

# REPORT FROM ACS COUNCIL

The Council of the American Chemical Society met on March 24, 1999 during the Spring National Meeting of the Society held in Anaheim, California. The session was relatively short (less than three hours) and non-contentious. This report provides some of the *highlights* of the Council activities.

## ***Elections and Nominations for ACS President-Elect and Board***

Four nominees, of which two would be elected by Council to run for President-Elect of the Society, presented their campaign statements. The two candidates elected were Attila E. Pavlath and Alan Schriesheim.

Candidates for Regional Directors were also announced. Maureen G. Chan and George F. Palladino are candidates for Region III and Glenn A. Crosby and Stephen A. Rodemeyer are candidates for Region VI. Elections for these positions will be held in the Fall.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large (term 2000-2002) are: James D. Burke, Valerie J. Kuck, C. Gordon McCarty and Lura J. Powell. Elections for these positions will also be held in the Fall.

## ***Reports from ACS President, President-Elect, and Past President***

Edel Wasserman, ACS President, graciously conceded his time so that a glowing tribute to recently-deceased Past-President, Dr. Glen Seaborg, could be made.

Daryle H. Busch, President-Elect, reported that he will devote his Presidency to the areas of knowledge

management, member benefits, institutions of the chemical profession, and scientific literacy and the public image of chemistry. Some of this topics will be reflected in Presidential events planned for the National Meetings in the year 2000.

Paul H. L. Walter, Immediate Past-President, visited several local sections and stressed the importance of recognizing students. He thanked the Western Connecticut Section for the award that they gave him when he was sixteen years old because that award led to scholarships that allowed him to attend MIT - something that his family could not have afforded. Dr. Walter also mentioned his attendance at the Two-Year College Chemistry Conference and noted that these institutions enroll approximately 46% of all U.S. undergraduates, and that 40% of all our science and mathematics teachers start their higher education in these schools!!

## ***Report of the Executive Director - new journals and abstracts back to 1907***

John Crum, Executive Director of the Society, reported that 1998 was the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year that the core programs under ACS management have provided a positive contribution to the Society's finances. Unfortunately, the contributions are getting smaller ( in 1998 the contribution was \$400K) - a trend that the Society is attempting to reverse. Dr. Crum also reported that four new publications have been approved and/or released: *Modern Drug Discovery* (published in late 1998), *Journal of Combinatorial Chemistry* (published early this year), *Organic Letters* (first issue will be published in June), and *Biomacromolecular Science* (will be published early next year). In closing, he mentioned that the abstracts back to 1907 will be added to CAS' portfolio of electronic products.

## ***Council Policy Committee - Councilor travel reimbursement/Contested Election Declared Valid***

Anne T. O'Brien, Vice-Chair of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), reported that the Task Force on Councilor Travel reimbursement presented recommendations based upon feedback from the

Councilors surveyed (all Councilors received the survey; 55% or 288 of the total number of Councilors responded). CPC voted to have the Task Force reconsider certain aspects of their recommendation and the current policy will remain in place until the Task Force completes their work.

John Massingill's request that the election for Director of Region II be declared void and a new election be held as a result of an editorial in *C&EN* was denied. The editorial was published shortly before the election and mentioned one of the candidates (Helen Free). Dr. Massingill, one of the candidates, believed that the

editorial gave Ms. Free unfair publicity. The CPC subcommittee investigating the matter concluded that there was no significant violation of the ACS Constitution and Bylaws regulating the election procedures, although they did conclude that the editorial would have been best written without mention of Ms. Free.

### ***Committee on Committees - Duties of Divisional Activities Committee Revised***

Paul R. Jones, Chair, reported that the Committee on Committees (ConC) completed its five-year sunset review of the ACS Committee on Professional Training and moved that it continues.

ConC also moved that the ACS Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) be given the responsibility of recommending that Divisions be combined or dissolved (until this point DAC only could recommend that Divisions be created). This Bylaw change was approved by Council vote.

A ConC Task Force met in Anaheim to consider the possible consolidation of the Joint Board-Council Committees on Publications and on Copyrights due to overlapping interests. A recommendation for Council action is anticipated for the New Orleans meeting.

### ***Committee on Nominations and Elections - Electronic Ballot Pilot Continues***

Dr. Stan Israel, Committee Chair, reported that the pilot experiment sponsored by N&E and the Inorganic Division in which the election of Councilors and Alternate Councilors included an electronic ballot was deemed successful, although labor intensive. The Committee has recommended that the experiment be continued in order to gain more experience with electronic balloting.

### ***Committee on Budget and Finance - ACS Dues Increased***

Dr. Paul S. Anderson, Committee Chair, reported that ACS Capital expenditures totaled \$16.2 million in 1998 - \$1.9 million *favorable* to the approved budget. Growth in database files and increased use of these files by CAS customers generate the greatest demand for capital expenditures.

The year 2000 fully-escalated dues for ACS membership was recommended at \$108. This new dues cost was approved by Council vote.

### ***Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs - Career Challenges, Needs of Mature Chemists***

Valerie Kuck, Chair, reported that the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) has begun the process of revising the *Academic Professional Guidelines*. The third edition of this document is expected to be broader in scope and everyone is invited to contribute ideas and comments. A survey that will study the retirement needs, employment picture, and lifestyles of ACS members over the age of 50 will be conducted this summer. The results will be published and a symposium is planned for the Fall 2000 ACS National meeting. She also announced the debut of a new discussion forum - *ChemCareer Connection*. This is intended to provide a mechanism by which

ACS members can share ideas and concerns and help one another with their career challenges, and will be moderated by ACS Career consultants.

### ***Committee on Local Section Activities - Anniversaries***

Kathleen Schulz, Chair, reported that eight Local Sections are celebrating anniversaries in 1999: 50<sup>th</sup> - the Ouachita Valley, San Gorgonio, and Upper Ohio Valley; 75<sup>th</sup> - Central Pennsylvania, Florida, and Salt Lake; and 100<sup>th</sup> - Huron Valley and Philadelphia!

Online Annual reporting for Local Sections will be implemented as soon as possible, using a phased process with a step for feed back.

The committee, together with the Membership Affairs Committee, is reviewing a request from the California Local Section regarding the establishment of a national Senior Chemists Committee. The Task Force is currently analyzing data and will report their findings to Council at the Fall National Meeting in New Orleans.

### ***Committee on Meetings and Expositions - Registration Fees/Online Abstract Submittal***

Jerry Bass, Chair, reported that as of the morning of the Council meeting registration was at 10, 517, while the total attendance had reached 13, 042. More than 6,100 papers were scheduled for presentation at the meeting. The Exhibit had 438 booths from 254 companies.

Jerry announced that beginning with the New Orleans National meeting, abstracts can be submitted on-line. Abstracts will be available for electronic viewing and searching 3-4 weeks prior to National Meetings. Beginning in the year 2000, Regional meetings will also be able to submit abstracts on-line.

The Spring 2009 meeting of the Society will be held in Salt Lake City.

For Divisions participating in the Year 2000 celebration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Committee will be willing to consider written requests for exceptions to the even-programming rules to allow flexibility in programming for this very special event.

The Committee is exploring the need for policies addressing the issues of video and audio taping and electronic transmission, reproduction, and any other use of presentations at national ACS meetings. In addition, the issue of broadcast rights for real-time transmission of meetings will be explored. Jerry then yielded the floor to Dr. Joan Shields, Immediate- Past Chair of the ACS Board, to discuss the increase in meeting registration fees.

Dr. Shields attempted to explain why the ACS Board of Directors overrode the Council vote not to raise Meeting registration fees and raised the fee by \$10. She explained that depending on the location of a meeting, the average cost per meeting attendee may not be covered by the average revenue per attendee; e.g., the average cost at the Dallas meeting was \$187 while the average revenue was \$148, giving a deficit per attendee of \$39 (the Anaheim meeting was projected to give a deficit of \$46/attendee). In addition, 44% of meeting attendees receive a discount on the advance member registration fee (a growing number of students are attending National Meetings). If no increases are given to meeting registrations, the ACS meetings could lose as much as \$2 million by the year 2007. A long term plan to address this situation is being worked on by the Committee on Meetings and Expositions.

### ***Committee on Membership Affairs - Dues Reinstatement Fee Eliminated***

The Dues reinstatement fee of \$10 required should a person's membership in the Society be terminated due to non-payment of dues was eliminated by Council vote. The petition to allow Honorary membership in the Society was withdrawn by the petitioners.

### ***Committee on Divisional Activities - Year 2000 Celebration***

Bonnie Lawlor, Chair, reported that Division Treasurers and Chair-Elects will be invited to the Year 2000 Division Officers Conference, tentatively scheduled for January. The Committee is reviewing updated, standardized guidelines for Secretariats and hopes to have a discussion document for the New Orleans Division Officers Caucus.

The ACS-wide Turn-Of-The-Century Celebration sponsored by the Committee has made significant progress. Twenty-nine of the thirty-four ACS Divisions will participate by holding at least one half-day symposium on the future of their specific discipline of chemistry. Several Plenary sessions are also planned, including one for the general public that will promote the contributions made by chemistry to the improvement of everyday life.

Bonnie also reported that at the Anaheim meeting the Division of Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering was celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### ***Committee on Constitution and Bylaws - Petitions for Consideration***

Dean Cooke, Chair, reported that there are four Petitions in front of Council for consideration only. These included a petition for Society Affiliation with other Technical Organizations, one for a change in Membership Anniversary dates, one for the Surcharge of Foreign delivery of C&EN, and one for a change in member population that defines regional boundaries. For more information on these petitions, please contact your CINF Councilors.

### ***Younger Chemists Committee - Anniversary***

Jodi Weseman, Chair, reported that the Younger chemists Committee (YCC) is getting older. They are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!! YCC is also asking that Divisions cosponsor programs that are of interest to younger chemists or that feature younger chemists, particularly special sessions planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century celebration - who are the "Young Turks" who will be predominant in the future of Chemistry???

Please note that the above reflects highlights of the Council meeting.. If you would like more details, please contact your CINF Councilors.

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