

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
 Organization: Kentucky Lake
 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: Safety in the Chemical Workplace

This was an IPG funded workshop targeted to High School Laboratory instructors. Several school systems were represented from 40 miles to our North in Baldwell, Kentucky to 135 miles to our South in Memphis, Tennessee. Most attendees were high school chemistry teachers but at least one attendee was a biology instructor from Rhodes College in Memphis. Our presentations ran longer than scheduled because of the substantial interest shown from attendees by the variety and depth of the questions asked. Attendees contributed shared experiences and resources they had utilized. It was evident from these discussions that we were providing valuable information to this underserved population of the chemical education system. The format used was very conducive to the exchange of information. A survey taken at the end of the event received overwhelming high scores with comments such as great and fantastic job. Teachers indicated immediate actions to be taken would include: safety goggle policy, updating MSDS access, cleaning and reorganizing chemical storage areas, and contacting State environmental officers for guidance on waste management. It was observed that pertinent conversations continued among attendees and attendees and speakers for some time after the event ended. (See Appendix 1 for attachments.)

Description
 (Please limit to
 b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Science Cafe: Alternative Fuels

A Science Cafe' titled "Alternative Fuels: Biodiesel, Corn Ethanol, or Something Else?" was hosted in rural West Tennessee. Dr. Jim Byford a University of Tennessee at Martin Professor studying the development of corn ethanol, and Mr. Parks Wells, Executive Director of the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council were available for an open discussion and conversation about the current status and future direction of today s petroleum dependency and the role alternative fuels will play in our future. An eight minute video Demanding Choice BioFuels Today was presented. Following the video our

speakers each made a 5-10 minute statement on the issue. This was followed by a group discussion with those in attendance. This was an unusual demographic for our meetings. We had farmers, truck drivers, seed distributors, and fuel distributors present. There were even 2 gentlemen who were forming a start-up venture for a corn ethanol plant nearby. The Science Café was held at Joe and Deana s Bypass Café in Dyer, Tennessee on Thursday night December 20, 2007. It is believed that this was the first ACS sponsored Science Café in the Tennessee.

All but one comment taken from a survey after the event was positive. The negative comment stated that the meeting should have lasted 90 minutes rather than 60! Suggestions were also made to take the event on the road to surrounding counties in our section. Our speakers enjoyed the format as well and as their schedules allow may be available for a road show. (See Appendix 1 for attachments.)

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title Outstanding High School Teacher Award

Mrs. Janet Williams, Chemistry Teacher at McNairy Central High School in Selmer, Tennessee, was awarded the Howard Hyuck Outstanding Chemistry Teacher Award. 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. The award was presented at the October 25 National Chemistry Week Celebration at UT Martin. Recognition includes an award plaque, a monetary prize, and automatic nomination for the Southeast Region American Chemical Society Teacher of the Year Award, 2008. Chemistry student Olivia King is very proud of her chemistry teacher. It was here nomination letter that brought Mrs. Williams to the attention of our Awards Committee. (See Appendix 1 for attachments.)

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: National Chemistry Week

Lobbying by Kentucky Lake and other sections across Tennessee resulted in Tennessee Governor Phil Bredeson issuing a proclamation declaring the third week in October Chemistry Week in Tennessee. A press release was issued to newspapers across the state. <http://membership.acs.org/k/KentuckyLake/NCWProclamation.htm> (See Appendix 1 for attachments.)

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

Description

(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): spectacular presentations after dinner and welcome at UT Martin.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title: Science Fair Award and member judge

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): Our section established a new award for the 47th West Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair, a preliminary to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. This is the first ACS award given at this regional event. The award was given in our sections name to the project that best promoted the Public Awareness of Chemistry. Seventh grader Trebor Briley won with his Project Titled "Water: Is It Equal?" which determined that tap water met more water quality and safety criteria than water from a farm well. The award included a certificate, a window decal, and a periodic table. A cash prize may be added to future awards. Our section also provided a member to Judge the projects for this award and to promote the ACS. Science fair website with winners: <http://www.uu.edu/events/wtrsf/2007/index.htm>

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: H.S. Teacher Affiliate Membership Prog.

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): One outreach program to increase high school teacher participation in section activities was our High School Teacher Affiliate Program. The program was developed as partnership with other sections across Tennessee. It was promoted at an ACS promotion booth at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association annual meeting (Activity #7 below). For a \$5.00 annual fee Teacher Affiliates are entitled to Local Section newsletters, notices to Section meetings, networking opportunities with Chemists and Chemical Engineers and affiliation in the local Section.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Joint Section Promo Booth at TSTA mtg

Description:
(Please limit to Our section provided funds and personnel to support an ACS promotion booth at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association annual meeting. The booth was a joint effort between sections from across Tennessee. Along with assorted give-a-ways, we distributed information about ACS programs, membership benefits and membership applications. We also introduced the H.S. Teacher Affiliate Membership program (a first for Kentucky Lake). Teacher Affiliate applications were then forwarded to the Local Section nearest the teacher's home. We had the opportunity to discuss the American Chemical Society with several teachers

b) one paragraph): during the 2 day event.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Joint Section tour of ORNL

We participated in a Joint Meeting of all Six Tennessee ACS Sections which was coordinated by the Chattanooga Section. It provided a forum for section members to introduce themselves to each other and to participate in a group tour of a world-renowned nuclear research facility, The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which is located in East Tennessee. Of particular interest were the excellent analytical laboratories which publish a large number of scientific papers annually. Also, the world's first operational nuclear reactor, a registered national historical site, is located at ORNL and was included in the tours. The four hour tour included other items of international scientific importance as well.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Picnic with Student Affiliates

An annual event to kick off the academic year and to introduce ourselves to students new to ACS is held each August on scenic Kentucky Lake. A brief business meeting including recognitions and promotion of fall events is followed by a fun time of food and fellowship. Chicken proteins denatured over hickory charcoal by three volunteer section members are served with numerous carbohydrate laden side dishes. Deserts packed with more carbohydrates and lipids finish the meal off. This all outdoor event was blessed with pleasant weather and minimal mosquito attack. A possible positive effect of this event was significant student attendance at all 3 fall meetings. (See Appendix 1 for attachments)

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Promote H.S. Teacher Involvement

Outreach programs to increase high school teacher participation in section activities included personal invitations when a meeting was held near their school, 50% discounted prices for meals at our meetings, a safety workshop (Activity #1 above), and our Teacher Affiliate Program (Activity #6 above). We now have one teacher who has attended at least 1 meeting this year who is a full ACS member and 1 Teacher Affiliate member. As a result of promoting our meetings directly to teachers, we had over 20 students and teachers representing at least 2 high

Description:

(Please limit to schools at our September meeting with Dr. John
b) one paragraph): Fortman.

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.

Most of our activities have been described in detail with attachments in the preceding list of activities and below in describing our success in meeting Section and Chair goals for 2007.

One area worth noting that was not mentioned is the outstanding support provided to our section by the University of Tennessee at Martin Student Affiliates and the Union University Student Affiliates. Both chapters have received outstanding ratings by ACS.

Our September meeting was hosted by Union University. Dr. John Fortman was our speaker. The SAACS students provided administrative support by helping decorate and registering guests. Decorations included linen table cloths accented in blue and gold. Our centerpieces were small fish bowls with live gold fish and blue ribbons (ACS colors). A student provided a live piano serenade during dinner. Students served as escorts to help our guests as we moved from our dining location to our meeting location. For additional entertainment guests were given informative guided tours of their new Chemistry/Biology/Nursing building. SAACS provided light snacks for our social hour/tour event.

Our October meeting was hosted by the UTM SACCS. This was a National Chemistry Week event and included chemical demonstrations by students from all of the active universities and colleges in our section. However the UTM SACCS provided the biggest part of the administrative support and even arranged for a message from the University Chancellor that recognized NCW and welcomed everyone to the meeting. They also arranged for University administrators to attend the meeting who expressed the importance of Chemistry and activities such as NCW. The SAACS students were most appreciated for the way they helped return our meeting room to acceptable condition after the demonstrations were complete.

Historically our meetings have been held at restaurants throughout our section with the two exceptions listed above. This year we were invited to meet at Bethel College. This is the first meeting held at this college in many years. The local SAACS chapter was also helpful in making this meeting a success. Our speaker was Sara Risch. She was greeted with a large student turnout. Bethel is an

underutilized resource and should have opportunities to host more meetings in the future.

This Summer our councilor, S.K. Airee, published an article in the local section leaders newsletter - Leading Together. The article described success with the Innovative Grants Program. He emphasized how collaboration between sections leads to greater successes and cited several examples that the Kentucky Lake Section was a part of.
http://membership.acs.org/l/localsections/leading_together/summer_07_articles/awardsandrecognition.htm

This was also the second consecutive year that at least one Section officer participated in a LSAC Teleconference. This year our Chair participated in the November 15 Promoting Diversity event.

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 goals.

a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

GOAL 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.

RESULT 1

A member wide survey was taken and news letters and meeting announcements were sent to all members encouraging participation and sharing news of activities and service opportunities. Direct contact by email and telephone was made to help establish a personal relationship/contact with our section to make members feel more welcome.

We have identified one high school chemistry teacher who is a full ACS member. Through direct contact she has participated in at least two section activities this year. We have also instituted a Teacher Affiliate Membership program and have one high school chemistry teacher as an Affiliate. We sponsored and IPG funded workshop targeted towards high school laboratory instructors and impacted approximately 25 teachers. Press releases were sent to regional and local news papers soliciting nominations for the Chemistry Teacher of the Year award. Email communications were made with a number of high school officials encouraging nominations as well. An announcement of the award with photograph was published in the winner's local and regional newspapers. Email and telephone contact was made with high school teachers when meetings were held near their schools and press releases were submitted to local newspapers. Teachers were offered 50% discounts on their meals at meetings. Overall this

was a successful effort.

Contact was made directly and by email with chemistry professors at area community colleges and at the one historically black college in our section. We submitted a request to host a science cafe at the historically black college without response. Participation by these populations remained unchanged from 2006 levels. This effort did not result in success and new methods should be developed for this sector of our membership.

Industrial chemists remained an important part of our section. Leadership positions were held by industrial members. Three of our eight meetings had non-academic themes. We did identify additional industrial chemists at two of the three meetings. Our membership survey gave insight into the time constraints and meeting location needs of many of these members that prevented their attendance. The 2008 meeting schedule will attempt to address the meeting location needs of these members. This effort has been moderately successful.

OVERALL, GOAL 1 WAS ACHIEVED.

GOAL 2

Variety! Provide a variety of meeting locations across our section with a wide variety of topics to interest members of different backgrounds and increase participation.

RESULT 2

Meeting locations were rotated between five cities from across the geography of our section. Three meetings were held 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 were planned to appeal to many different interests. One meeting will hosted a local industrial speaker, two meetings included highly technical presentations, two meetings showcased issues of current interest (forensics and food quality), and one meeting showed a humorous side of chemistry entertaining young and old alike. We had at least 2 high schools represented with approximately 20 students. Some members brought their children to this meeting. We also had a section picnic, NCW student demonstrations and participated in a multi-local section tour of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Average attendance at events increased from 22 in 2006 to 40 in 2007.

GOAL 2 WAS ACHIEVED.

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

RESULT 3

A Chemistry Olympiad preliminary exam was held at the University of Tennessee at Martin and a similar event

was held at Murray state University in Murray, Kentucky with area wide participation in both events. NCW events included a gathering of students from area universities for demonstrations and presentations about the Many Faces of Chemistry as well as a State wide effort that led to a Chemistry Week in Tennessee proclamation by the Governor of Tennessee. Wide spread publicity of this followed. Earth day events were encouraged by the section but the actual events were SAACS events and our section can take little credit for the student's efforts.

A Science Cafe was hosted on December 20. Our topic was Alternative Fuels - Biodiesel, Corn Ethanol, or Something Else? The meeting was attended by over 20 members of the public. A lively discussion was held which lasted approximately 45 minutes before the meeting was closed. Conversations continued for an additional 30 minutes among those in attendance. Attending were farmers, truck drivers, politicians, and businessmen. We were asked to repeat this activity in other communities and our restaurant host offered to open his business to us for future cafe events.

GOAL 3 WAS ACHIEVED.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

GOAL 1 Improved communication with members.

RESULT 1

Newsletter of 2-4 pages each were mailed to every member prior to each of our 8 monthly meetings. The newsletters announced our meetings, introduced our speaker, updated members on other activities gave them advance notice of future meetings, and contained a message from the Chair that offered a more personal invitation to participate in section events. The newsletter had contact information for our executive committee members making us more accessible for members to share concerns and suggestions. I believe the newsletter projected the image of a very active organization. The Newsletter also listed 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 sent members a survey with our February newsletter seeking feedback about how they could be better served. Seventeen surveys were returned, mostly by members who were not regular attendees. Our 2008 program addresses some of the concerns shown in the survey. Potential volunteers were also identified.

GOAL 1 WAS ACHIEVED

GOAL 2 Increase the public's awareness of our presence and impact to the community through local media.

RESULT 2

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 continued that practice in 2007. All 8 meetings were given some sort of press. Some as an events listing, some as a full article, and some as a profile of our speaker. Press releases were issued in a call for nominations for our High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year award as well as an article announcing our winner. Our Science Cafe received 500+ word articles in at least 2 local newspapers. I believe we have increased public awareness of our presence, positive influence, and activities and the role of chemistry in everyday life.

GOAL 2 WAS ACHIEVED

GOAL 3 Committees

Expand the use of committees to increase the effectiveness serving our members as well as involving more members in section governance.

RESULT 3

We increased the number of committees staffed from 3 last year to 7 this year. Last year we had an active Executive committee, Awards committee and Nominations committee. This year we added a Program committee, a Publicity committee, a Membership committee and a Woman's committee. The committees were filled by a mix of 11 different people. Results of our member survey were used to identify committee members. Some of our committees were very effective and worked hard. Others laid the groundwork for future impact to our section. In committees such as our Woman's Chemist committee, I believe that was beneficial because it started a conversation among those serving on the committee providing a vehicle that could work towards future benefit.

GOAL 3 WAS ACHIEVED

GOAL 4 Industrial tours

RESULT 4

This January our counselor represented the Kentucky Lake at a 6 section joint tour of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. More members had originally planned to attend but the tour conflicted with our January speaker. The regular section meeting was held the same day limiting the number of people participating in the tour. The tour was coordinated by the Chair-Elect of the Chattanooga Section and funded by an IPG.

GOAL 4 WAS SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL.

GOAL 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.

RESULT 5

Our section established a new award for the 47th West Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair, a preliminary to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. This is the first ACS award given at this regional event. The award was given in our sections name to the project that best promoted the Public Awareness of Chemistry. Seventh grader Trebor Briley won with his Project Titled "Water: Is It Equal?" which determined that tap water met more water quality and safety criteria than water from a farm well. The award included a certificate, a window decal, and a periodic table. A cash prize may be added to future awards. Our section also provided a member to Judge the projects for this award and to promote the ACS.

GOAL 5 WAS ACHIEVED.

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):

1) Continue to improve methods of communication with the members:

In past years, the website and newsletters have displayed on basic information about meetings. In 2007, the chair worked to establish a new web address that would be more accessible to all members and not just affiliated with one university. He also began making the newsletter mailing more personal. This year, the section hopes to include information such as section history, etc. on the website to make the website more desirable.

2) Increase attendance:

With the member survey sent out last year, members complained most about inconvenient meeting locations. They blamed this as the cause for not attending more meetings. To improve the attendance, we will hold meetings in a variety of locations. We will also hold them at the distance extremes of our section in order to allow those who usually have to travel far, a chance at attending a meeting that is but a short distance from their location.

3) Include programs to peak high school educators interest and encourage quality teachers in high school level chemistry:

Our April meeting will be hosted in Martin, TN with the speaker talking on the importance of having ACS accredited teachers in the classrooms. Local teachers and administrators will be invited to attend.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

1) Increase networking:

As a professional, it is important to connect with individuals in similar fields. In order to increase networking, we will hold two meetings focused on a field of common interest. The first meeting will be on Safety in the Laboratory. The members of the local section of the American Society for Safety

Engineers will be invited to attend. The second meeting will be in April with a focus on chemistry in the high schools.

2) Continue to provide increased information to the members:

In our newsletters, I hope to provide a message from the chair and information about the upcoming speaker. This will hopefully increase the interest in the newsletter since it will not just be the basic information about the meeting.

3) Fill the committees needed to properly run a section:

If the committees are filled, it will increase volunteerism and decrease member fatigue. Since the work would be shared by more individuals, no one person should feel overburdened.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

Since it has always been a struggle in the past to find members willing to volunteer, member apathy may be a problem. In order to help counteract this, we are offering a variety of locations for the meetings to encourage members to attend the ones close to their area and we will also encourage them to become a part of a committee. By becoming involved in a small part, they may want to step up into a larger leadership role.