

*California Section Councilors Report
American Chemical Society 243rd ACS Meeting San Diego
March 25-29 2012*

Councilors Attending

Bryan Balazs
Michael Cheng
Sheila Kanodia
Lee Latimer
Alex Madonik
Eileen Nottoli
Paul Vartanian
Elaine Yamaguchi (unable to attend)
Jim Postma (attending for Yamaguchi)

Committees*

ConC, SOCED
not on a committee
CCA
LSAC (chair), CPC
CEI
CEI
C&B
LSAC
not on a committee

* ConC = Committee on Committees of Council; SOCED = Society Committee on Education; CCA = Committee on Community Activities; LSAC = Committee on Local Section Activities; CPC = Council Policy Committee; CEI = Committee on Environmental Affairs; C&B = Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.
Council and Society Actions

By vote of the Council, Thomas J. Barton of Iowa State U. and Luis Echegoyen of the University of Texas – El Paso were chosen as candidates for the Fall election for President of the ACS over William A. Lester (UCB) and Barry Trost (Stanford).

Districts I and V will elect Directors to the Board this Fall. The Candidates for those will be: District I – Neal Jespersen (incumbent) and Tom Gilbert; District V – Peter Dorhout (incumbent) and John Adams.

Ballots will be mailed on October 10.

The Committee on Project SEED was voted to continue for another five years.

Despite the sluggish economy, the ACS generated strong operating results in 2011. Revenue was up 1.8% and the net was above the projected results. See details in C&EEN shortly.

Dues for 2013 will be \$151 as a result of the formula and approval by Council.

Two petitions were overwhelmingly approved as amendments to the constitution and Bylaws of ACS. The Petition on Market Data Collection which allows some controlled experimentation with dues as incentives to membership was approved. Also, procedures for recorded votes of Council were clarified.

The Society hit a new high in membership of 164,215 at the end of 2011. There continues to be a roughly 15% attrition rate each year primarily by members in their first five years including undergraduate students who shift majors, etc.

Attendance at the meeting was 16,921 including 5742 students.

A revised Chemical Professionals Code of conduct was proposed by CEPA and approved by Council. It will be available shortly online.

The virtual Career Fair was again a big hit with a doubling of the companies participating compared to being at the meeting, and a significant increase in members seeking interviews through this mechanism.

Watch C&EEN for additional items and discussion from the meeting, including details of committee actions.

Of particular additional note for members:

A new professional association for pre-college chemistry teachers is being initiated as a stand-alone organization supported within the ACS' Education Division and its staff, with governance oversight by ACS volunteers. Meetings through 2019 have been scheduled including Fall, 2014 and Spring, 2017 in San Francisco. Dates are at www.acs.org.

The Council held a lively 30 minute discussion/commentary of Climate Science and a proposed toolkit for members to use in discussions of the science. This does not attempt to bias the discussion but to encourage careful review of techniques and results of climate science, a key focus by President Bassam Shakishiri.

Again, the Board of Directors held its Open Meeting during lunch on Sunday, with a light lunch provided for whoever came (about 250 members). This is proving to be a very successful forum with a main topic that drew many comments as well as the report of Board business. The topic for this meeting was from a commission formed by President Shakishiri on graduate education in chemical sciences.

The Speakers Directory of the ACS continues to need additional interesting speakers with a geographic spread, especially from the West. Those personally interested or those who wish to nominate a speaker they find interesting are encouraged to contact speakers@acs.org for more information.

Audio and slides of many talks will again be available online from this meeting, a very successful program from recent meetings. These talks can be used for classrooms and other discussions by members. Attendees at the meeting will have access one month before the rest of the membership. Watch for announcements.

Lee Latimer