

American Chemical Society

Form: Part II - Annual Narrative Report
Organization: St Louis
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: St.Louis ACS 100th Anniversary Symposium

"The Chemistry of Alternative and Sustainable Fuels" was a symposium held in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the St. Louis Section at the St. Louis Science Center on May 29, 2007. The symposium was a major event in our year long celebration of the 100th Anniversary. In the planning of this event, we wanted to have a public symposium on a significant and current topic which would highlight the continuing relevancy of chemistry and the research being conducted in the St. Louis Area by ACS chemists. The event began with a Proclamation from the Mayor of St. Louis honoring the accomplishments of our section. Dr. Katie Hunt was present to congratulate the section on it s 100th year and to discuss the formation and purpose of the Hydrogen Center of Excellence. The talks involved biofuel cells that produce electricity using alcohols (Dr. Shelley Minter), photosynthetic organisms that produce energy (Dr. Robert Blankenship), a comparative analysis of the corn ethanol net energy balance (Erik Sall) and the final talk on the promises and challenges of biofuels. The talks were well received at well attended. Due to the central location of the talks and the layout for the Science Center, we estimate that over 200 people heard all or portions of the talks. At the close of the talks, we held a panel discussion involving the speakers of the talks which as attended by about 30 people. Further information and pictures from the event are given in the Appendix.

Description
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #2

a) Title: An Evening of Wine and Chemistry

"An Evening of Wine and Chemistry" was held on October 25, 2007. This event was for St. Louis Section members and guests. The seven wines tasted ranged from white to red and finally to port; the wines were chosen because they were representative of particular chemical fragrance or taste, or because their flavor was indicative of a specific chemical process. Before each wine was tasted, a specific description of the wine was given, which highlighted the unique chemical aspect of each wine. During the

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

tasting, members and guests viewed posters which illuminated various aspects of the chemistry of wine, ranging from fragrance, taste and color. The event had thirty five people in attendance. This event was paid for entirely by the attending section members and guests, thus no ACS funds were used.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #3

a) Title ACS Center Stage at the Science Center

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

As part of the celebration of it's 100th anniversary, the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society, along with the St. Louis Science Center, hosted a monthly series "ACS Center Stage at the Science Center." These talks were open to the public and consisted of a variety of science and chemistry related topics presented in an informative and entertaining style. Most of the talks were aimed at a young audience, from grade school through high school. These talks the third Friday of every month and were well attended, with audiences ranging from 20 to 40 adults and students. This series gave the opportunity to many section members to prepare and present informative talks to a general audience and gave the public an opportunity to hear and meet local chemists. The speakers and titles of talks are given in the Appendix.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #4

a) Title: Chemical Progress Week

As always, this was a very busy week, jammed packed with activities during the week of April 16-24. On April 16, Awards Night was held at Kemoll's Restaurant with 84 high-school and college award winners, their teachers and parents. The awardees included the High School Chemistry Contest, the Leopold Marcus Award, the High School Teaching Award, the St. Louis Science and Technology Award and awards to the outstanding junior chemistry students at area colleges and universities. On April 17th, the ADACIOM (Associated Drug and Chemical Industries of Missouri) Luncheon was held at Sunset Country Club; the speaker was Ed Martin, Chief of Staff for Governor Matt Blunt. On April 20, the St. Louis Award Symposium was held in honor of the 2007 recipient, Dr. William Neumann, with over 100 people in attendance, one of the best attended symposium in years. On April 21st, we held or participated in three events. The first was the Chemistry Olympiad, we had four local section qualifiers. The second was Chemists Celebrate Earth Day. Consistent with this year's recycling theme, Ted Gast had a booth at the Forest Park celebration where he demonstrated how to recycle fabric into paper. The evening event was the St. Louis Award Banquet, which again had excellent attendance, with 63 members and guests listening to an excellent address

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

by Dr. Neuman. More details on the Chemistry Olympiad, Awards Night and St. Louis Awards are found in the appendix. Specifics on the Marcus Award are in the Awards Committee Report in the appendix.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #5

a) Title: The History of Chemistry and ACS in St.L

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

The St. Louis Section-ACS and the St. Louis area have a long tradition of excellent chemists and chemistry. To highlight this tradition, we had a series of articles on the "History of Chemistry and the ACS in St. Louis." These articles were written by Section members Ted Gast, Lol Barton, Steve Kinsley, Lisa Balbes and Lucinda Buhse. They appeared each month in the Section newsletter, "The Chemical Bond," which has a circulation of 1600 local section members. These articles have been placed in our archive with the hope that 100 years from now, the members of the St. Louis Section of the ACS will be able to appreciate the outstanding tradition of Chemistry and the ACS in St. Louis. The articles are given in the appendix.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #6

a) Title: The Bader Lectures

Description
(Please limit
b) to one paragraph):

Dr. Alfred Bader, founder of Sigma-Aldrich and famed art collector, came to St. Louis in May to give three talks in honor of the 100th Anniversary. Dr. Bader is a great friend of our Section; he also spoke at our 90th and 95th anniversary. This year's talks were all open to the public and supported through a gracious donation from Sigma-Aldrich. The highlight of the three talks was the "Rembrandt Project" seminar and reception on May 1st. The reception and seminar were co-hosted by the Chemistry and Art Departments at Washington University in St. Louis. The second talk, "Archibald Scott Couper and Josef Loschmidt; a Detective at Work" was given at University of Missouri-St. Louis on May 2nd. On the evening of May 2nd, Dr. Bader spoke at the Sigma Aldrich Life Sciences Research Center on "The History of Sigma Aldrich;" a talk that gave a fascinating insight into the rationale and planning in the creation of one of the most successful specialty chemical companies. The three talks were enjoyed by over 150 people.

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #7

a) Title: Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Section sponsors an Undergraduate Research Symposium each spring, and last year the event was

held on April 13th at Washington University in St. Louis. The event was coordinated by Prof. Amy Walker of Washington University. Student researchers from St. Louis University, University of Missouri, St. Louis and Washington University participated. The event started with a talk by Prof. Bruce Fegley of the Washington University Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences on "Dead Dinosaurs, the Salt Volcanoes of Io, and Hot Exoplanets: Diverse Applications of Chemical Thermodynamics to Planetary Sciences." The students then gave poster presentations on their undergraduate research projects at their respective schools. This was a great opportunity for the students to network with other students, meet ACS members from their local section, and learn how to prepare and present a professional presentation. For many students, this was their first opportunity for them to present their work.. This has been an annual event in our section, and is always well attended by students and ACS members. There were nine student presentations given at the symposium, with monetary prizes awarded. More details are in the appendix.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #8

a) Title: Scouting Workshops

The Scouting Workshops began as the result of an Innovative Activities Grant from ACS-LSAC as a combined program featuring both boy and girl scout clinics. We are very pleased and proud that these activities are continuing, increasing in popularity and becoming one of our more successful programs. The Boy Scout event was held at Jost Chemical Company on September 29th and was at capacity with 41 scouts (another 32 were on the waiting list). The scouts completed their merit badge work with activities in four different sections assisted by members of the Section and Jost volunteers. A Chemistry Interest Project Workshop for the Girl Scouts of the greater St. Louis Area was held Saturday, October 20, 2007 at St. Louis University. The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis publicized the event in their newsletter Connections. The workshop was open to 10 Senior Girl Scouts. We also has 6 volunteer helpers from the St. Louis University ACS sponsored Chemistry Club, as well as the 2 coordinators of this project. The number of Girl Scouts was kept low so they all would have lots of hands-on time with the UV spectrometer (only 1 instrument was available). The Girl Scout Council had the girls fill out a required evaluation. The girls were asked if they enjoyed the workshop, they all said they did. They thought it was very fun and enjoyed using the instruments. Additional information from the workshops is given in the Appendix.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #9

a) Title: ACS-AIChE Joint Meeting

On Wednesday, March 14, 2007, the Pfizer Drug Discovery Area hosted a tour and dinner for the St. Louis local sections of the American Chemical Society and American Institute of Chemical Engineers. A group of 55 people attended, comprising members of both sections as well as some friends and spouses. The tour included visits to laboratories and presentations by scientists and business people from Pfizer, describing not only the technical challenges, but also the medical, legal, regulatory and marketing hurdles faced by pharmaceutical companies in bringing new medicines to market. The dinner, graciously provided by Pfizer, not only had good food, but also an interesting presentation on drug discovery that struck well the balance between being technical and being accessible to the people attending who did not have a technical background. A lot of positive comments were received afterward from people of both sections who attended.

Description:
(Please limit to
b) one paragraph):

c) This activity was new in 2007

Activity #10

a) Title: Third Annual St. Louis ACS Picnic

The Third Annual ACS St. Louis Section picnic was held June 2, 2007 at Tower Grove Park in the city of St. Louis. This event has quickly become a summer tradition in our Section. This year, attendance was down slightly due to a prediction of thunderstorms on the day of the picnic. This time the weather people got it right; just as we were finishing a bounty of burgers, brats and chicken breasts, a deluge occurred, with wind knocking down knocking down trees and branches in the park. Safe in our picnic shelter, we rode out the storm and met some of the park ground crew who took refuge with us. In the typical fashion of St. Louis weather, the skies cleared and we enjoyed the rest of the day in sunshine. All in all, everyone had a good time and is looking forward to next year and hoping for better weather.

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.

As 2007 was our 100th Anniversary, we planned and executed many special events and activities throughout the year. Most of these are listed in the 10 activities described in Part A of this report. It was extremely important to us, however, that the 100th Anniversary events did not detract from or diminish

our dedication to the other fine events and activities for which the St. Louis Section is known. To this end, almost all of the funds for the 100th Anniversary events were raised through donations, most notably, from Pfizer, Sigma-Aldrich, Mallinckrodt and Monsanto.

Throughout 2007 our Section carried on with its traditional activities. In the first quarter, we helped support the TIE (Teachers, Industry and Environment) Workshop during the second week of February. This year's Workshop theme was F3: Farming. Food. Fuel. On March 6, four section members staffed the ACS both at the 24th Annual Career Awareness Fair for city & county 8th-grade public school students. Hundreds of students learned about a career in chemistry during the two days of the Fair. Also in March, the local science fair circuit started with the St. Charles-Lincoln County Regional Science and Engineering Fair, and the Illinois Junior Academy of Science Region 12 Science Fair. Section members enjoyed helping out by judging at these fairs. On March 19th the Combined Women Chemists Committee /SIU-Edwardsville Probst Lecture was held at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The speaker was story-smith Susan Marie Frontczak, on Many: A Living History of Marie Curie. The event was a "dinner and a show," and had twenty-five ACS members in attendance. As the first quarter ended, we celebrated and awarded the service of our members at Recognition Night. Our Distinguished Service Award was given to Prof. Hal Harris; in addition, we had seven 50 year members at the event along with thirty-six other members and guests, a 35% increase over the previous year's event.

Of the second quarter events not already mentioned, highlights included providing judges and special awards for the Greater St. Louis Science Fairs (Elementary and Secondary Schools) and Chemistry Career Day. Chemistry Career Day, introducing careers in chemistry to high school chemistry students, is an annual event held at University of Missouri, St. Louis. The event was organized by Jim O'Brien and Keith Stine. The event started with a few brief lectures that concerned career options for chemistry and an overview of what constitutes Chemistry. Following that, the students split into 8 groups and made tours to various research groups and instrument facilities in the Chemistry & Biochemistry Departments. By late morning, students had returned to the lecture theatre where they were entertained by a Chemistry Magic Show planned and carried out under Keith Stine's direction. Lunch consisting of pizzas, cookies, and soda followed. Although we planned for about 140 attendees, more than 180 students and teachers appeared on the day of the event. Students participating came from four area high schools.

As is typical, the third quarter (July-September) is a little quiet. In August, section volunteers, led by Keith Stine, helped out in the Cooperative Tent Project at the Illinois State Fair. The Cooperative Tent is a set up of displays and hands on demonstrations as part of a cooperative effort sponsored by eight regional local sections in Illinois. It is always a fun time and rewarding to work with other sections. On September 6th a

workshop was held on "Three Elements of Better Writing on the Job." This event was held at Washington University. Approximately 40 people attended. Washington University provided the room, cookies and drinks, and free parking passes for all attendees. Refreshments and door prizes were provided by the St Louis Section. Betsy Frick, owner of Plain Language Solutions and instructor of technical writing at Washington University, spoke for approximately 90 minutes. Attendees said: "I enjoyed Betsy Frick's workshop presentation. It is always good to review the basics and she is a very good lecturer."

We closed out the year in the fourth quarter in fine fashion starting with National Chemistry Week. One of our long standing traditions is the "Battle of the Burets." We also received a Proclamation from the Mayor of St. Louis. Another long standing tradition, the NCW Chemistry Expo was held at the St. Louis Science Center on November 3, 2007. Participants in this event included seven companies and universities, along with local section volunteers. Hands on activities included cabbage pH chemistry, allotropes of carbon nanotubes, needle through a balloon, magic sand, amorphous metal, ferrofluid, fortune fish, acid/base indicator paper, Becker bottles, Hoberman sphere, solid state models, liquid dispensing, UV detecting bead bracelets, thermal shrink name tags, Escher lizard tessellation sphere floor puzzle, slime, and instant snow. Celebrating Chemistry, ChemMatters, NCW stickers and tatoos along with our 100th year anniversary buttons were given to visitors as they entered. From 10 AM till 4 PM the 160+ volunteers put on their chemical face for approximately 1000 visitors in helping them explore the many faces of chemistry and chemical world around them. Volunteers were given anniversary buttons, stickers, and wallet periodic tables and sponsors given stop watches for making the event a success. The event was advertised on our website, the Science Center's website, in their newsletter, and in our newsletter.

The Midwest Award Symposium at the Midwest Regional ACS Meeting was a smashing success. The St. Louis Section administers and provides funding for both the Midwest Award and the Symposium. All of the speakers gave interesting and entertaining talks, especially the 2007 Midwest Award Recipient, Prof. George Gokel. Attendance was extraordinary, the audience starting at 63 people for the first talk and swelling to 108 for Dr. Gokel's concluding talk.

The final event of the year was the Continuity Dinner. The Continuity Dinner for 2007 was held on December 15th at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves. Attendance was slightly down, but spectacular, considering the fourth largest December snowfall ever recorded in St Louis occurred on the same evening. The annual General Meeting of the Section was held first, followed by the December Board meeting. The weather forced a quickened meeting pace; however, all had a good time.

All in all, it was a very good year for the Section. Along with the numerous special events for the 100th Anniversary, we were able to stay committed to our full palate of annual events.

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:

1. This year is the 100th anniversary of the St. Louis Section. Formed in the earlier 1900 s as the St. Louis Chemical Society, the membership voted to join the American Chemical Society as a local affiliate in 1907. The section will hold two special events to honor the anniversary, one for the membership and one for the public in 2007.

This goal was met and surpassed. We had two public events honoring the 100th Anniversary of the St. Louis Section. The first was the Symposium The Chemistry of Alternative and Sustainable Fuels. This was held at the St. Louis Science Center. The Science Center is open to the public, including free admission. Dr. Katie Hunt gave the opening address. A Proclamation from the Mayor of St. Louis, Francis Slay, honoring the 100th Anniversary of the St. Louis Section was presented. The second public event was a series of three lectures given by the founder of Aldrich Chemical Co, Dr. Alfred Bader. These events were held at Washington University, University of Missouri, St. Louis and Sigma-Aldrich and all open to the public. The private event was An Evening of Wine and Chemistry. This event was for the membership and completed paid for by members (i.e. no donated or ACS funds were used).

2. As with many sections, our section is constantly in need of qualified and energized members to assume both elected and appointed leadership position. In the past few years, finding such people has become increasingly difficult; we find that year in, year out, the same members are always involved. To help solve this problem, the section will initiate a mentoring program which will identify and train interested members for leadership positions. We have not had a program such as this in the past, so that this year we will design systems for monitoring the process and our data will serve as a benchmark for succeeding years.

The mentoring program has been initiated and we are currently identifying potential members for leadership positions for our five major committees. This goal has proven to be non-trivial, since identifying members willing to train is always a challenge. I will continue to work on this goal next year.

3. We would like to increase membership participation in our annual programs, banquets and seminars. This year we will try novel approaches to publicize events, especially direct mailings to attempt to increase attendance at our events. A modest goal is 10%, however, since it is our anniversary year, we would

hope to have a larger increase in attendance.

During the past year, most of our annual events had increases in attendance. The recognition night attendance was up by 35% as a result of a large turnout of 50 year members and past Section Chairs, all of whom received personal invitation. The St. Louis Award Symposium and Banquet also had increases of 25% and 15% respectively, again personal invitations played a role. The Midwest Award Symposium showed the largest increase (over a 700 % increase in attendance), although this was also a function of the speaker and the site of the meeting. All of the special 100th Anniversary events were well attended, but being one time events, there is no benchmark. Due to inclement weather, attendance at our picnic and Continuity Dinner was slightly down this year. All in all, attendance at events this year was extremely good.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

The annual banquets, programs, outreach, etc. in addition to the special events for the 100th anniversary are a strain on all of our resources, both financial and personnel. As a result two of my major goals are:

1. Operate within budget for our annual events and seek outside funding for our special events. Again as in many sections, our annual contribution sources from industry have been increasingly hard to maintain, it is my hope that we can use our special events to encourage local industry to begin investing in our section.

We did very well in attracting corporate funds this year, with total donations of \$6500. This allowed us to conduct all of our special events without having an impact on our normal budget.

As anticipated, the special events were a major factor, with the bulk of the donations specifically directed to 100th Anniversary events.

2. To increase the level of involvement of our current membership by recruiting and energizing members who traditionally do not get involved in activities. To attain this goal, I will use a variety of methods including personally contacting more members to get them involved in some activity of our section.

We had 2 out of 5 committee chairs replaced this year. I was also able to talk several members of the section to get involved in lower level activities, especially those involving students. The Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Science Fair Awards Coordinator are both members who have never previously volunteered in the section. Personal contact has proven to be the best method.

3. This goal is very personal. I am an avid reader of history. I enjoy learning the history of our section and of chemistry in St. Louis. To share

this history of our membership is fun. My goal is to make sure our history is documented and share this history with the members of this section.

This was a fun goal to obtain. Activity #5 is a series of articles on the History of Chemistry and the ACS in St. Louis written by myself and other members of the section. Please read the articles; they are excellent and give a good account of Chemistry and the ACS in a historical perspective.

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. The excellence of our section in the long-run depends upon replenishing the supply of active volunteers who organize events, handle sub-committee assignments, and may ultimately seek elected leadership positions. The section seems to attract new active members relatively infrequently and the age distribution of active members is certainly not skewed towards youth. I believe that promoting the value of the section and its activities to younger members will bring a fresh perspective and strengthen the pipeline of volunteers who may ultimately assume leadership positions. Towards this end, I intend to make a concerted effort this year to restart our presently dormant Younger Chemists Committee.

2. The activities of the Section are also constrained by our budget, and in addition to involving new people, my second goal for 2008 will be to improve the organization and hopefully the effectiveness of our efforts to seek donations, both financial and other kinds. A fundraising subcommittee was established under our Publicity and Public Relations committee in 2007 and developing the activities and strategies of this committee is a major goal.

b) 2008 Chair's Goals:

1. I would like to better understand the nature of our members in terms of their employment, backgrounds, year that they joined the ACS, etc. I would like to talk to members of different kinds at events about their perspective on our section.

2. I would like to better understand the scope of the activities of the National ACS that can impact our section. I would also like to study activities at some other sections in their on-line annual reports to see how what is done elsewhere compares with what we do in Saint Louis.

3. I would like to learn better strategies for seeking and approaching organizations seeking donations.

D. Suggestions/Concerns

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