

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: Rochester
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: Two joint events with Local Sections

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

These two events were something we had talked about doing for years. In 2007, we did it! In May, we set up a joint event in Niagara Falls for the Members of the Rochester and Western New York Sections. As part of that event, Members enjoyed a lunch together, and then a tour of the Niagara Falls Power Authority. In June, Rochester Section Members travelled to Corning, NY for a joint event with Memebrs of the Corning Section, including a social and a day at the Corning Museum of Glass with guest speakers and a special presentation on the history of Corning Glass.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title NTID / RSD Mentoring Program

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

For years, the Rochester Section had been running an "Adopt-a-School" program successfully, and in 2007 we expanded to another school. However, based on a visit by ACS President Katie Hunt in February, we decided to take advantage of the excitement she created by her visit to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) where students asked how they could be involved. Through a grant from ACS, we established the first step of a new mentoring program that placed these NTID students with young students in the Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) to mentor them in science and also offer activities at RIT for those students to show them what higher level educational opportunities are there for them. The next step will be an evening at NTID for the RSD students and their parents to show them the science/chemistry facilities at an institute of higher education that focuses in on their special needs.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title Day-long events with Katie Hunt

We were proud to have ACS President Katie Hunt come

to Rochester in February. For this day, we teamed up industry and academia and the Section for a day of special events that were instrumental in establishing the spirit of "can do" in our Section. This day included a breakfast meeting with Eastman Kodak Management at Kodak plus a keynote address by Katie at the Technicians' Symposium at Kodak. That was followed by a visit to RIT and NTID for Katie to interact with the chemistry students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This visit included a symposium by the deaf and hard of hearing students, a roundtable meeting with the students, a lunch with NTID / RIT faculty and administration and a mock trial where Katie served as judge.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph): The day closed with Katie keynoting the Annual Dinner for the Rochester Section. Her slogan "We Have Ignition, We Have Liftoff" became our slogan for 2007.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: Volunteer Recognition Event

We had way too many volunteers who spend valuable time and talent for the Section without proper recognition.

Near the end of each year, it became a tradition that the Executive Committee would have a small celebration for the year ending, but this year this concept was expanded to a reception for the Executive Committee, all Committee and activity Chairs, for community contacts, etc. The event included food and drink, individual certificates fine tuned to each volunteer's efforts and a small ACS gift.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title: Moving into the Electronic Age

2007 saw the Rochester Section move into the "Electronic Age" in two areas.

1. We finally ended the hard copies of our newsletter "CHEMunications". This newsletter came out four times a year, and as with any printed material, many times the information was historical. Beginning in January, we offered a new electronic newsletter that came out monthly with timely updates and schedules. To keep with a bit of tradition, we use the name "The CHEMunicator" for this new newsletter.

2. After updating our Bylaws within our last revision and much discussion, 2007 was the year we moved to electronic voting for Local Section Officers. We contracted with an outside firm to set up the program that used membership numbers to insure proper voting procedures and to do the count afterwards.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: Expanded NCW Events

Unfortunately, NCW events in the past were one-time events at one location, the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). For the first time, in 2007, we began the expansion of our focus on NCW that included the traditional programs at RMSC both the first and second weekends of NCW. But in between, we also held a joint YCC/Retired Chemists lunch and poster session and the first joint event between the students from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and the young students and faculty at the Rochester School for the Deaf. In 2007, we also moved our Annual Awards Dinner, normally held in the fall, to the Friday of NCW to again highlight the importance of this week. For the first time, we worked with a calender to begin looking into expanded NCW ativities until we can fill the entire week.

Description
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Four Science Cafes

Through the \$500.00 grant offered by LSAC for Science Cafes, we offered four, not one, events throughout the year with the grant money. These cafes covered four different topics:

1. "All About IP",
2. "The Art & Chemistry of Meissen Blue Porcelain",
3. "The Chemical Influence of Making Mountains", and
4. "Mid-Career Transitions".

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Three High School Award Nights

In 2007, the Rochester Section celebrated its 20th year in hosting the Sections' High School Award Nights. On three separate evenings, nearly 1200 students from 74 area high schools were recognized for their outstanding achievement in chemistry. Local participants in the National Chemistry Olympiad were also acknowledged at the ceremonies, which featured entertaining chemical demonstrations by area chemists and educators.

Description:
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: Annual Dinner

In 2007, our Annual Dinner was highlighted by a keynote address from ACS President Katie Hunt. This dinner is a traditional event that begins the year, and Katie's remarks on "We Have Ignition, We Have Liftoff" was a great kick-off to our year of change.

- All reports required by our Bylaws were given to the members attending and we took advantage of this night of transition to honor many Past Chairs of the Section who came back for this event, and had never received their Past Chair pins. For those who could not attend, a follow-up letter of thanks and a pin were sent to them.
- Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):
- c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

- a) Title: Annual Awards Dinner

- This dinner, always held in the fall, became more noteworthy this year as it was moved to coincide with National Chemistry Week. We continued to honor an outstanding Technician and High School Chemistry Teacher, but we also gave out our 2nd Volunteerism Award that is sent on for consideration for the Northeast Regions' Volunteerism Award. In 2007, our 2006 winner were nominated for and won the Regional Award. In the two years that the Northeast Region has offered this award, the Rochester Section has won both awards.
- Also, we coordinated our recognition event with the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) and honored five students from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf who received CTA awards in 2007 and who deserved to have that honor recognized locally.
- 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.

1. Annual Undergraduate Symposium and Undergraduate Awards. In 2007, the event was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology. A total of 45 papers were submitted (40 poster & 5 oral).
2. Retired Chemist Luncheons. In 2007, the Retired Chemists held three luncheon events with guest speakers.
3. Networking Mixers. In 2007, twelve on these mixers were held for members and non-members as well as representatives from industry and academia to meet in an informal atmosphere.
4. National Chemistry Olympiad. Six students participated in the event in 2007, and for the first time in years, the Section insured that funds were available for a pizza lunch, pins and PR for this event.

5. Project SEED. Three students were part of our Project SEED program in 2007. Two worked at the Rochester Institute of Technology and one at the University of Rochester for the summer.

6. Annual Golf Tournament. Once again, the Rochester Section offered an open golf tournament to both members and non-members.

7. Technician Affiliate Group. The Rochester TAG is going through a transition itself. In 2007, it offered its' 5th Technician Symposium at Eastman Kodak Company, offered a variety of social events for technicians, coordinated the annual Rochester Chemical Technician Award (given by our Section) and finished its' 2nd year using a Board of Directors for its' leadership roles. At the end of 2007, the final move closer to the Local Section took place with the approved move as a new Committee for the Section, the Committee on Technician Affairs (effective January 1, 2008).

8. Younger Chemists Committee (YCC). Please refer to the YCC report that is included as part of this annual report.

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:

In 2006, as Chair-Elect, I set forth my goals for the Rochester Section within the 2006 Annual Report. Here is a summary of those goals, directly from that 2006 Annual Report, along with a report on how we did in 2007.

Plans for 2007 are heavily based on an excellent survey and a Strategic Planning Workshop held in 2006. From these efforts, I put forth the following plans for 2007:

1. Improved communications. We plan to do this through:
 - a. A new totally electronic newsletter that will be sent monthly (Accomplished). The new electronic newsletter, "The CHEMunicator" (a takeoff on our old printed newsletter "CHEMunications") now allows us to distribute to our Members more up-to-date information on a monthly basis;
 - b. A hard copy letter from the Chair sent to each member to begin the year, laying out the goals and planned activities for the year and directing them to the website for updates (Accomplished). This letter was sent out right after New Years and included a call to action to get members involved.
 - c. New Member letters sent to all new or transferred members into the Rochester Section (accomplished). By

year end, 60 New Member letters had been mailed along with a schedule of events and meetings and a 10% discount for any one event of their choice as an incentive to get new people involved);

d. A mid-year postcard mailing leading towards the 2nd half of the year (Accomplished). This post card offered updated information for happenings within the Section;

and

e. A fully updated and improved website for members to use and rely on as being "up-to-date" and easy to use (Accomplished).

Jim Reynolds did an excellent job in bringing our website up-to-date, creating a more exciting look and making it more user friendly as well as informational.

2. Improved awareness. We plan to do this by:

a. Total communications with all Committee and activity Chairs, reports to the Executive Committee from the leaders of these efforts and articles in the monthly newsletter from the leaders of these activities as to what they are doing and where they need help (Accomplished). We worked harder on improved communications between the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and activity leaders in 2007. There were some wonderful volunteers out there that were working hard, with little to no contact by the Section. From these new communication efforts, we were able to better support such programs as the High School Chemistry Olympiad, Adopt-a-School, National Chemistry Week and others.

3. Improved efficiency. We plan to do this through:

a. The movement to Executive Committee meetings only every-other month. These meetings will now be working sessions, not reporting sessions (Accomplished). For the first time, we were able to make a more effective use of our volunteers' time by having Executive Committee meetings every-other-month, and then making sure those meetings were used for key decisions and hands-on efforts rather than reporting sessions. Reports were, instead, sent out electronically.

b. Reports will be asked for monthly and sent out as updates (Accomplished). Although we only met every-other month, we did not stop the communications nor the awareness of what was happening within the Section because we still asked for reports to be sent electronically on a monthly basis.

c. Important votes and discussions will be ongoing without the constraints of waiting for a meeting to make a decision (Accomplished). It never made sense to wait for a formal meeting to take a vote on an important matter. It especially did not make sense doing this when the meetings moved to every-other month. Thus, key votes were done electronically for quick decisions and action.

d. We will also begin using a timeline to keep us on track of all events and action items throughout the year (Accomplished). The format of a timeline was used successfully and was well received when we organized NERM 2004. The same concept was used successfully this year to keep the leadership of the Section on top of when key deadlines were near and when events were taking place.

4. New events. Instead of doing the same thing the same way year after year, we are looking into new programs and events. This includes:

a. A plan to have two joint events with "neighboring" Local Sections, one in May with the Western New York Section and one in June with the Corning Section (Accomplished). Two exciting new events were held in cooperation with our neighboring Sections. In May, we had the lunch and tour of the Niagara Falls Power Authority with members of the Western New York (Buffalo) Section and, in June, the exciting day at the Corning Museum of Glass and the receptions with members of the Corning Sections. These were great new opportunities to members from a variety of Sections, long talked about but finally done in 2007.

b. We plan to begin offering "Chemistry & Coffee" chats on topical issues (Accomplished). With a grant from ACS, we held four (4) successful Science Cafés throughout the year. The four subjects covered included "All About IP", "The Art & Chemistry of Meissen Blue Porcelain", "The Chemical Influence of Making Mountains" and "Mid-Career Transitions".

c. These efforts will accompany some very successful ongoing events such as the "Monthly Mixers" (Accomplished). Due in no small part to the wonderful organization efforts by Henry Gysling, the Monthly Mixers continued to be a big hit in 2007 as it was when they began in 2006).

5. Membership value.

a. We plan to layout areas where people can spend a little or a lot of time in helping out. Often, that is one of the best-kept secrets and people are often eager to at least offer a little help (Accomplished). In 2007, we offered more specifics when asking a person to take on a volunteer effort and updated the Section Handbook to insure that all key roles are well described. As well, a full description of duties was disclosed in the Call for Nominations for the 2007 elections. We also sent out a specific Talent Search asking people to let us know what they like to do or what they are good at so we can connect them to a volunteer effort that would match their interest areas.

b. We also plan to have an increase in cost for all activities for non-Members so that Members see that there is, in fact, some value in belonging to the ACS (Accomplished). Beginning in 2007, all major events had two prices; one for members and a higher price for non-members.

6. Awards and Recognition. Too many times we fail to thank those who make it all happen. In 2007, the plan is:

a. To have a recognition event in early December to thank the Members of the Executive Committee, Committee and Activity Chairs, etc. at a local brewery with food, drinks, and certificates of appreciation (Accomplished). A volunteer reception at Rohrbach's Brewing Company took place on December 10th for those who gave of their time and talent to the Section in 2007 in Section, Committee or activity leadership roles. Also, early in 2007 at the Annual Dinner, we

brought back many Past Chairs of the Section to give them their long overdue Past Chair pins to bring us up-to-date in that area of recognition.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

My personal goals as Chair in 2007 were to:

- a. Improve communications
- b. Innovation (both of programs and structure)
- c. Membership involvement
- d. Membership value
- e. Local Section transition - industry to academia

a. In the area of communications, the Rochester Section was a well kept secret. Many of our members did not know what was happening within the Section. We relied on promoting activities using a hard copy newsletter that came out four times a year, usually too late to be part of an upcoming event. We had members volunteering their time on projects without knowledge or support of the Executive Committee and we had no PR program. That changed in 2007 with the new electronic newsletter, being sent out 12 times a year with updated links to expand information to our Members, all activity and Committee leaders were communicated with and given the support needed to expand their programs in 2007, A "Welcome to the New Year" letter and mid-year postcard to members from the Chair helped keep everyone "in the loop" as to what was planned and how they could be involved. We finally added a PR Chair to begin setting up a PR program for the Section to get our information out to the community. New Member letters welcomed in any new or transferred members throughout the year, including a 10% discount on their first activity to promote involvement. The monthly Chair's report was used to not only highlight certain events, but was also used to show a smooth transition from the 2006 Chair and to the 2008 Chair so we show continuity within the Rochester Section and a wider vision than 1-year at a time.

b. We were innovative by not coming up with new ideas, but finally acting on ideas we have talked about for years. We held two joint events with neighboring Local Sections (Western New York and Corning). We established the new electronic voting procedure for our members. We held a Volunteer Recognition event for the first time. We expanded our NCW efforts to show it has a more encompassing program, including the moving of our annual Awards Dinner to that week. And we expanded our mentoring program to take advantage of the blessings within this community of the renowned Rochester Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and began their mentoring program with the Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD). 2007 was the year we went from talking to doing!

c. We worked hard to get our members involved through the expanded efforts in communications, better information around the duties of the offices we were asking members to run for and through a "Talent Search" where we tried to match up interests with

volunteer opportunities.

d. We increased the value of membership by charging more for non-Members to attend all of our events, and by recognizing volunteers at the year-end Volunteer Recognition event.

e. With the cutback in employment in our traditional chemical industry locally, it was vital to begin a transition of our Section to a more academic one. This began in 2006 under Chair Ben Miller who brought in the University of Rochester. In 2007, I worked to bring in the Rochester Institute of Technology and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf as well as the State University of New York at Brockport, where our newly elected Treasurer and Chair-Elect come from. In 2008, the new Chair is from Nazareth College and that brings in that academic identity. Showing more a planned and smooth transition from Chair to Chair helps in making this a smooth transition to our new identity, in a Community where our #1 employer now is not Kodak or Xerox or Bausch and Lomb, but rather the University of Rochester.

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):

In continuation of the efforts put forth by recent chairs, I would like to continue to have the section put on events that are well received by our membership.

The annual dinner with Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann, the science cafe talks, chemistry and art talks, and two research symposia are all designed to give our members a chance to participate at a variety of levels.

I would like to see a continuation of the efforts to provide networking opportunities for our members. While in the past year we met on a monthly basis, I hope that we can continue to provide our members with quarterly opportunities to make/keep connections with their peers and or potential employers.

In the past, our section discussed a sort of collaboration with other sections in the area (a golden crescent including Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse + others). I hope to capitalize on the work done this past year involving both Buffalo and Corning and intend to work to build new, and strengthen existing ties with these other section.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

I would like to get to know more of the members of the section on a first name basis. As an academic, I have a "familiarity" with many of our industrial members, but I hope to get to know more of the membership through some of the events we have planned for the year.

I hope to encourage participation by more members in both events as well as activities of the local section. I plan to use my academic connections to encourage more of my colleagues to get involved in leadership on

the executive as well as membership committees.

I would like to see an increased awareness of the role our section plays in the Rochester community and with that a heightened sense of pride in our membership for the valuable contributions that they make to Rochester living.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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

Finding volunteers, candidates for office and, in some cases, just attendees can be tough. We plan to run a 2nd Member Survey in 2008 and perhaps some guidelines around the best questions to ask might help us with the survey. Also, if there is an electronic survey tool available through ACS it would help.