

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
 Organization: Richland
 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: Co-Hosting of NORM

The ACS Richland Section was pleased to organize the 62nd Northwest Regional Meeting at the Boise Convention Centre on the Grove in Boise, Idaho from June 17-20, 2007. The meeting was co-located with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Pacific Division (AAASPD). About a total of 350 ACS members registered and 250 members for AAASPD to give an overall total of 600 attendees; there was complete reciprocity of open and ticketed events for NORM and AAASPD. The Expo was a success with 25 booths sold. A special emphasis was placed on Undergraduate and High School Teacher programs. This meeting set several new precedents for regions and indeed for the ACS - two of these are as follows. (1) This was the first NORM to be held outside of a sponsoring section's territorial domain since the 1980's, with the purpose of promoting the establishment of a new local section. This approach did succeed with formation of the Snake River Section in 2007, and the presentation of the Charter to its officers took place at NORM 2007 and was made by ACS President Katie Hunt (see photo). (2) This was the first NORM to be co-located with a non-ACS scientific society, AAASPD. Registration and financial operations were kept separate between both organizations, but poster sessions and all programs otherwise had complete reciprocity in terms of participation by each group. A single program book was used, but designed so both NORM and AAASPD kept their respective identities and formats. The ACS shared their electronic abstract submission system with AAASPD.

Description
 (Please limit to
 b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: Girls In Science

"What is making people sick?" was the challenging question to solve for middle-school girls who attended the sixth Girls in Science day at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, OR on Saturday October 27th, 2007. The event was organized by over 70 volunteers,

including EOU faculty, staff and students and members of other organizations. The event was supported in part by the Richland Section Committee for Women and Minority Affairs with a donation of \$500 and with participation from ACS students and faculty members. Girls as far as the Tri-Cities and many small communities in North and Central Oregon attended the science day.

Crafted after the popular TV show House, the interdisciplinary curriculum developed by a team composed of anthropology, computer technology, biology and chemistry experts engaged the girls in finding out what was making inhabitants of a house sick. Working in small teams, the young investigators, equipped with masks and booties, first collected specimens from a fictitious house, and then conducted several experiments to find out possible presence of bacteria or molds or presence of toxic chemicals such as nitrite in water or lead in paint. Math activities and graphing along with computer simulations were also part of the day.

The day concluded with each team reporting their diagnosis to "Dr. House". The event was met with great enthusiasm by all participants and was overall a great success. Girls In Science pictures are located in the electronic photo album accompanying this report and will be available shortly on the Richland Section website.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title So You Think You Want To Be A Chemist?

Through a grant from the Local Section Activities Committee, area community college students were solicited to attend the 62nd Northwest Regional Meeting in Boise, Idaho. The community college students in Oregon, Idaho and Walla Walla CC College were visited in person by Dr. Richard Hermens. Dr. Glenn Crosby visited Spokane Falls CC. These personal visitations were of no cost to the grant. The theme for these students was "So You Think You Want to Be a Chemist?". The purpose was to have community college students attend a regional meeting so they could see what chemists do before they complete their undergraduate education. It also allowed these students to see alternative careers in chemistry. The students were asked to attend certain functions and sessions that could benefit them in the future, such as: a session of undergraduate students presenting posters of their research; a banquet where undergraduate student awards were presented based on the research; a half-day symposium on Instruments Used in General Chemistry; a graduate school recruiting fair; a luncheon with the American Chemical Society president Katie Hunt; an alternative

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): careers panel discussion; and a tour of Micron Corporation in Boise. Eleven students took advantage of this opportunity, and their feedback indicates their experiences at NORM were well worth their time and effort.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

- a) Title: Student Travel Grants to ACS Meetings

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): The Richland Section is proud to have sponsored the career aspirations of undergraduate student affiliates within the section. In 2007, the Richland Section provided financial assistance of \$2,000 to over 20 EOU SAACS students for travel to the 233rd ACS National Meeting in Chicago, IL; the 234th ACS National Meeting in Boston, MA; and the 62nd Northwest Regional Meeting in Boise, ID. At these meetings, students presented their research findings at the undergraduate poster sessions, met with graduate school recruiters, and became more aware of the larger world of chemistry. These students were also invited to present their posters at a meeting of the Richland Section, at which students were able to network with local chemists and learn about employment opportunities in the area.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

- a) Title: Science Cafes

- Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph): This year the Richland Section hosted two Science Cafes. The first was held on November 8 at the Ice Harbor Brewery in Kennewick, Washington, and was co-hosted with Sigma Xi. The featured speakers included two recent Seaborg award winners, Lee Burger and Jack Ryan, describing their experiences working at Hanford in the 1940's and 1950's. The second was held on December 13 at Mamacita's Restaurant in La Grande, Oregon. The featured speaker for this one was Dr. Winston P. Smith, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, speaking on topics related to ecology, economy and sustainable development. Turnout was great for these events and we hope to hold more Science Cafes in 2008.
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

- a) Title: Boy Scout Chemistry Merit Badge-Richland

Twenty boy scouts and ten girl scouts participated in a Chemistry Merit Badge program organized and staffed by the Richland Section. The training took place on the mornings of two consecutive Saturdays, November 3 and 10, 2007. The youth had to attend both sessions to complete all the requirements for

the merit badge. Completing the program qualified the boys to earn the Boy Scout chemistry merit badge. The girls were able to earn a similar Girl Scout activity badge. All youth received an ACS National Chemistry Week patch. The Richland Section's program was supported by a local college, Columbia Basin College, which donated classroom and laboratory space, and by a local firm, CH2M Hill, which donated safety goggles. Part of the training covered safety and the use of Personal Protective Equipment. The youth were able to keep the goggles to be used at home when doing jobs requiring eye protection (using power tools, etc.)

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Boy Scout Chemistry Merit Badge-LaGrande

A Chemistry Merit Badge was hosted on the campus of Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, OR, the first one ever held in Eastern Oregon. The event took place on two consecutive weekends (April 14 and 21, 2007) and involved 14 boy scouts from surrounding areas, their scout leaders and several parents. The scouts performed activities as recommended by the merit badge requirements and beyond. They were introduced to the many fields and areas of chemistry, including, but not limited to biochemistry, organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry and also had a lecture on chemical safety and careers in chemistry.

Overall we tried to instill in them the understanding that chemistry is all around us. The event was organized by the EOU Students Affiliate Chapter in collaboration with the Richland Local Section. Since other local sections members had developed this program in Richland, WA we were able to use their expertise and experience in making this event run really smoothly and meaningfully for the scouts.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Expand Your Horizons

This year the Richland Section participated in two of the Expanding Your Horizons workshops for girls. The first workshop was held on April 14, 2007 at Washington State University, Tri-Cities. There were over 450 participants. The Richland Section hosted the Chemistry room for the event. Dr. Novella Bridges, chair-elect was the keynote speaker. The second workshop was held on November 3, 2007 at Yakima Valley Community College. There were over 300 participants. The Richland Section again hosted the Chemistry room for the event. Dr. Novella Bridges, chair-elect was the keynote speaker. Attached is a

Description: newspaper article on the Yakima event,
 (Please limit to http://www.yakima-
 b) one paragraph): herald.com/page/dis/290190109942799 .

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: DOE Science Bowl

Description: This year the Richland section participated in the
 (Please limit to Department of Energy Science Bowl. The event was held
 b) one paragraph): on February 24, 2007 at Washington State University,
 Tri-Cities. Richland Section members participated as
 timekeeper, scientific judges, rules judges, scorers,
 moderators and special awards monitors. The event
 hosted over 80 high schools from the Eastern Oregon
 and Eastern Washington areas.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Mid-Columbia Science Fair Judging

Description: The Richland Section provided support to the Mid-
 (Please limit to Columbia Regional Science and Engineering Fair (MSCF)
 b) one paragraph): in Richland, Washington on March 8-10, 2007. In
 2007, the MSCF hosted 196 projects spanning all areas
 of science and engineering; winners are invited to
 attend the Intel International Science and
 Engineering Fair. Not only did volunteers from the
 section serve as science project judges, but the
 Richland Section also sponsored three special awards
 for meritorious projects, one for a middle school
 student project and two for highschool student
 projects. The section also distributed eight
 honorable mention certificates.

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.

Other 2007 events include the following.

1. Hosting four tour speakers: Dr. Alexander Shedrinsky, "Irreversible Changes in Paintings due to Time"; Dr. Jack Breazeale, "The H. L. Hunley: Recovery and Preservation"; Dr. Robert Bates, "Pitfalls and Pleasures of Southeast Winemaking"; and Dr. William Carroll, "From Garbage to Stuff: How We Recycle Plastics". See attached publicity notices in Appendix 4.
2. Volunteering to assist with helping scouts earn the Nuclear Science Merit Badge (see pictures).
3. Co-sponsoring the administration of Chemistry

- Olympiad examinations to area highschool students.
4. Celebrating a successful NORM with a banquet, also featuring the four Seaborg Award winners in the section (see pictures).
 5. Sponsoring two section members, Dr. Sam Bryan and Dr. Heather Edberg, to speak at Eastern Oregon University.
 6. Holding a ceremony to honor the section's 50-year and 60-year 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
1. goals.

a) Local Section Goals and Assessment:

Goal 1. Host a successful Northwest Regional Meeting

The 62nd Northwest Regional Meeting exceeded all of our expectations. Not only did we serve over 600 attendees, but we established a new partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science-Pacific Division; we helped to create a new local section, the Snake River Section; we brought many community college students to the meeting so that they may explore chemistry and related careers; and we experienced an exceptionally strong interaction between the Northwest Regional Board, the Richland Section, and the Eastern Oregon University SAACS, who provided many of the volunteers. Currently we plan to finish writing the final reports for NORM as well as encourage our members to attend the next NORM in Park City, Utah.

Goal 2. Create a written history of the activities of the Richland Section since its inception

Dr. Richard Hermens and Dr. Lee Burger, long-time members of the Richland Section, were asked to prepare this document; it is attached in Appendix 5. While the document is not complete, it at least preserves an important part of our history. For this year, I hope to fill in some of the blanks and have a full history of our section in anticipation of the Richland Section's 60th Anniversary celebration to take place in late 2008.

Goal 3. Recruit more volunteers for section offices such that we are able to hold genuinely competitive elections

While the election for councilor was contested, none of the other elected offices were. I largely failed to achieve this goal. I will work with our current chair, Dr. Novella Bridges, such that this year's elections may be more competitive.

Goal 4. Redesign the Richland Section website to better advertise our events and to better serve the

needs of our members

While many options were discussed for the future of the Richland Section website, we could not achieve a consensus on what to do. I hope to continue the discussions throughout 2008 in hopes that we may better serve our members.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

Goal 1. Increase participation by younger members in Section activities

The Richland Section had phenomenal support from the EOU SAACS in all of its 2007 activities, most notably with the section's co-hosting of NORM. We could not be more pleased with what our SAACS students are doing.

2. Get more of the Section's college faculty and students involved

While EOU has been a reliable source of support for many years, not many other colleges or universities have done much to get involved in the section's activities. Personal communication with many of the section's chemistry faculty at area community colleges and universities have resulted in zero response. I will work with the current chair, who also sees this goal as important, to broaden the participation among all the college students in the region for 2008.

Goal 3. Create an operating manual for the office of Chair, to assist in the transition to another chair

This goal has been achieved and the manual will be handed over to the current chair upon the completion of this report.

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. To begin the development a long-term program planning committee for the section.
2. To set up an endowment fund for educational programs for our area that focuses on underrepresented students that are interested in STEM fields.
3. To begin the development of a signature award or symposium for the section

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

Overall goal: Increasing Community Outreach

1. K-12 outreach, student interaction activities before and during NCW
2. High School Outreach, increasing the number of Project SEED students sponsored by the section
3. College Outreach, working with the two local

student affiliate to reactivate their chapters

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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