

William Batschelet
Councilor's Report
Executive Committee Meeting
October 12, 2006

Attended the ACS National Meeting and Council Meeting in San Francisco.
Expenses: \$1368.08 (75% reimbursed by National Office)
Cost to Local Section: \$342.02

Highlights of Council Meeting

- The San Francisco meeting had approximately 15,600 registrants.
- It's Presidential election time. There are four candidates, all with academic backgrounds. All members should have received their ballots by now and can vote electronically or by paper. Last year's electronic balloting was successful, with an increased number of members voting. This year, responses will be tracked and there will be an email follow-up reminding members to vote.
- Overall ACS membership has reversed its downward trend and a record number of 12,137 members have been added through August 2006. The Member-Get-A-Member campaign is well on its way to the goal of 1000 new members this year. If you know someone eligible for ACS membership who has not joined, encourage them to sign up and get gift for yourself as well. Information is available on-line at <http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=membership%5cmgm.html>.
- The Society's new mission statement: "To advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people." has been adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Chemjobs Career Center summary: 1202 job seekers, 290 jobs, 104 employers. This was an improvement over the Atlanta meeting, with more jobs and employers and fewer job seekers.
- There was a special discussion on ensuring ACS's future by engaging younger members early on. Based on a survey of Councilors, most agreed that they have a responsibility to encourage other members to volunteer and that ACS could expand its efforts to engage younger members in leadership roles. The majority felt that the Alternate Councilor position could be used to involve younger leaders in Council. However, they were almost equally split over the idea of Councilor term limits. The survey also included a number of ideas to engage younger members in leadership positions, some of which our Local Section is already doing. (Younger is a relative term. To be a member of the Younger Chemists Committee, an individual must be 35 years old or less. Another definition of younger chemist is people not yet established in their careers.)
- Project SEED stipend will increase for 2007: Summer I - \$2500, Summer II - \$3000.
- Leadership training conference will be in Baltimore, January 26 – 28, 2007.

- There will be a NOVA program on PBS in February 2007 on Percy Julian, “Forgotten Genius”. Dr. Julian discovered a way to turn soybeans into synthetic steroids on an industrial scale, making drugs like cortisone widely available to millions, and was the first African American Chemist Member of the National Academy of Sciences.

From the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

- CEPA has submitted a revised version of the Chemical Professional’s Code of Conduct (formerly the Chemist’s Code of Conduct). The title change and related changes of chemist to chemical professional is the major change and was done to be consistent with “The Professional Employment Guidelines”. This reflects the changing nature of who is called a chemist and what a “chemist” does. Other minor changes were made to more accurately describe a chemist’s roles and responsibilities.
- The Subcommittee on Public Policy completed a policy statement on retirement security and forwarded it to ACS Headquarters for approval.
- I am on the planning committee for a symposium entitled “Benefit Trends for the Chemical Workforce”. The symposium is aimed at providing the most up-to-date information on trends in fringe benefits for the members of ACS, with focus on pensions, health care, and other fringe benefits and will be held at the Chicago ACS National Meeting in March 2007. The symposium is being organized by two CEPA subcommittees, Surveys and Public Policy, and will present the results of the ACS Comprehensive Survey on Benefits which was conducted this year.
- The Subcommittee on Public Policy met with representative from the ACS Office of Legislative and Government Affairs (OLGA). OLGA currently is pushing President Ann Nalley’s initiative to increase the membership in the Legislative Action Network and is initiating an effort to create Government Affairs Committees (GACs) at Local Sections. I volunteered to be the San Antonio Section GAC. If anyone else is interested in participating, please contact me. A committee of one can be lonely.