

## COUNCILOR' S REPORT FROM ANAHEIM

**Dr. James A. Walsh**

The 227<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting was held in Anaheim, CA, 28 March- 1 April 2004. This was my first meeting as a newly elected Councilor. I have a one-year appointment as an Associate Member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and I have been named to the Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee and the Joint DAC/LSAC Interactions Subcommittee, and I was appointed liaison with the Division of Chemical Education (CHED).

**The Joint DAC/LSAC Interactions Subcommittee-** The members met for dinner on Friday, 26 March. A business meeting followed. There is one ChemLuminary Award for a joint Local Section-Division activity. There were ten self-nominations, five from Local Sections and five from Divisions. Curiously, there was no overlap. A subcommittee has narrowed the choices to three. The winner will be announced in Philadelphia.

Divisional participation in Regional Meeting programs is increasing. Even so, it would be useful for each Division to name a coordinator for regional meeting programming.

The Blue Book that contained information about divisional officers is being discontinued. This is regrettable especially at a time when we are trying to foster increased Local Section-Division cooperation. It is urged that this information continue to be made available in some form.

**DAC-** The Committee met in Open Session at 8:00 am. on Saturday, 27 March. Two divisional representatives presented comments and concerns. Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS) had issues with the change to electronic balloting, with the need for real-time membership information for their Journal, with the distribution of funding between the professional and the research components of their division, and with the apportionment of space at the Exposition. The Rubber Division had an issue with the turn around time in the bylaw revision process, questions about the eligibility of associate members for divisional offices, and about the role of business-chemists in the Division.

The Joint DAC/LSAC gave a progress report as above. The Annual Report Review Subcommittee noted that all of the Division reports came in on time. With the Secretariats, only the Macromolecular was delinquent.

After a short break, the Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee met and considered the ten self-nominations for Divisional ChemLuminary Awards. A simple ranking produced four award winners and two honorable mentions. They will be announced at the Philadelphia Meeting.

The Subcommittee on Meetings discussed methods for encouraging divisional participation in Regional Meetings. It was noted that some meetings resist divisional participation. The divisions could provide some funding that would improve the bottom line for meetings. Abstracts at regional meetings will now be abstracted (OASIS). There was a suggestion that some divisional allocation money could be earmarked for regional meeting participation. The sum of the registrations at the ten regional meetings each year is approaching that of one national meeting. This could provide a formula for fund allocation. The question was raised as to whether the allocation should be automatic or upon application. It was suggested that a division, with an award winner in a given region, could offer to that region's meeting a symposium package centered on that award winner.

The Divisional Status Subcommittee advised that there would be a motion to dissolve the provisional Division of Laboratory Automation (LABA). The Division has not fulfilled the terms of its probation and the officers of the Division have requested dissolution.

The Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws recommends endorsement of the three petitions (Electronic Balloting, Division Deadline for Annual Reports, and Membership Requirements for Teachers) before Council for Consideration.

This first session of DAC adjourned at 11:30 am.

The second session of DAC began with a buffet luncheon at 11:30 am on Sunday, 28 March. This luncheon provides an opportunity for members of the Committee, particularly Division liaisons, to meet and interact with Division Chairs. At 1:30 pm. the Committee convened, reviewed the minutes of the New York meeting, and heard the reports of Ruth Hathaway, the Committee Chair, and Michael Shea, DAC Staff Liaison. Then the Committee moved into Executive Session.

The motion was made to dissolve the probationary Division of Laboratory Automation as of 30 June. The motion passed on voice vote. There followed a short discussion about finding a new divisional home for LABA members who wish one.

Roland Hirsch reported that the Divisional Status Subcommittee had met with the Chair of the Division of Professional Relations (PROF) and received assurance that the problems are being dealt with and that there is hope. The question was raised: what can you do when the officers of a division-at-risk ignore an invitation to meet and discuss their problems? One could reinforce the invitation through the Division Liaison. An extreme response would be to threaten them with probationary status. There was some question about the legality of the extreme response, but it appears to be on sound ground.

There followed a lengthy discussion of the proposed ACS-AIChE Association. Since there was a similar discussion in Council, the full account will be deferred to the report on the Council Meeting. There were concerns raised about what this affiliation would do to the present division structure and programming in the ACS. This Committee believes that it needs more information but it is willing to assist the Society in the ongoing process.

The Committee returned to Open Session. The timeline for the review of Annual Reports, as given on page 21 of the Agenda Booklet, will complete the process before the Philadelphia meeting. It was approved by voice vote. The mission statement for the Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee (ENH) was corrected. The Draft of the Process in Selecting Division Finalists for ChemLuminary Awards was changed to reflect the facts that the self-nominations will be narrowed to six by the ENH and that there will be four finalists for awards and two for certificates. The Committee approved the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws by voice vote.

The schedule for the expansion of the Javits Center in New York has prompted the Committee on Meetings and Expositions to switch the 2010 Meeting, originally in New York, with the 2012 Meeting, originally in Boston. The number of student registrants at National meetings keeps increasing. Since students pay a reduced registration fee, financial problems loom if the trend continues.

The ACS Membership Retention Taskforce has been dissolved for lack of funds.

For the fall meeting in Philadelphia, DAC will follow the same meeting schedule as in Anaheim.

**The Council-** Dr. Charles Casey called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. on Wednesday, 31 March.

Elections. The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented the nominees for President-Elect, 2005: Edward M. Eyring, F. Sherwood Rowland, Gary B. Schuster, and Isiah M. Warner. Sherwood and Warner were selected as candidates by written ballot. A third candidate, E. Ann Nalley, qualified by petition. Two vacancies on elected Council Committees were filled by written ballot: Connie J. Murphy to the Committee on Committees (ConC) and Roger A. Parker to the Committee on Nominations and Elections, each for the remainder of the 2003-2005 term.

A Director-at-Large vacancy was created by the death of Stanley C. Israel. A special election was held to fill this vacancy. Kent J. Voorhees, a petition candidate, was elected and will serve the remainder of the 2004 and a full 2005-2007 term. In the fall, one Director-at-Large will be chosen from among the following three candidates: David F. Eaton, Theodore E. Tabor, and Judith C. Giordan, a petition candidate.

Of interest to those of us in District IV, there will be an election in the fall for District Director. At present, there are three candidates: Eric C. Bigham, Paul R. Jones, and Robert L. Lichter. Rumor has it that one of these three is expected to withdraw and that there will be a petition candidate.

Budget and Finance. I was unable to attend the open session of Budget and Finance because of the schedule conflict with the first session of DAC. The operational budget was negative to projected by \$64,000. However, in 2003 while the total financial performance was favorable to budget projections. The Society ended 2003 with \$161 million in unrestricted net assets. The motion, to set the full-member dues for 2005 at the fully escalated rate of \$123., passed by voice vote with no discussion!

Standing Committee Reports.

DAC-Discussed above. The motion to dissolve LABA passed by voice vote.

Economic and Professional Affairs- The Career Resource Center ran 36 workshops and conducted 63 mock interviews. In the Employment Clearing House there were 1281 job seekers who participated in 1579 interviews. There were 121 employers with 271 positions to be filled.

Committee on Meetings and Expositions- As of 30 March, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 14,141 registrants as follows: Regular attendees, 7,595; Students, 3,801; Guests, 467; and Exposition, 2,278. In the Exposition there were 500 exhibitors occupying 497 booths and representing 314 companies.

Committee on Membership Affairs- Membership in the ACS was 159,332 as of year-end 2003. This number represents a decline of 1 % in the overall membership. However, the number of student members increased by 3.7 % and the number of new members among recent graduates increased by 50 %.

Constitution and Bylaws- Presently they have under review the Bylaws for 22 Local Sections and 10 Divisions. New petitions for consideration at the Philadelphia meeting must be received by 5 May.

**Special Discussion Item-** In an unusual move, a special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Charles Casey and Board Chair James Burke briefed the Council on the status of the partnership efforts between ACS and AIChE and noted the implications of these efforts for ACS.

- It is NOT a Merger or Acquisition. ACS would not assume AIChE financial obligations.
- It is a PROPOSED three-part alliance. The two organizations remain separate. They will work collectively and cooperatively.
- The two boards of directors have agreed to explore potential partnerships: Programmatic, Membership, and Operational.
- Input from governance and the general membership is being sought.
- Governance/governance working groups are being established.
- A Board Taskforce believes that an ACS/AIChE alliance will enable both organizations more fully to fulfill their missions and to meet the needs of the chemical enterprise.
- The ACS strategic plan identifies alliances as key to leveraging organizational strengths and embracing the multidisciplinary nature of Chemistry.
- Partnership is already a reality in Publications (Biotechnology Progress), Co-sponsorship (Technical Symposia, Green Chemistry Conference, a management conference, and Vision 20/20), and membership in the Chemical Enterprise Consortium.

- Partnership is already a reality in Public policy activities (Joint Statements, Joint Meetings with Federal Officials and Members of Congress), the Insurance Program (professional liability), Local Section Meetings, and Participation in compiling *Beyond the Molecular Frontier*.
- The Potential Programmatic Partnership areas include: a Joint Advisory Committee on Technical Cooperation, Technical Meetings, Green Chemistry Institute/Institute for Sustainability, Public Policy, and Women & Minority Issues.
- The Potential Membership Partnership topics include: Joint memberships (admission criteria and eligibility); Implications for Local Sections, Divisions, and Governance; Student Affiliates; and Membership Services.
- The Potential Operational Partnership may involve: performing some staff functions for AIChE (Human Resources, Financial Management, and Information Technology) and strategic implications for ACS.
- The next steps are: key stakeholder engagement (Council, Committees, Divisions, and Local Sections) and a full understanding of the impact of these partnerships on both memberships and organizations.

Members of Council participated in a wide-ranging and spirited discussion of the proposed alliance. For those wishing more information about AIChE, one should start with the website: [www.AIChE.org](http://www.AIChE.org). Given the unpredictable temperament of Council, credit should be given to Casey and Burke for making the bold move of presenting this to the Council for open discussion. It was successful; the meeting was informative, the discussion collegial. In the past, on more than one occasion, we have heard promises of “transparency” that were never put into practice. It was refreshing to observe transparency in action.