

Note:

We are grateful to Dr. Walsh for his thorough, insightful review and analysis. See also: Raber, L. R. 2003. Board Council act in New York . Chem. Engn. News. October 6. pp. 43-44.

A COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS FROM NEW YORK

The 226th National ACS Meeting was held in New York City, 7-12 Sep 03. The Meeting was dull; the City, expensive.

SOCIETY COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (B&F)- The open session met at 8:30 am. On Saturday, 6 Sep, at the Hilton with Jim Burke as Chair. Jim Shoffner, Director-at-Large, District V, made a pitch for matching funding for a new program of Government Science Policy Advisory Fellows. Stan Israel, Director-at-Large, District IV, requested approval for the budget for the next Pacific Basin Conference. The open session concluded at the mid-morning break. After the break the Committee was going to meet in executive session.

Later that afternoon, quite by accident, I ran into Jim Burke. He said that the executive session ran well into the lunch hour and continued after lunch until about 3:30. He described the sessions as "contentious" but gave no clue as to the issues involved. He was off on a long walk, perhaps to work off pent-up frustrations.

Still later, from a different source, I learned that the contentious issues involved invitations from AIChE for a merger, and from a chemical software company that ACS acquire them. The membership of B&F was split over the financial implications of the Society, itself in the second year of deficit budgeting, merging with a struggling AIChE. There was less enthusiasm for the acquisition of the software company.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS-The open session met at 10:00 am. On Sunday, 7 Sep, in the Trianon Ballroom of the Hilton. Nina McClelland presided. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Chair reported on Board Actions: New regulations on the use of the ACS "brand" were approved; sponsorship was obtained for several awards; a new editor was appointed for the Journal of Information Science; the search for a new Executive Director is on schedule; funds were approved to match the gift from PPG for the ACS Scholars Program; Dr. David Shutt has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer, replacing the retired Frank Young; and Denise Creech was promoted to Director of the Membership Division replacing the departed Nancy Gray.

Once again, representatives of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, the Federation of European Chemical Societies, and the Canadian Institute of Canada, were introduced and invited to address the Board. Good public relations but not a good use of limited meeting time.

The Chair then deviated from the agenda to introduce the officers and faculty advisor of the Student Affiliate Group from the University of Toledo. They, too, were each invited to address the Board. At this point I gave up and left. Perhaps I should have gone for a long walk.

At the end of this year, Nina McClelland will reach the statutory term limit as Chair of the Board. Thus, at the meeting next Spring in Anaheim, there will be a new Chair. Rumor has it that the two candidates for the position are Jim Burke and Stan Israel.

THE COUNCIL- The Council convened at 8:00 am. on Wednesday, 10 Sep in the Grand Ballroom Suite of the Hilton. A resolution honoring a deceased Past-President, Ellis Fields, was read. The members of Council stood and observed a moment of silence. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by voice vote. Peter Stang then led the Council through elections to various committees. Those elected are as follows:

Committee on Committees
Ronald Archer
Milagros Delgado
Dorothy Phillips
Charles Rowell

Council Policy Committee

Bonnie Charpentier
Joe Hightower
Howard Peters
H. David Wohlers

Committee on Nominations and Elections

Jeannette Brown
Richard Deming
Thomas Gilbert
Barbara Peterson
Barbara Sawrey

The Chair of the Board of Directors reported the following actions:

1. The Board has approved in principle the merger of the AIChE and the ACS. The practical details of the merger have yet to be worked out. They are working on a thirty-day time line. None of this had been previous public knowledge. Input from Council was neither invited nor welcomed. One is left with the feeling that the Board is going to do what it wants regardless of what anyone else thinks or says.
2. The Board has terminated discussions with the chemical internet company.
3. The \$214,000. gift from PPG for the Scholars Program will be matched two-for-one by the Society.

From the Committee on Committees:

1. Moved that the Committee on Analytical Reagents be continued. Passed by voice vote.
2. There is a proposal under consideration for an Ethics Committee.

From the Committee on Nominations and Elections:

The Rubber Division has been given permission for electronic balloting.

From the Committee on Budget and Finance:

For 2003, the projected deficit is \$3.1 million, that is \$1.9 million unfavorable to budget. Through July of this year, the investment performance is \$1.3 million favorable. Capital expenses for 2003 will be \$23.7 million.

From the Committee on Education:

The Committee approved a program for ACS Science and Diplomacy fellowships.

From the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs:

1. At the Employment Clearing House, there were 1372 job seekers interviewing for 290 positions among 47 employers.
2. The committee is studying the governments reclassification of Chemists and the dilution of the professional status of Chemists.

From the Local Section Activities Committee:

A report from the Department of Local Sections and Community Activities is included as an appendix at the end of this report.

From the Committee on Meetings and Expositions:

1. As of Wednesday morning, the meeting attendance was 14,030, with 10,640 registrants, 556 guests, 885 for the Exposition, and 1149 exhibitors, representing 321 companies and occupying 528 booths.
2. The advance registration fee for the 2004 national meetings will be \$285.

From the Membership Affairs Committee:

As of August, the Society had 156,304 members.

From the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws:

The deadline for receipt of new petitions to amend the Constitution and/or Bylaws is 10 Dec.

From the International Activities Committee:

A petition to charter a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Hungary was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. James A. Walsh
Alternate Councilor

ADDENDUM

At home, after the meeting, I received an e-mail from John K Crum, the Executive Director. He was alerting members who had attended the meeting that an unnamed colleague who had attended the meeting had been diagnosed as having Legionnaire's Disease. It was not known when or where are colleague had contracted the disease. I have had no symptoms. There has been no word of further cases.

JAW

APPENDIX

Sept. 17, 2003

To: Local Section Councilors

From: Martha Lester, Staff Liaison, LSAC

Re: Report to Council, NYC

The Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) completed its review of 2002 annual reports and presented awards for outstanding performance by local sections at the 5th Annual ChemLuminary Awards, held on September 9, 2003 in New York, New York. The award-winning sections are: North Jersey (very-large); St. Louis (large); Cleveland (medium-large); Nashville (medium); Peoria (medium-small); and Indiana-Kentucky Border (small)

Additionally, the award for "Best Activity or Program Stimulating Membership Involvement" was presented to the Inland Northwest section. The award for "Most Innovative New Activity or Program" was given to the Delaware section. And the award for the "Most Innovative Use of Technology" went to the Rochester section.

LSAC approved a new ChemLuminary Award, for the "Best Activity Involving a Local Section-Division Interaction." The Divisional Activities Committee and LSAC will present this award jointly for the first time at the 2004 ChemLuminary Awards, for activities held in 2003.

LSAC hosted two leadership conferences for local section chairs-elect this past spring. Alumni of the spring conferences are invited to the Advanced Leadership Conference, which will be held in St. Louis, Oct. 3-5, 2003. The fall conference will center on developing leadership skills.

Five committees (Committee on Committees, Committee on Economic & Professional Affairs, Divisional Activities Committee, Local Section Activities Committee and Meetings & Expositions) will co-host the "ACS Leaders Conference: The Science of Management, the Art of Leadership" in New Orleans, LA February 6-8, 2004. This conference will be held for new national committee chairs, division and local section leaders, regional meeting planners, and career coordinators. Several joint general sessions will be held on the topics of leadership, ACS governance structure, goal setting, effective communications and how to maximize volunteers. In addition to the general sessions, five individual tracks will teach the volunteer leaders how to organize and manage their volunteer work. All local sections are encouraged to send their chair-elect to this valuable conference.

LSAC will launch a quarterly HTML newsletter, *Leading Together*, for local section leaders and Councilors this October.

LSAC approved a "Local Section Visitation Program" after piloting the program last fall. LSAC members continue to visit local sections and meet with Executive Committees to review activities and programs. The visits are expected to produce results that ensure each section's rejuvenation. LSAC will increase the number of visits this year.

The National Chemistry Week Task Force announces the theme for NCW-2003 as "Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond" for the week of Oct. 19-25th. The theme for 2004 will be "Health & Wellness".

LSAC would like to thank all Councilors and the membership for their support of the Petition on Local Section and Division Funding. As a result, LSAC is pleased to announce a new small grants program for local sections. Beginning in 2004, a pool of approximately \$115,000 will be available annually to local sections through the "Local Section Innovative Projects Grant Program". All local sections are encouraged to submit proposals by the October 1, 2003 deadline and the April 1, 2004 deadline. For more details on proposal guidelines, go to chemistry.org/localsections or contact the ACS Department of Local Section & Community Activities.

The Council approved a name change for the Coastal Empire Section to the Coastal Georgia Section.

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