

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Louisiana
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: Science Cafe--Chemistry and Art

The Louisiana local section held its first Science Cafe on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at the Fairgrinds Coffee House from 12:00 to 2:00. The topic was the Chemistry of Paint and was presented by Dr. Sarah Weaver of Xavier University of Louisiana. 35 people attended the event, 18 were members and 17 were nonmembers. Xavier University and the University of New Orleans Departments of Fine Arts, the Faubourg Marigny and St. John Neighborhood Associations were our partners in this event. The event was promoted through local newspapers, newsletter, art organizations and the coffee house newsboard. The talk was scheduled for 30-45 minutes but went over 2 hours with very enthusiastic participation of the audience. At the end of the event, Dr. Weaver allowed the audience members to create their own pigments. Due to the very favorable response further Science Cafe's have been scheduled.

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title Science Cafe--Chemistry and Cooking

The Louisiana local section held its second Science Cafe on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Fairgrinds Coffee House from 12:00 to 2:00. The topic was the Chemistry of Cooking and was presented by Dr. Stassi DiMaggio of Xavier University of Louisiana. 25 people attended the event, 15 were members and 10 were nonmembers. The event was promoted through local newspapers, newsletter and the coffee house newsboard. The event cemented the Science Cafe as an event that the local section will continue to have 2-4 times during this year.

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title Awards Dinner at the Univ of New Orleans

The Louisiana Section Annual Awards Banquet was presented again after a 1 year hiatus at the University

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

of New Orleans' Flambeaux Room in the University Center on Monday, April 23rd, 2007. The event began at 6 pm with a social hour accompanied by local Jazz guitarist Darrell Havard. A New Orleans Jazz Buffet dinner followed. The Awards ceremony was next. Awards were given to the 2006 and 2007 ACS award winners (outstanding senior and ACS analytical awards) from the University of New Orleans, Loyola University, Tulane University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Nicholls State University and Xavier University of Louisiana. Also awards were given for the section's 50 year members. The event was such a success that it will be held at the Flambeaux room every year annually.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: National Chemistry Week Event at LCM

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

Super Science Saturday was held on October 27th, 2007 at the Louisiana Children's Museum. This event is held every year at the Children's Museum during National Chemistry Week. The theme was the "Many Faces of Chemistry." In addition to the normal demonstrations by local universities and industries, the local section provided face painters and information on the different jobs (faces) that chemists perform. The event had 30-40 volunteers and drew a crowd of over 200 people. The event was heavily promoted through local schools and media outlets. Many students were there because of the extra credit offered through their school. The event will be held next year also at the Children's Museum.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title Undergraduate Poster Session at Xavier U

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

Our annual Undergraduate Poster Meeting was again held at the Norman C. Francis Academic Science Complex, Xavier University of Louisiana on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 from 6 - 8 PM. Undergraduates from all the local universities were invited to attend. Dr. Mike Adams did a great job setting up the event. The chemistry club at Xavier and their student affiliates organization handled all the details and did an excellent job. The attendance was a little low compared to previous years. This was due to the University of New Orleans moving their undergraduate poster symposium to the week earlier. The event will be held again next year at Xavier. The executive board made some suggestions that Dr. Adams will incorporate next year to make the event a bigger success.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Tour Speaker Dinner Meeting at G Biersch

On Tuesday, March 20th, 2007 the first tour speaker dinner meeting of 2007 was held at Gordon Biersch Brewery. The event was heavily promoted and cosponsored by the Crescent City Brew Club, which has many chemists, physicists and physicians amongst its members. The event began with a social hour at 530 followed by dinner at 630 and the talk at 715. The event was presented by Dr. Tracy Hamilton of the University of Alabama/Birmingham." The title of the talk was: Zymurgy: The Art and Science of Making Beer" 50 people attended the event including 23 nonmembers from the Crescent City Brew Club. The brewmaster at Gordon Biersch was also in attendance and provided extremely insightful information during the social hour, the talk and after the talk as he took the tour speaker and some of the guests on a tour of the brewery. The length of the talk and tour of the brewery made the meeting go longer than normal. This led to the decision to move the dinner up on all future meetings by an hour, which has been a very successful change.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Tour Speaker Demonstration at Loyola U.

On Wednesday, April 11th, 2007 the second tour speaker of 2007 was held at Loyola University. Loyola's chemistry club provided the volunteers and the pizza for the event. Dr. John Fortman of Wright State University presented the talk entitled, "America's Funniest Chemical Videos: Dazzling Demos and Videotaped Bloopers." The event was attended by around 60 students, professors and local section members. It was a great success and was followed by a demonstration of thermite by the Loyola Chemistry Club.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Tour Speaker Dinner Meeting at Landry's

On Tuesday, September 18, 2007 the third and last tour speaker dinner meeting of 2007 was held at Landry's Seafood Restaurant. The speaker was Dr. Frank A. Settle of Washington and Lee University. The topic was "The Chemistry of Nuclear Weapons.". The event started with a social hour from 5-6 PM, followed by dinner from 6-7 PM and the talk from 7-8. The event was attended by about 35 people, who came from just about every local university, from multiple high schools and even a couple of industries were represented. The event and the location were fantastic. Future meetings will be held at this location due to the great layout and the facility and its staff.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Fun Science Family Day at Clearview Mall

The 17th Annual Fun Science for Families Day was held at Clearview Mall on 4500 Veterans Memorial Blvd in Metairie on Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 1000 to 400. The event was run by Sigma Xi. The local section provided support and volunteers. The purpose of this one-of-a-kind event was three-fold: to demonstrate the fun and excitement of science, to promote parental involvement in education, and to increase interest in science education in the community. The one day event was also sponsored by the Jefferson Parish Public School System, Cytec Industries, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The theme for this year was Sound of Science. About thirty booths with hands-on science activities were located in the Clearview Mall between Target and Sears. At each booth, participants were greeted by enthusiastic science teachers and local volunteer scientists and college students. Together, children and their parents learned and did science activities. When students complete activities at a minimum of 15 booths, they received a small prize. In addition, there were four live Mr. Science shows presented on stage. All volunteer scientists received free thematic T shirts.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Earth Day Festivities at City Park

On Sunday, April 22, 2007, the local section held its first Earth Day event. The local section applied for and received a \$3500 Local Section Innovative Grant. The grant was awarded after the earth day event, so we were able to do only a minimal event this year and are focusing much more on next year's event for having an elaborate event. This year we had some fund raising events at Xavier University. The bulk of the activity was our volunteers going to city park and helping clean up the park, which is still in disrepair due to Hurricane Katrina.

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.

In addition to the above activities, the local section held executive meetings every month (other than summer months). We also held our annual elections. Our section chair, served on the Southwest Regional meeting steering committee. As a section, we formed a steering committee for the 2010 Joint Southeast/Southwest

Regional meeting, which will be held in New Orleans and which we will be the host section. We also booked hotel and meeting space for that joint meeting. Our section contacted and prepared for the 2008 National Meeting, which will be held in the Spring of 2008 and which our local section will be the host. The executive board also has done a yeomen task of keeping the section going post-Katrina and actively recruiting new and old members back to the fold. Much of our time has been focused on these event.s

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:

From 2006 annual report:

- 1) To continue to grow attendance at our bimonthly meetings. Attendance has been growing steadily at these meetings and my goal is to continue that growth.
- 2) To offer more and more diverse activities to our local section. This includes new projects such as the Science Cafe and modifications of current projects such as offering general meetings at different times and locations.
- 3) To expand on and improve Local Section Activities associated with the national office. This includes National Chemistry Week and Earth Day amongst others.

Assessment:

- 1) We experience near record attendance at our events. Even in spite of Katrina, we are finding new members and rediscovering members who have not been here before.

We still need more and diverse members to be active in the section.

- 2) We successfully launched our new Science Cafe program. We held 2 very successful events and already have 2 more scheduled for the spring 2008 and hope to have two more in the fall of 2008. Our membership loved these events and will be a part of our future. We also brought back an old event that was on a one year hiatus, our awards dinner. We launched a small Earth Day festivity.

We did good in bringing new events. But we plan on offering an even better lineup this year.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

From 2006 annual report:

- 1) One of my main goal's is to continue planning and preparation for the 2008 National ACS meeting and the 2010 Joint SE/SW Regional meeting that the Louisiana Section will serve as host city for both events.
- 2) To increase the number of active members in our section.
- 3) To increase the number of subcommittee's in our section.
- 4) To continue the recovery of our section due to Hurricane Katrina.
- 5) To complete our Centennial Celebration.
- 6) To start an initiative to give back to the community in some large and substantial way. Possibilities include a Habitat for Humanity House done by the local and National membership of ACS and the involvement in the new Children's Museum being planned on the North Shore.

Assessment:

- 1) I have met these goals. We have booked our hotel and have all our chairs in place. Planning is going well on this.
- 2) We have increased our section's active members slightly but not enough.
- 3) In the beginning of 2008, we have finally increased our subcommittee's but still not to the number we need.
- 4) We have mostly recovered from Hurricane Katrina, but we still have not completed our membership roster review. There are things that we have not done yet.
- 5) We did not do anything to follow up on the Centennial Celebration. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina has curtailed our celebration and we were not able to do our section the justice it deserves.
- 6) Contact with the Children's museum planned on the North Shore has been very frustrating. I have contacted them several time and gotten no replies. On other fronts, we have been more successful. We have planned multiple events across our section to help in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. This has been helped greatly by the local section innovative grant, we received last year. We also plan on having events coordinated with the 2008 Spring National meeting.

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) Assist as Host Section with the National Meeting in April 2008;
- 2) Develop a method to gauge our effectiveness in communicating with our members;
- 3) Identify and recruit new leadership and diversify the Executive Committee to include chemist(s) working in industry; and,
- 4) Solicit ideas for new activities or programs from our members.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

- 1) Serve as Chair of the Host Section Committee;
- 2) Work with our new Secretary to develop an email strategy to get some feedback on the effectiveness of electronic (vs mail) communications;
- 3) Add at least one chemist to the Executive Committee; and,
- 4) Solicit ideas from our members for new programs and activities.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

We still need help with our member rosters. We also need a better mechanism for knowing all the help/grants we may be eligible for from the LSAC.