

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Midland
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: Midland Section Fall Scientific Meeting

Over 200 attendees were present at the Midland Section ACS 2007 Fall Scientific Meeting that was held at the Midland Center for the Arts (MCFTA). The general theme was Greatest Challenges of the 21st Century: Energy, Food, and Water and featured Dr. Catherine (Katie) Hunt, president of the American Chemical Society, as the keynote speaker addressing the general theme. The student affiliate section at Central Michigan University provided support for the registration and nametags. The program began with a catered sit-down lunch, and was then followed by a welcome with Dale Meier and Dee Strand. An awards ceremony was conducted in which Section Awards and long-time ACS members (50- and 60-years) were recognized. After Dr. Hunt's keynote address on Sustainable Chemistries, it was time to examine the approximately 50 posters that covered a wide variety of topics and 12 vendor booths that were intermingled in the lobby of the Center. An incentive was provided to visit the vendors in which attendees acquired different stamps from the vendors on a card, which was then entered into a drawing for an iPod Nano. Following the poster/vendor session, three symposia ran simultaneously. The symposia focused on the subtopics of the general theme: energy, food, and water. Speakers from academia, industry, and government were all featured. After the formal events at the MCFTA, a social hour sponsored by the vendors was held at the Main Street Sports Pub where attendees had an opportunity to relax and network with each other and the FSM presenters, including Dr. Hunt. Finally, a Speaker's Banquet was held at a local restaurant to recognize their contributions to the success of this meeting.

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Sci-Fest 2007

The 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week was celebrated on Oct. 27 at Sci-Fest, which was co-sponsored by Midland Section ACS, MidMichigan Technologists Group, and Delta College. Approximately 1500 participants had the opportunity

for many hands-on activities and demonstrations for young people and young at heart! In addition, there were five astronomy lab shows, each of which were packed with participants. Careers represented included astronomers, microbiologists, veterinarians, laboratory managers, chemical technicians from many different areas, physicists, engineers, environmentalists, dental assistants, plastics/polymer chemists, glass blowers, soil conservationists, nutritionists, cosmetic chemists, packaging engineers, computational chemists, and organic chemists. Participants held contests with rocket balloons and battled with two smoke cannons. They also worked with molding sand, surface tension of water, construction magnets, magnet yo-yos, and tried their hand at piercing balloons with a wooden stick. In addition, many of them were able to power a TV by riding a stationary bike. They also tested efficacy of hand washing by applying hand lotion that contained a fluorescent dye to their hands. After washing their hands, they viewed them under UV light to detect how much dye had been removed. Feathers and foam flew as children decorated full-face masks creating their own faces of chemistry. Participants of all ages watched bubbles floating on a sea of dry ice in a fish aquarium, played in a soapy solution generating bubbles, used dry ice to self-inflate balloons, created a tornado in a bottle, and generated frequencies with a xylophone. Dr. Slime, a Delta College laboratory manager, was center stage with fascinating teaching demonstrations such as the production of an elephant's toothpaste, exploration of the states of matter through demonstrations with dry ice, liquid nitrogen, and air. He also gave a Halloween demo with an acid/base reaction producing colorful results, and spontaneous changes of pressure which blew a cord off in one instance and created a vacuum that inflated a glove inside a jar. The highlight of the show was the ignition of a balloon of hydrogen gas. Dr. Slime's main theme was that chemistry is not magic, but it is the understanding of how molecules work. Doughnut holes and apple cider were served by members of the MidMichigan Technician Group, which is sponsored by the Midland Section ACS. The event was advertised by distributing 25,000 flyers to local schools, as well as articles and advertising in local newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title 2007 Earth Day at MCFTA

The Midland ACS local section celebrated Earth Day with two local organizations the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art and the Chippewa Nature Center. A variety of booths were available for hands on activities, many of which were focused on recycling. The Midland ACS held its first ever Science Café at the event, where we featured a kid's activity based on cornstarch packing peanuts, showed

videos on climate change for older kids and adults, and offered refreshments. The ACS Student Affiliate section showed information on biodiesel, and prepared and served French Fries illustrating the recycling of used vegetable oils for transportation fuels. The ACS section gave away white pine trees. We had participation from local industry, as Dow Chemical had two booths one on Dow Water Solutions Business which focuses on water purification and reverse osmosis, and another demonstrating commitment to efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. The Midland Recycling Center and Landfill had a booth involving making paper from recycled newspaper. The Dow Museum sponsored a magic-style show called Protect Our Planet illustrating how we impact our environment, food, trees, energy. Our YCC group featured a booth on worms and their importance in composting. Kids (adults, too) could dig through soil and find worms to take home to put in their yards. We also had a booth from Delta College on animal habitat and endangered species which featured a variety of hands on activities and a quiz for kids. Kids who took the quiz (all answers could be found in the information presented at the booth) were eligible to win a prize in a drawing. Other presenters were the Michigan Corn Growers association which presented information on renewable fuels, Midland Area Homes which collects used furniture and appliances to be given away to those in need, and the Saginaw Children s Zoo on the importance of our environment to animals. Approximately 200 people participated in the Earth Day event. Later in the day, ACS and Chippewa Nature Center co-sponsored a speaker event on climate change. Henry Pollack, a geologist from the University of Michigan spoke to a group of about 40 people and addressed the questions of 1) is climate change occurring, 2) are humans playing a role in climate change, and 3) what are the consequences of climate change? The presentation lasted about one hour, and there was a healthy discussion afterwards. Two additional events celebrating Earth Day were occurring in the community on Saturday, and we linked into their events by printing cards with all three events listed. Participants who got the card punched at all three events were eligible for a prize drawing.

Description
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b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: Middle School Mentoring Program

The primary goal of this program was to launch a mentoring program for middle school females in science and math, while also developing a working relationship with administrators and teachers. ACS obtained a grant from the local United Way to conduct a series of experiments to see what type of mentoring program was feasible and successful. A key learning in setting up the program was the difficulty of establishing a program for female students only, so efforts were expanded to be available to all

students. Mentoring programs were tried in the classroom during student lunch hour, during the regular school day, and after school. Mentoring sessions were run during the student lunch hour twice per week, where weekly quizzes and worksheets were reviewed. Students were then given the opportunity to retake quizzes to see if scores improved. An after school program consisted of providing resources and mentors as students prepared for events such as Science Olympiad, academic track, and a middle school science club. One popular event, sponsored by Midland Section ACS, was rocket days, where mentors worked with students to build and shoot off rockets. Rockets were built with different weights and hydrodynamics to test student hypotheses. The program changed significantly between the initial planning stages and program completion, illustrating the dynamic approach necessary to ideally meet student, school, and district needs. Metrics were designed for in class/lunch time mentoring programs to measure the effects on student outcomes. A variety of incentives were provided for both students and mentors to encourage continuation of the program. Mentors and students also had the chance to socialize at a baseball game. The 2007 program involved approximately 20 mentors, and 25 students total. The program was so successful that one of the middle school teachers initially involved who was taking a leave of absence this academic year has devoted a portion of her time to its continuation and expansion. A grant proposal has been written and submitted to a local foundation for continued funding. 20 additional mentors have been recruited, and the program now encompasses three different classes and an after school program. Midland ACS section continues to provide financial support, speakers/demos, and mentors. In addition, we have pledged that the section will pay for required background checks on all members who serve as mentors. It is anticipated that the program will be expanded to include additional middle schools beyond the two that served as pilots in 2007.

Description
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b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title Saginaw Bay Watershed Program

The program utilizes high school chemistry and physics students to sample, test, and evaluate major rivers and tributaries in the Michigan Saginaw River watershed, and area of fresh water rivers comprising over 8700 square miles. Students would sample water from a number of sites within the watershed and test for inorganics, bacteria and physical characteristics of the test site. Sampling has increased to 27 different sites within the watershed and has been performed each week for over one to three years to date. The first year of testing at each site is to obtain a base line of each test site for continued testing over the next three years. Each site database has been combined together to provide a

complete, systematic picture of the quality of water in this important water shed over an extended period of time. A number of additional schools throughout the Midland Section have joined into this watershed program in 2007. Some of the results of this longer-term project include the following.

"Student awareness of the environment
 "School science clubs started
 "Student involvement in their communities
 "One to four years of watershed scientific data collected
 "Business coalition strengthened with area schools
 "A very successful recycling program has been developed
 "School participation continues to grow

Description
 (Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Science Cafe'

Two Science Cafés were held by the Midland Section ACS with 2006 funding. The first was held with the Earth Day activities at the Midland Center for the Arts on April 21. At the café, two videos from NOVA scienceNOW producers were shown. The first dealt with the rapidly melting glaciers in Greenland and the effect of glacial melting. The relationship between stronger hurricanes and global warming was described in the second video. Viewers of the videos had the opportunity to ask questions or share their impressions. The videos were combined with a craft activity involving environmentally friendly starch packing peanuts for younger children. The activity, as well as kid-friendly snacks (doughnut holes and lemonade), provided time for parents or adults to watch the videos and learn about the effects of climate change. This event was described at an ACS podcast on Sept. 13 by Dee Strand, section chair. The second Science Café was originally planned for December, but had to be delayed until early January due to a scheduling conflict. This event was held at a local coffee shop in Midland, and the newly formed Dow High School chemistry club was invited. At the Science Café, professional scientists and engineers, chemical technicians, and a chemical educator talked to the students in small groups about careers in the sciences. Plans for future Science Café events were discussed where we plan on inviting speakers of interest to the students, and they will be encouraged to bring friends and family to attend.

Description
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c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Younger Chemists Committee

Midland Section YCC is an outstanding link to new hires within the technical community. We have been fortunate in that local companies, Dow Chemical and

Dow Corning, have been hiring many new graduates. The YCC has linked into New Hire Groups and Young Research Groups in both companies to encourage participation in ACS events. In addition, the YCC has partnered well with the Central Michigan University student affiliate section to further extend the network of younger people working in or considering a career in chemical sciences. A number of joint social events were held in 2007, including a roller skating outing, a trip to a comedy club, a baseball game at the new Loon s stadium in Midland, the second annual Kickin in the Park, and the traditional Social Mixer at Oscar s. The Kickin in the Park event is an all day kickball tournament with food, fun, prizes, and kids events. In addition, the event raises funds for the American Cancer Society (the other ACS), and in 2007 raised \$1000 for this charity. The YCC is also an invaluable help to the Midland Section ACS at a number of their large events. Over 200 attendees at the Midland Section Earth Day celebration at the Midland Center for the Arts had the opportunity to receive white pine seedlings, thanks to the YCC. The YCC ran a table handing out the tree seedlings, as well as giving instructions on how to plant and care for the trees. In addition, members of YCC were instrumental in setting up and cleaning up for this event. Finally, the Midland Section Fall Scientific Meeting truly does depend upon all organizations in the area for help. The YCC does an excellent job of managing the poster session, including abstract submissions, communication, and physical set up of posterboards/easels). This significantly helps the Fall Scientific Committee by reducing their workload. In addition, their involvement in events such as Earth Day and Fall Scientific Meeting provides an excellent link for those Dow Chemical and Dow Corning new hires looking opportunities to tie into the local scientific community.

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b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Midland Section Awards Program

On April 25, the annual Spring Education Awards Dinner was held at the Dow Corning Corporate Headquarters. Awards were presented for outstanding contributions to teaching chemistry and sciences in the schools and colleges in the five county region of the Midland section ACS. Also recognized were science education volunteers and outstanding chemistry students as selected by their high school or college. In addition, top-scoring participants in the US National Chemistry Olympiad were recognized. The Mid-Michigan Technician Group also presented an award to the Outstanding Technical Student in a technician program. Nominations were sought from schools within a five county area, with the award winners decided by the awards team members. Parents and teachers of student awardees were invited to attend the awards banquet. Spouses and

administrators of teacher awardees were also invited. Announcements of the award winners were published in local newspapers, and in the Midland section ACS newsletter. Fall awards were given at our Fall Scientific Meeting, and included recognition for 50-, 60-, and 70-year members. In addition, awards were given for Outstanding Achievement and Promotion of the Chemical Sciences, Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society and Outstanding Chemical Technician. Bob The section scholarship award was also presented at that time. Given that Katie Hunt was our keynote speaker for the Fall Scientific Meeting, award recipients were photographed with Katie as they accepted their recognition plaques.

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b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Project Science Literacy

For many years, the cornerstone for Project Science Literacy has been the Bringing Science to Life in the Classroom , along with the more recent Clowning Around with Polymers training sessions. The training sessions are hands-on and instruct science teachers (K-12+) how to perform chemistry demonstrations in the classroom safely, while using easily obtainable supplies. The attendees are given a workshop manual that provides detailed description of the experiments and other valuable general science resources. In 2007, we have begun the process to update the workshop manuals. This will include aligning the demonstrations with current curriculum goals, correcting any errors in the current versions, and adding new demonstrations. In 2007, Project Science Literacy brought the Bringing Science to Life in the Classroom workshop to a new level. Attending the training session held at the ACS Central Regional Meeting (May 16-20, 2006 at Frankenmuth, MI) was Doris Zimmerman, a member of the Pittsburgh, PA local section. Doris was so enthusiastic about this workshop that she organized her local section and they started offering the training in their region. The members of Project Science Literacy worked closely with the Pittsburgh section of the ACS to get their programming up and running, with their first formal workshop being held in early 2007. In March of 2007, members of Project Science Literacy were invited and traveled to Chicago, IL, to hold the Bringing Science to Life in the Classroom workshop at the Pittcon Conference and Expo. Once again, the workshop was very well received, this time by 15 Chicago area science instructors that came in on a Sunday to attend. The training session was so well received by the attendees that the organizers of the Pittsburgh Conference immediately invited Project Science Literacy to again offer the workshop at the 2008 Pittsburgh Conference that will be held in March in New Orleans, LA. In the past several years, Project Science Literacy has undertaken an activity where we

obtain discarded laboratory supplies from local businesses and then distributed these supplies to local schools and science educators. These supplies range from all types of laboratory glassware to plastic bottles to large rolls of paper (some > 250lbs). All these supplies were designated to be discarded by local companies. Project Science Literacy arranged to have these supplies donated to us from these companies. Then, we invited local science teachers to shop and then take whatever supplies they desired. No limit was placed on what or how much the teachers could take. Approximately, 35 different teachers representing all grades from K-12, from 35 different schools have obtained supplies. These teachers have received 221 boxes of supplies that have an estimated value of more than \$100,000. In addition, 34 large rolls of paper have also been distributed. This is an activity that Project Science Literacy hopes to continue for many more years.

Description:

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b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Science Promotions

The Midland Section ACS Science Promotion program sponsors travel by students and teachers to attend conferences and meetings. In 2007, we sponsored a trip for 12 of our student affiliate members from Central Michigan University to the Spring National ACS Meeting in Chicago. The most influential events for the group were the demo exchange and the community outreach. These are two aspects that our student affiliate group focuses on throughout the year. They learned many new demonstrations to do at the schools in the area and also other various ways to get the community more involved with chemistry. In addition, three members of the group presented their research at poster sessions at the National Meeting. They also went to the SAACS Chapter Awards Ceremony to accept an award for Outstanding Chapter for 2005-06. During the trip, the students volunteered at The Notebaert Nature Museum for underprivileged children from the Chicago area, doing chemistry demos. A new portion of Science Promotions started in 2007 was funding local elementary, middle, and high school teachers to attend conferences on education in science and math. The 2007 Northern/Midwestern Conference of the National Science Teachers Association was held in Detroit on Oct. 18-20. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), founded in 1944 and headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership of more than 55,000 includes science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in and committed to science education. Midland Section ACS offered teacher travel grants in the amount of \$250 to six

Description:

(Please limit to

- b) one paragraph): local science teachers to attend this conference.
- 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.

The Midland ACS Section co-sponsored the 2007 Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program along with MMI, AIChE, ASM, and SPE. The program consisted of course lectures for five days starting June 18, 2007. The visiting professor was Dr. Stephen Cheng, from the Maurice Morton Institute of Polymer Science at the University of Akron, who taught a course on The Role of Metastable States and Metastability in Phase Transitions. In addition to the course, a joint technical society dinner meeting was held.

The Midland Section supported one SEED I student during the summer of 2007. This student spent approximately 8 weeks working full-time on a research project under the guidance of Minghui Chai at Central Michigan University (Mt. Pleasant, MI). A second student was expected to come back for SEED II summer at Dow Corning, but decided late that she would not return. We had secured funding for her from the national SEED office; however, this could not be used for another student and was returned to the national office.

The Midland Chemist is our Section's newsletter, and is published by Director Ann Birch. <http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/midchemist.htm>. The newsletter is published six times per year, and is mailed to section membership. An electronic distribution list is being compiled so that the majority of the Section can receive The Midland Chemist electronically, which will further reduce mailing costs. Ann Birch also serves as our webmaster. The Section website includes a calendar of events, copies of The Midland Chemist, archiving capabilities which include the 2005 and 2006 electronic annual reports from our Section, as well as much more information. Our Webpage can be found at: <http://membership.acs.org/M/Midl/>. Our section also has an active historian, Wendell Dilling, who has a report each month in The Midland Chemist on activities that occurred in the past in our Section,

In the fall, prior to local section elections, we hosted a Meet the Candidates Open House. The event was open to both members and nonmembers. On a beautiful fall day, attendees had the chance to socialize and meet the candidates running for section office. In addition, posters of section activities as well as recent ChemLuminary Awards were shown to give people a snapshot of all the section programs

and the high quality of those programs.

Our councilors were very active in the section. They participated in both ACS Council Meetings (Chicago, Boston). The Section Councilors, Thomas Lane and Bob Howell presented pertinent issues to the Midland Section Board of Directors prior to the national meetings. After the meetings, significant Council action was reported to the Midland Section Board of Directors and to the Section membership via publication in the Midland Chemist and posting on the Section website.

A presentation was given to the Midland Section Board on the section s membership in April. The message was that our membership has been slowly eroding since 2001. Demographics for the section were also shared and the section brainstormed some ideas for increasing membership. We decided to make certain that we have membership applications and other materials at as many of our events as possible. For example, the Membership committee hosted a booth at our annual Fall Scientific meeting this year. There are many non-members who attend and it was a good opportunity to talk about the benefits of membership. In addition, the committee purchased coffee mugs with the ACS logo and the words Midland Section American Chemical Society which were given as an incentive to people who filled out an application.

The Government Affairs committee was active in monitoring government actions of interest to the Midland Section ACS and its members. It regularly responded to legislative alerts from ACS providing input consistent with the views and concerns of Midland Section members. The committee also corresponded with legislators requesting their promotion of increases in appropriations to the various agencies that support research and education in the sciences. At the state level, the committee communicated with Representative Bill Caul, urging moderation in callbacks for support of higher education. He has been sympathetic and supportive of our position, but the magnitude of the reduction in funding represents a severe blow to the institutions in our service area.

The Chemistry Olympiad committee invited 24 local schools to participate, of which 9 participated. A total of 165 exams were returned from the schools for scoring. Top scoring students from the schools were recognized with an award for \$50 at our Spring Education Awards Banquet. The National Chemistry Exam was administered at Central Michigan University. Two students received National Honors Recognition.

The Technical Society Interface Committee of the Midland Section ACS promotes cooperative activities and information exchange with other technical and professional organizations, in the area, such as Sigma Xi, The American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Society of Plastics Engineers, etc. The Midland Section of the ACS is a participating member

of the Saginaw Valley Engineering Council (our ACS membership includes chemical engineers). This council has 17 participating organizations which share information about their activities and programs.

The Midland Section ACS selected Jennifer Martin as the recipient of the 2007 American Chemical Society Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship was set up as an annual program by the Midland ACS through the Midland Area Community Foundation. The scholarship is based on academic achievement and potential for contributions to the chemical services.

Over 400 people attended the Midland ACS Section Professionals Day at the Midland County Fair. Free food and chemistry demonstrations were a big hit with all the kids. Ride bands were on sale which offered a discount to ACS members.

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:

1) Complete efforts to expand the section's geographical area to selected northern Michigan counties by the end of 2005. This will help to extend our membership base and to more effectively offer programming to many retirees who have moved north from our section upon retirement. They also may act as a base for a Silver Circle group and for volunteers. Here is the committee report from 2005 (thank you, Gretchen). We need a volunteer to lead this effort in 2007, with new thoughts on how to get the majority of votes needed in order to accomplish this. Past efforts on this are summarized below.

2005 Committee Members: Gretchen Kohl, Steve Keinath, Angelo Cassar

This Committee was re-activated late in the 2003 to complete the activity of surveying the ACS members in unclaimed counties that are immediately east and north of the current territory of Midland Section. We have had active outreach programs in many of these counties, and perceive a benefit both to our Section and to these unclaimed members if we expand our official service area to include them. For the last three years, Section members and the Science Literacy group have sponsored successful Earth Day and NCW events, in West Branch, and many teacher workshops have been done as well. By re-activating this annexation committee, we hope to survey the interests of the ACS members who currently are not represented by a section.

Our timeline started in November 2003, with Section Board approved request to National for the members in

the unclaimed counties. A list of the zip codes submitted to Dale Gandy is attached to this report. In December, we received a list of 79 members who live in that unclaimed territory. We drafted and mailed a letter and information package, in January 2004, to each of these members, which included:

- a. A cover letter and the required ballot for annexation
- b. A copy of our newsletter, The Midland Chemist, and a Section brochure
- c. A 2003 Chair s summary of Midland Section events, from the annual report
- d. Postage paid return envelope for the ballot

We received 25 responses--10 who support annexation, 2 who oppose it, 10 who have no opinion, and 3 who did not vote. A relative of someone who died in 2002 returned one no vote. At this point, we have a 32% response rate to our original mailing to 79 ACS members. We don't have a simple (40) or two-thirds (53) majority yet.

Since we had no activity in the calendar year of 2005, we will start for the third and final time in 2006, hoping for presentation of a motion for annexation by the Spring, 2007, National meeting.

Gretchen led this effort again in 2007, and obtained names and addresses of ACS members in the unclaimed counties. A letter is prepared to go out in early 2008 with the same request. We will also follow up with a more personal contact, such as a phone call or a one on one meeting to try and obtain the two thirds majority.

2)Evaluate interest in forming Silver Circle Committee. The 2005 member survey showed a good response to the addition of Silver Circle Committee, which is an obvious opportunity due to the large number of retirees in our Section. The barrier to its formation in the past is for a leader to step up with vision and passion. There are many opportunities for service, including outreach in the schools, tutoring, consulting advice/workshops, etc. If favorable, the board should solicit members who might be interested in starting such an activity.

A retired ACS member, Bob Belfit, was contacted about forming a Silver Circle committee. The first question to be addressed was what would the committee do? Bob has a passion around our middle school mentoring program (described elsewhere), and has been a volunteer mentor for 2007. He has also recruited several other retirees to mentor in our after school programs, and plans to build on it in 2008. Once there is critical mass of retirees in the mentoring program, we will address if they want to officially launch a Silver Circle in our section. However, good progress was made on finding a passionate leader, and defining a mission for that organization.

3)Increase activity of current membership through

enhanced programs and greater awareness of opportunities. Our section has so much to offer, but most ACS members choose not to get involved. We need to brainstorm ways that can get people excited about participating in ACS activities.

The 2007 chair columns addressed the theme of volunteerism and getting involved. In addition, we brainstormed ways to get people excited about ACS at a board of directors meeting. Each member of the board was asked to contribute a reason why they were active in ACS. We then discussed these reasons at a dinner with Dr. Catherine Hunt, National ACS President, to get her feedback and comments on how to energize the base. Several of our new outreach efforts involving mentoring and working to help set up a high school chemistry club in the area should help engage more members in active volunteering.

4) Enhance efforts to increase section membership, particularly in light of corporate hiring in the community. Personally contact all new members that come on roster via hiring into the community. Work towards identifying all new hires and recruit into ACS.

E-mails were sent by the section chair to most new members that appeared on our section roster reports. A good response was obtained. At least 10 new members expressed interested in getting involved. The names of these members were sent to YCC leadership, National Chemistry Week committee, and the Awards committee to solicit volunteers at events. We also connected with the Dow Chemical Company New Hires Group and invited them to all YCC events. Announcements about ACS and YCC activities were also sent to an e-mail distribution list of Dow Corning new hires.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

1) Completion of the United Way grant program designed to set up a mentoring program with Midland County Schools. Currently we have completed planning and held a kick-off meeting for several programs with Midland middle schools. The programs will run through the end of the school year, upon which we will get feedback from teachers, students, and volunteers as to which programs went well and which could use improvement. Pending a successful portion of the program, we will look for funding opportunities to continue such a program in the future.

This was successfully completed. See the report on our middle school mentoring program.

2) Ensure the Section By-Laws and Roles and Responsibilities documents are reviewed and updated by the Executive Committee. We will then have to get approval by the section.

All By-Laws were reviewed by the Executive Committee. Three changes were recommended involving 1) the method of amending section by-laws, 2) electronic voting for local elections, and 3) the number of candidates required for section officers. A schedule has been put together for when the by-law amendments will be put to the section for voting, which should happen in 2008. Given the current by-law requiring responses by significant numbers of section members, it was not possible to get this ready for the 2007 election but will be advertised and put up for a vote in 2008. Our Roles and Responsibilities document (or Officer Manual) was also completely reviewed by the Executive Committee. Updates were made as necessary to ensure role descriptions were consistent with by-laws and with actual activities.

3) Improve the documentation of committee chairs, as well as identify a better electronic means of sharing files and storing information (in addition to our existing website). We need board access to documents (not the entire public) and the ability to edit/share information in a better way. Documentation of committee/board member responsibilities may make it easier to find candidates, as the timeline/activities are clearly identified.

As stated in goal #2, our Officer Manual was reviewed and revised. This also includes roles and responsibilities for committee chairs. In our reviews, much more specific responsibilities were outlined for several key committee chairs such as nominations and elections, and awards. This should make it much easier for new people coming into those roles to understand what (and more importantly when) things need to get done. These responsibilities as well as a timeline/schedule for several of the more active committees were documented and will shortly be posted to our website. We experimented with a free wiki (pbwiki.com) for our section. While it offered the opportunity to more easily share electronic documents, many members of our board were not comfortable with uploading and downloading documents frequently. We also evaluated a commercial product for organizing and sharing documents, but decided it was too expensive.

4) Support each of the programs above by attending each event and assisting where necessary, especially with the Fall Scientific Meeting, to ensure program excellence.

The section chair participated in nearly every major ACS activity this year, including organizing and running our two Science Cafés, volunteering at Earth Day and Sci-Fest, organizing the site logistics, Social, and Speaker s Banquet at our Fall Scientific Meeting, and hosting Dr. Catherine Hunt during her visit to Midland for our Fall Scientific 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):

- a)Develop a succession plan for every non-elected office & committee.
- b)Continue with Annexation plans.
- c)Develop job description and goals for every active committee.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

- a)Reorganize website to make it easier for new members or non-members to find the information they need.
- b)Update section s brochures and poster.
- c)Include a clear description of volunteer opportunities in every newsletter.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

I have communicated with the people who support local section activities several times over my term as chair and chair-elect. I have found them to be extremely helpful and responsive. Our section needs to transition to more electronic means of communication and file sharing so will be looking for help on this over the next year or so.