

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report **Optional for EZ Submission**

Organization: Kentucky Lake

Year: 2006

A. Activities

Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2006. Provide (a) the title of the activity, (b) a one paragraph description of the activity, and (c) an indication if this activity was new in 2006. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.

Activity #1

a) Title: Ind.-Acad. Interaction for Green Chem.

A tri-section meeting funded by an Innovative Projects Grant from the ACS LSAC comprised the Kentucky Lake, Memphis, and Nashville sections. Distinguished members of the academic and industrial communities made presentations and conducted a panel discussion about green chemistry in which current concerns were addressed. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Area College Chemistry Meeting where students presented research papers. This meeting supplemented previous and on-going green chemistry KLS activities (i.e. Grass Roots Network for Greener Chemistry Education).

Description
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #2

a) Title: NCW Chemistry Demonstrations

A continuing annual event of the KLS is the gathering of students to demonstrate their activities during National Chemistry Week. This event is organized and hosted by SAACS. Faculty, students, and guests from most of the area's colleges and universities attended a fun filled evening of spectacular presentations after dinner and welcome at UT Martin.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #3

a) Title High School Chemistry Teacher Award

Following a 20+ year tradition, a H.S. chemistry teacher award was given. The award, named for Howard Hyuck who provided initial funding, is given to a teacher who has demonstrated excellence in teaching chemistry as evidenced by both peer review and the performance of their students. A plaque is presented to the recipient as well as \$150. The monetary amount is up \$50 from 2005 and will increase to \$200 in 2007 and \$250 in 2008. This effort is part of our initiative to help spark interest in chemistry at the high school level by rewarding the hard work of the teachers.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #4

a) Title: Annual Picnic/Social

In August, as in many years past, a picnic was held on Kentucky Lake. It serves as a beginning social event for the new academic year and provides a relaxing atmosphere for interaction between academics, industry and students. Three of the section members give a day of their time preparing the grilled chicken. After the evening meal, announcements of the remaining meetings and other business is attended to. All attendees are introduced and everyone is welcome to provide input. This setting was chosen to present a 50 year member with his award from ACS and he provided a discussion of his career that was very interesting.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #5

a) Title

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #6

a) Title:

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #7

- a) Title:
Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #8

- a) Title:
Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #9

- a) Title:
Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2006

Activity #10

- a) Title:
Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2006

B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in *1,000 words or less*, the activities of the section in 2006 which have not been already described. Outstanding events should be described in some detail and appropriate attachments included in Appendix 3. Programs described here may be featured in publications produced by the ACS Membership Division and/or at the Local Section Leadership Conferences.

C. Local Section and Chair Goals

2006 Goal Attainment. The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2006 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you

1. set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the goals.

a) **Local Section Goals and Assessment:**

See section b, "2006 Chair's Goals and Assessment"

b) **2006 Chair's Goals and Assessment:**

I. Increased Diversity in Monthly Meetings

Eight meetings were held in 2006. These were located in 4 different towns and on Kentucky Lake. Two of the meetings were held on university campuses. While the absolute number of attendees increased from an average of 14 to 22, it is difficult to determine the contribution of different factors to the growth. However, the varied locations and topics were undoubtedly a contributor. More importantly, more varied audiences were thought to attend due to the wide range of locations provided. To provide diversity in topics, three ACS speakers (one had to decline for health reasons) were utilized. Also, two local university presenters (one math and one chemistry) were utilized. Finally, a tri-section meeting was held as an "Industry-Academe Interaction for Green Chemistry. The latter was supported by a local section innovative projects grant.

II. Increased Chemistry Awareness Through Media Coverage

As mentioned in the goals section in the 2005 report, the 2007 chair has been very active in public awareness by advertising through local media (newspaper, etc.). Also, the website has been updated regularly and in real time for all up-coming events and news of the section. See the website at murraystate.edu/qacd/cos/che/acs/kls_acs.htm While it is difficult to quantify the amount of public interest generated, it is certain that it was positive. A certain portion of the growth of the audience size at meetings must owe to the enthusiasm of the current local section officials, the factors above being a direct result of this element.

III. Increased Appropriations and Outreach for Student Activities

Another successful meeting was held in conjunction with National Chemistry Week. Student chemical demonstrations are always a crowd pleaser. A large number of students attended as well as a large general following. Student meals were subsidized at 50% at all meetings and travel was provided for almost all students.

Additional Goal

One of the goals not specifically listed in the 2005 report but ever present in the section was to increase industrial participation. As 2006 ended, the Chair, chair-elect and past chair were all industrial chemists. This is probably the first time this has been the case in the KLS section. It opens the door for industrial participation as planning for all up-coming meeting, activities and events is performed by industrial personnel. The industrial members are well represented in the governance of

the
group.

2007 Goals. (This section should be completed by the 2006 local section chair.) Please list below at least three
2. goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) 2007 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):

1. Increased participation by under represented sectors of our membership : (1) high school chemistry teachers, (2) Community college and minority school professors, (3) Industrial chemists.

First, our section includes 22 counties in Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Many of these have more than

one high school. However, no high school teachers attend our local section meetings. Numerous steps will be taken to encourage participation by these educators who give the majority of tomorrow's chemists

their first introduction to the science.

Efforts are being made to make our meetings more attractive to high school chemistry teachers by lowering their cost for meals at our meetings to 50% of the member price (our student affiliates pay this reduced rate already). Teachers will also receive a personal notification and invitation to meetings when

one is scheduled in locations near their high school.

We may also send them a "tip sheet" that emphasizes the benefits of attending our L.S. meetings such as access to coordinators of the Chemistry Olympiad and NCW activities, a chance to meet key industrial personnel for plant tours or job shadowing, and an opportunity to talk to college professors about the best ways to prepare students for college studies. We will continue to recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher each year. Efforts will be taken to raise awareness of this recognition by press

releases and correspondence directly to area high schools.

Secondly, there are two community colleges in Tennessee and one in Kentucky within our section.

One faculty member from West Kentucky Community and Technical College has faithfully attended our meetings

for many years in spite of the distance required for travel by the faculty to many of our meetings.

Jackson State Community College has been represented recently by an adjunct professor and some of his students. However Dyersburg State Community College has not been represented in any form in recent history. Lane College, a four-year, accredited historically black college also is under represented,

one professor attended one meeting within the last few years.

Our goal is to encourage increased participation by more faculty members from these schools. It is hoped

that a member wide survey and better communication through news letters and meeting announcements will

help. Direct contact by email or phone calls will also be considered as a means of making these reluctant members feel more welcome. Third, many of our members work in industry but few attend meetings. It has been verified that these members will contribute to local section activities and governance as our past-chair, chair, and chair-elect are all industrial members. But, they are often the only industrial members at our meetings. Again, the member survey may spark interest by some industrial members and if response is high we may learn what activities will draw this sector of our membership to future meetings. Four of our eight meetings will have speakers discussing topics that appeal to a general audience. We hope this will have more appeal to industrial members.

2. Variety!

Meeting locations will be rotated between five cities from across the geography of our section. Three meetings will be in the southern third of our section, two in the northern third of our section and three near the geographical center. Meeting topics and activities are planned to appeal to many different interests. One meeting will host a local industrial speaker, two meetings will include highly technical presentations, two meetings will showcase issues of current interest (forensics and Desert Storm), and one meeting will show a humorous side of chemistry to entertain young and old alike. We will also have a section picnic, NCW student demonstrations and an opportunity to participate in a multi-local section tour of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

3. Sponsor activities to include non-members: Chemistry Olympiad, NCW, Earth Day and at least one "Chemistry Café" event.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals:

1. Improved communication with members
I hope to resurrect the practice of mailing a newsletter to every member prior to each of our 8 or 9 monthly meetings. In recent years meeting announcements were sent, but little information was provided about other activities from our section. I hope to keep members who may only attend one or two meetings a year informed about activities they have missed as well as to inform our more active members about the actions of the executive committee. The newsletter has contact information for our executive committee members making us more accessible for members to share concerns and suggestions. I hope the newsletter projects the image of a very active organization which always attracts more participation than a stagnate organization. The Newsletter also lists the locations of our section

web site and our counselor's web site as an additional resource for members to learn more about the Kentucky Lake local section.

We will also send members a survey with our February newsletter seeking feedback about how they will be better served. I hope this form of two-way communication will improve the casual attitude some members have towards the benefits offered by local section participation.

2. Press releases

As Chair-Elect I began the practice of sending press releases to local papers in the county of our meeting

location and the regional paper that covered that area. Sometimes notices were published sometimes they

were not. I hope to continue this practice. It may not contribute to meeting attendance but I believe it

will increase public awareness of our presence, positive influence, and activities and the role of chemistry in everyday life.

3. Committees

Expand the use of committees to increase the effectiveness serving our members as well as involving

more members in section governance. Last year we had

an active Awards committee and Nominations committee.

I hope to find members willing to participate in these

committees as well as Membership, Programs, Publicity,

and Women Chemists committees. Three of these five are required by our by-laws. The committees will probably be composed of 2 or 3 members. I hope to avoid duplicity in committee members so efforts will be dispersed throughout active members. To make the

committees more effective, time will be scheduled during our social hour prior to monthly programs for

the committee's to meet. Committees will be encouraged to provide updates on activities through our newsletter or during the business portions of our

monthly meetings. For key business items representatives will be invited to Executive Committee

meetings (assuming a member of the Executive Committee

is not serving on that committee.

4. Industrial tours

This January our counselor represented the Kentucky Lake at a 6 section joint tour of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This was coordinated by the Chair-Elect of the Chattanooga Section. I hope to encourage and assist our 2007 Chair-Elect and our Programs Committee

to identify and schedule at least one local industrial tour for 2008.

5. West Tennessee Science Fair
To develop a Kentucky Lake Section chemistry award for the West Tennessee Regional Science Fair and to send a section representative to serve as judge for this award.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

List any suggestions you have for the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC). How can LSAC specifically help your section?

1. The ratio of members to active members to working members:
Approximately 15% of our membership is active in section activities. Less than 10 or so serve in some capacity greater than attending meetings. I hope the use of the survey, newsletter, and expanded committee system will increase these numbers. However the large geography (approx 150 x 100 miles) will limit this effort to those who have the fewest obligations to family and work. A more accurate profile of participating members might be acquired if we tracked individual member attendance rather than just counting numbers. This is something that might be supported by a membership committee.

2. Our section depends heavily on one or two very dedicated members. I am concerned that one day these members may retire or otherwise decide to lower their activity level. I would like to see them receive more support from other areas of our section in administrating activities such as Earth Day, National Chemistry Week, and the Chemistry Olympiad. This type of assistance would provide a beneficial distribution of effort as well as form a pseudo-succession plan to provide continual support of these activities into the distant future.