

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Chemical Society of Washington
Year: 2007

A. Activities

Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2007. 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 2007. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.

Activity #1

a) Title: Project SEED

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

Through the efforts of CSW s Project Seed volunteers, three local students were awarded Project SEED grants to perform chemical research in the DC Metropolitan area. Caroline Jackson, a 2007 Graduate of Benjamin Banneker Academic High School worked at George Mason University under the direction of Changwoo Ahn who is investigating Characterization of an Ecosystem Development in a Created Wetland in Northern Virginia & . Jun Mo Wang, of Benjamin Banneker Academic High School performed chemical research with Prof. Sarah Stoll at Georgetown University Department of Chemistry who works on Hydrothermal Synthesis of Luminescent Copper Crystals. Dien Nguyen, a 2007 Graduate of High Point High School carried out research with Shio Y. Wang of the Agriculture Research Service who is studying Antioxidant Capacity in Berry Fruits. The Project SEED program emphasizes career development and motivates students to pursue higher education in the natural sciences. CSW hosted and recognized Project SEED students, parents and research mentors at a fall dinner meeting.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Science Cafe

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

Chemical Society of Washington worked with the Chemistry Department of the University of Maryland and with the ACS Office of Local Section Activities to organize a very successful Science Café for CSW s kickoff dinner meeting on January 10, 2007. Dr. Howard Peters spoke on Chocolate: Food of the Gods , answered questions and distributed samples of chocolate to an overflow audience of 120 persons. The event was publicized in the Washington, DC area, attracting CSW members and the general public, including several families with children.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title: Dinner Meetings

CSW improved attendance at its monthly dinner meetings by choosing topics of wide interest and selecting meeting locations around the Washington, DC area. Speakers were selected to cover a variety of interesting subjects:

- Spencer Wells, Director of the National Geographic Society's Genographic Project, spoke on February 13 about Deep Ancestry: Inside the Genographic Project.
- Katie Hunt, ACS President, spoke about Reigniting our Commitment to Science & Technology: Education, Collaboration, Innovation.
- Joseph C. Coates, Futurist, discussed The Future of Chemistry As Seen in 1970-93: Can We Predict Scientific Advances?
- Michael Betenbaugh, Johns Hopkins University, spoke on Sweetening the Pot: Improving Biotechnology by Engineering Sugar Pathways in Cells.
- Luis Echegoyen, National Science Foundation, discussed Buckyballs, A Strong Case for Basic Research.
- Glenn Ruskin, American Chemical Society's Director of the Office of Legislative and Government Affairs, spoke on The Chemistry of Advocacy.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: LSAC Innovative Project Grant

On September 20, 2007 the American Chemical Society's Committee on Local Section Activities and its Subcommittee on Grants and Awards announced funding for the Chemical Society of Washington's proposed Workshop on Chemistry in Toxicology. The 2007 ACS Award of \$3000 is at their maximum level and will be CSW's major support for an all-day workshop for college, university and high school students, their teachers, instructors and faculty, media representatives and other interested professionals. Goals of the workshop are to alert undergraduates and high school students as well as their mentors and teachers to the professional opportunities afforded by careers in chemical toxicology and to inform students of the steps they can take to qualify for these careers. The one-time, all-day-Saturday event is scheduled for April 12, 2008 at the George Washington University.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title: Hillebrand Prize

Dr. Robert Tycko of the National Institutes of Health received the Hillebrand Prize, awarded annually by CSW since 1925. Named for an eminent Washington chemist, the Hillebrand is the highest honor bestowed by Chemical Society of Washington. Three previous recipients also won the Nobel Prize.

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- Dr. Tycko was honored for his research on the structure of fibrils formed by the 40-residue b-amyloid peptide associated with Alzheimers disease, and preliminary models for fibrils associated with type-2 diabetes, Parkinson s disease and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. CSW presented its 2007 Hillebrand Award at the dinner meeting held in March.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

- a) Title: Outreach: Chemathon, National Chem Week

Chemathon. The 37th annual Chemathon event was held in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland on April 28. The first and second place entrants in Level 1 and the second place entrant in Level 2 were all CSW-sponsored entrants.

National Chemistry Week. On Tuesday, October 23 several CSW members joined ACS President Katie Hunt and staff of the ACS Office of Legislative and Government Affairs in distributing literature and performing chemical demonstrations for US legislators and staff at the U.S. Capitol. During October 23-27 CSW volunteers performed demonstrations for K-8 children and distributed NCW materials at St. Mary Star of the Sea School in Indian Head, MD. On October 28, CSW members distributed NCW literature at the Crystal City Street Spectacular held in conjunction with the annual Marine Corps Marathon. CSW members also distributed materials at their workplaces and provided a display to a local library.

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

- a) Title: Education: Awards, Chemistry Olympiad

Three important events are highlighted in the CSW education program during 2007.

-College Chemistry Achievement Awards were given to some ten graduating seniors from colleges and universities in the Washington area. Students, parents and advisors joined in the ceremony at the February CSW dinner meeting.

- The Leo Schubert Award for Outstanding Teaching of High School Chemistry was presented to Brian J. Kennedy of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, in Alexandria, VA. Kennedy has taught at all levels including honors, science honors, advanced placement, organic chemistry and instrumental analysis, chemical research, and chemistry mentorship. He also sponsors the Chemistry Olympiad Team at his school.

- CSW continued its participation in the US National Chemistry Olympiad. Nineteen students from schools in CSW territory competed and one won a place at a chemistry study camp although the student ultimately

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph): chose to attend a biology camp.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Retired Chemists and 50-year Members

CSW s active Retired Chemists Group held three programs. During the spring, they invited lecturers to speak on the US Exploring Expedition 1838-1842, and on Pearls and Gemstones. In September, RCG members toured George Washington s reconstructed Grist Mill and Distillery in Mount Vernon, VA.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph): At its November dinner meeting, Chemical Society of Washington honored 37 new 50-year members of the American Chemical Society.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Younger Chemists Committee

The newly organized Younger Chemists Committee held a Happy Hour at a local restaurant which attracted 25 younger chemists, including 5 new members. The Happy Hour developed into a strategy session during which members exchanged ideas and potential plans for new YCC activities.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Newsletter and Website

The CSW newsletter, The Capital Chemist, publishes nine issues per year. It was upgraded in 2007 with an increased number of pages and a two-color format. It has long been the medium for reaching all of our 4200 members with information on current events and solicitations for award nominations and requests for help on projects. The Publications Committee effectively increased ad revenue to augment the Section s financial support. The newsletter also serves as a record of section activities. CSW has integrated the newsletter with its website and with monthly e-mail alerts to members. Content has been broadened and the newsletter is made available to members through the website as a .pdf file before it reaches them by mail. CSW s website manager assiduously updates the website with recent information.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in 1,000 words or less, the activities of the section in 2007 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.

As noted above, Chemical Society of Washington has had a productive year in which the Section reached out to members and the public through our newsletter, website, National Chemistry Week, Project SEED, a Science Cafe, activities for younger and retired chemists, an excellent series of dinner meetings and other activities.

A series of meetings of the Long Range Planning Committee produced an excellent report including a thorough analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, a revised Mission Statement and new Section goals. These are outlined in Section 2, Appendix 2B of this report. They will be submitted to the Board of Managers for adoption in 2008.

C. Local Section and Chair Goals

2007 Goal Attainment. The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2007 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the

1. goals.

a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

Goals Adopted May, 2005

The Mission of the Chemical Society of Washington Section is to promote career development and professional interactions among members of the chemical profession in the greater Washington area.

Long-range goals:

1. Ensure efficient operation of the Section
2. Increase active participation in CSW activities.
3. Ensure fiscal stability of CSW.
4. Enhance career development.
5. Improve communication.

Assessment: During 2007 the Section continued to follow these recommendations and goals. The Section operated efficiently in 2007, remained financially stable and continued to reach out to its members through e-mail, the Website and the Capital Chemist. Career development opportunities included YCC interactions and the planned Workshop on Careers in Toxicology. Specific accomplishments related to these goals are described in Sections IIA and IIB.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

Specific Chair's goals for 2007 that build on the more general long-range goals were as follows:

1. Experiment with additional meeting programs and formats to attract larger and more diverse

audiences, especially from colleges and universities.

2. Improve the coordination and better publicize CSW s educational, outreach and awards activities.

3. Investigate ways by which the Capital Chemist can provide additional useful information to the entire CSW membership, while continuing its archival role in documenting CSW activities.

4. Continue to enhance the CSW web site in coordination with the Capital Chemist to better serve CSW members.

5. Make special efforts to address the needs of younger chemists, as well as women and minorities, and to increase their participation in CSW activities.

Assessment: All goals have been met, at least in part, as described in previous sections. Moreover, CSW s Long Range Planning Committee has produced an excellent report that will be useful in orienting Section activities over the next several years. Important recommendations include conducting a Web-based survey of CSW members; establishing high priority programs to involve younger chemists, and adopting a newly drafted Mission Statement. Some of these points are included in the goals for 2008.

2008 Goals. (This section should be completed by the 2008 local section chair.) Please list below at least 2. three goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) 2008 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):

Substantial progress was made, as noted above, in meeting the 2007 goals. However, most of these goals and the recommendations from the Long Range Planning Committee are articulated in CSW s major thrusts for 2008. The Section aims to:

1. Continue innovative meeting programs and innovative workshop formats in order to attract a more diverse audience and perhaps a larger one. Indeed, the Section has already produced its first meeting of 2008 in a Science Café format, attracting some 57 attendees.

2. Experiment with other venues of meetings such as field trips and more hands-on activities involving perhaps friends and family of our current members and those of other professional societies and the community in general.

3. Improve the coordination and better publicize CSW s education, outreach and awards activities.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

1. Attract new members to CSW. The Section has already begun sending a welcome to all new members as soon as they are added to the roster.

2. Increase participation of CSW members in committees and governance. Make special effort to attract younger chemists, women and other minority groups currently under-represented.

3. Investigate ways to serve our members better in general.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

LSAC has helped by providing information and ideas about activities that are often applicable to this Section. The January 2007 Leadership Conference was a delightful and very useful experience. The quarterly conference calls provide a good focus on important activities.

Chemical Society of Washington could benefit from LSAC guidance in how to initiate an Internet-based procedure for voting in CSW elections.