

**American Chemical Society  
Wisconsin Local Section  
Councilor Report from San Francisco National Meeting  
April 2-6, 2017**

**Greetings** to our Wisconsin Local Section members from your Councilors, Ieva Reich and Allen Clauss (see also Introductory Note at end). This provides a report from the Council Meeting in San Francisco where we were both in attendance. The total number of Councilors in attendance was approximately 430.

**Candidates for President-Elect, 2018**

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following four nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2018: Bonnie A. Charpentier, Mark D. Frishberg, Anne M. Gaffney, and Willie E. May. There was a town hall meeting held on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which members in attendance were able to hear the nominees field questions in a small informal setting. Both of your Councilors attended and agreed that the strongest two were **Willie May and Bonnie Charpentier**, so we cast our votes accordingly in the Council meeting on Wednesday, where, by electronic ballot, **the Council at large selected those two candidates for 2018 President-Elect.**

**Candidates for Directors-at-Large**

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2018-2020 terms: **Kenneth P. Fivizzani, Wayne E. Jones, Bonnie A. Lawlor, and Barbara A. Sawrey.** The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on or before October 1, 2017.

Note: The ACS Board of Directors is the governance body of the Society. It is comprised of six District Directors (representing the six ACS regions); the President, President-Elect, and Past President; the six Directors-at-Large elected by the Council; and the Executive Director.

**Amendments to ACS Bylaws**

**The Council Policy Committee recommended a change in ACS bylaws that would allow for removal from office of Councilors and Alternate Councilors for neglect of their duties or misconduct that adversely affects the reputation of ACS.** They also recommended a petition and review process to be used to carry out such a removal. This amendment would have closed a gap in the current bylaws which allows for removal of local section officers but not Councilors, who, although elected by the local section, are not classified as local section officers. A two thirds majority vote of the Council is required to pass a bylaws change. **Both of your councilors voted in favor of this amendment, but it failed to pass in the Council vote.** The primary objections had to do with defining the behaviors that could justify

a petition to remove a Councilor from office, and the minimum number of petitioners at the local section level required to initiate the process.

**The Committee on Membership Affairs recommended amendments to the ACS bylaws to expand the rights of affiliate members. Both of your Councilors voted in favor of these amendments which were passed by Council vote.**

Relevant to our local section, the amendments will allow for local section affiliates to be nonvoting members of the executive committee and to serve as appointed committee chairs. Wisconsin Section bylaws provide for affiliates to join our section for annual dues of just \$2.00 per year. We encourage non-ACS members to get involved in Wisconsin Section activities as affiliates.

**Continuation of Committees**

The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Project SEED be continued; and that the committees on Chemists with Disabilities, on Public Relations and Communications, and on Women Chemists be continued contingent on approval of the Board of Directors.

**2018 Member Dues**

The Council voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance to set the annual member dues for 2018 at the rate of \$171, a \$5 increase from 2017 dues. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws. Both of your Councilors voted in favor.

**Budget and Finance**

In 2016, ACS generated a Net from Operations of \$23.8 million, which was \$7.2 million higher than 2015. Total revenues were \$526.8 million, increasing 2.9% or \$15 million over 2015. Expenses ended the year at \$503 million, which was \$7.8 million or 1.6% higher than prior year. This was attributable to a continued emphasis on expense management across the organization. The Society's financial position strengthened in 2016, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing from \$163.3 million at December 31, 2015 to \$206.5 million at year-end 2016. Additional information can be found at [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org). At bottom, click 'About ACS', then 'ACS Financial Information'. There you will find several years of the Society's audited financial statements and IRS 990 filings.

**Membership**

As of December 31, 2016, the ACS membership was 156,129, which is 0.5% less than on the same date in 2015. The number of new members who joined in 2016 is 23,700. The Society's overall retention rate is 83.5%. The Committee on Membership Affairs also reported that the number of international members has increased to 27,388, exceeding the committee's target by 5%. Retention of graduate students increased by 2% to 76.2%.

***San Francisco Meeting Attendance***

As of Tuesday, April 4:

Attendees	9,797
Students	6,914
Exhibitors	1,198
Expo only	475
Guest	466
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,850</b>

### **Special Discussion**

The Council conducted a special discussion, “ACS Yesterday and Today: Paving the Way to Tomorrow,” to gather input for the Joint Board-CPC Task Force on Governance Design. Forty Councilors approached the floor microphones to share observations, comments, and suggestions to assist the task force in identifying opportunities and issues for governance improvement. The task force offered three questions to guide the discussion: What should the Society and its governance do differently to achieve its objects? If you could change one thing about ACS governance, what would it be? What should the task force leave “as is”? A poll conducted at the conclusion of the discussion revealed that 57% (222) of the Councilors in attendance disagreed that the current governance structure, processes and procedures are already optimal to achieving the objects of ACS in the 21st century, 16% (54) agreed, and 27% (104) needed more information. Three-hundred and six (84%) said they would be willing to provide additional input and feedback to the task force. They will be contacted by the task force in the coming weeks.

### **Introduction of Wisconsin Section’s new Councilor, Allen Clauss**

As your newly elected Councilor, replacing Martha Casey, who tirelessly served the Wisconsin Section as Councilor or Alternate Councilor for 34 years, I am pleased to be representing the interests of our local section on Council. Councilors are expected to become active in committee work at the national level and I will be actively involved. I am most interested in serving on the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) which is responsible for many of the ACS professional development services including the annual salary surveys, Career Navigator, ACS Career Fairs, and Career Consulting. I have personally benefitted from these ACS services and I would like to help improve and expand them going forward. I participated (as a guest) in the CEPA meeting in San Francisco, and I hope to be appointed to this committee when appointments are made later this year.

If you have thoughts, comments, or questions regarding anything covered in this Council Meeting, please don’t hesitate to contact either or both of us.

Sincerely,

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