and ensure the Society's long-term financial sustainability.

Society management and the Board of Directors are closely monitoring financial performance versus the budget. In addition, significant reductions in discretionary spending have already been implemented and additional cost control measures are under consideration. However, despite the adverse impact of the economic downturn, the Society remains highly liquid with more than \$275 million in cash and investments, and limited debt of \$30 million.

2010 Member Dues

After a lengthy discussion and rejection of two amendments, the Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2010 at the fully escalated rate of \$145. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws. The vote was 348 to 70.

Member Statistics

At the close of 2008, Society membership totaled 154,024, compared to 160,052 for year-end 2007. In 2008, ACS completed the transition of its 15 year-old membership fulfillment system to a new, more robust system. The year-end 2008 membership numbers reflect a drop in membership of approximately 2% due to the economy and a correction to the counts of 2,589 Emeritus members whom ACS has not been able to reach for many years. Compared to its sister societies, ACS experienced a smaller loss of members in 2008.

Councilor Reports

James Schreck attended Divisional Activities Committee two-day meeting. This committee discussed electronic dissemination of national meeting content, status of 2009 Divisional Annual Reports, nominated several Divisions for ChemLuminary awards, reviewed Innovative Project Grant proposals and awarded funding to about twelve Divisions, and discussed a new allocation formula and thematic programming.

Peter Dorhout is the new chair of the International Year of Chemistry (IAC).

Sandra Bonetti attended the Project SEED Committee meeting. Project SEED will receive the prestigious 2009 National Science Board Award, on May 13, 2009. The award will be presented to Dr. Phillip Bays, past Project SEED Committee chair, and ACS Board of Directors representatives. The committee also heard about the Ciba Specialty Chemicals' gift of \$1.15 million, of which \$900,000 will provide an endowment that will be used to fund 3 college scholarships, this year, of \$5000/yr for former Project SEED students majoring in the chemical sciences. This competitive scholarship will provide support past the first year of college for qualified recipients of the first year SEED college scholarship. From this gift, \$250,000 will support Project SEED Summer students' stipends. Fund-raising efforts for Project SEED are ongoing in order to sustain and grow the current summer programs for high school students and the college scholarship programs.

Susan Schelble attended the ACS Committee on Ethics. This committee is continuing in its efforts to compile ethics educational materials through the Case Study format. Progress thus far can be viewed at [acs.org>governance>committees>ethics>case studies](http://acs.org/governance/committees/ethics/case%20studies). Anyone wishing to submit a case study scenario for editing please contact: sschelbl@mscd.edu.