

Councilor Report: ACS National Meeting & Exposition

Abby O'Connor

Trenton ACS councilor, Abby O'Connor, traveled to San Diego, California for the Hybrid ACS National Meeting & Exposition, March 20th-24nd, 2022. The Councilor attended the virtual council meeting on March 23, virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) board meeting on March 25 and the virtual District III caucus on March 21.

Abby is the recently appointed councilor for the Trenton local section. Abby attended the virtual new Councilor training prior to attending the meeting. Abby presented two technical presentations in the Division of Inorganic Chemistry and had two students presenting research in the Division of Inorganic poster session. We celebrated the National Award in Undergraduate Research going to Chip Nataro at Lafayette College. Four other Trenton local section board members, Levi Ekanger, Joe Macor, Benny Chan, and Rebecca Hunter attended the meeting. The theme of the meeting was bonding through chemistry, and it certainly was great to bond with people in person again at meetings as we emerge from the pandemic. We all enjoyed catching up with colleagues and friends that we haven't seen in years. Attendees enjoyed technical sessions, social events, and governance activities. Abby attended the WCC Just Cocktails social where she was introduced to members of the WCC. In addition, she learned about several of the committees by attending presentations during the meeting.

At the meeting of the MARM board we reviewed the future MARM meetings including the final planning for the upcoming MARM sponsored by our local section. The MARM board was impressed with the number of abstracts (~700) that have received to present at the MARM in June 2022. In addition, we discussed the diversity of topics and fundraising efforts of the Trenton local section. The MARM board meeting will meet on June 4th in person at the MARM meeting. The MARM board also went through the new webpage design and requested members to review and share feedback with Jennifer McCulley. There will be a nanoMARM in 2023 hosted by the New York section. The MARM board received a bid package from the central Pennsylvania section to host the 2024 MARM at Penn State that was approved. The board has tentative plans for North Jersey to host MARM 2025 and MARM 2026 will be hosted by Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna.

In the District III Caucus meeting, we learned that inclusivity language is being added to the ACS style guide. The ACS Center for Lab Safety is an online portal that can be used for training, guidance, and education.

Abby attended Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 23rd. At this meeting, Councilors voted to select two candidates for ACS President Elect and discussed and voted on several petitions brought to the Council. The Council selected Mary Carroll and Rigoberto Hernandez as the candidates for President-Elect. The candidates for Director at Large for 2023-2025 are Milly Delgado, Malika Jeffries-El, Willy E. Lynch, and Ellene Tratras Contis. Ballots will be sent to Councilors for voting by 10/1. The first petition, which passed, was amendment of the duties for the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities to change the term "students" to "persons" to be more inclusive to allow more people to participate in events and meetings. In addition, the Council approved the continuation of the Committee on Chemists with

Disabilities after a review of the society committee. A new International Chemical Sciences Chapter was approved in Switzerland. The Committee on Budget and Finance had a petition, which was approved, to change the basis for developing the pool of allotments for local sections and technical divisions and elimination the connection between dues revenue and C&EN. The resource pool will now be funded by a quasi-endowment established by the ACS. The Council approved the extension of the International Dues Program based on the World Bank Country Income Levels. The Council approved a name change for the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry (CARB) to the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry & Chemical Glycobiology, which is effective January 1, 2023. MAC will remove spousal discount from membership packages as it was not utilized, but the other packages will be maintained. The ACS is also supporting chemists in Ukraine, but some Councilors wished to see more support for displaced chemists from Ukraine. The Fall 2022 Council meeting in Chicago will be hybrid as the pilot conducted in San Diego was successful. These and other Council activities are captured below in the Councilor Talking Points:



American Chemical Society
Virtual Council Meeting
March 23, 2022

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the [ACS Council meeting](#) held virtually on March 23rd.

Actions of the Council

Election Results

Candidates for President-Elect, 2023

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2023: Frank Blum, Mary Carroll, Rigoberto Hernandez, and Ingrid Montes. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Mary Carroll** and **Rigoberto Hernandez** as candidates for 2023 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

President-Elect, 2023^a

Nominee	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round
Frank Blum	76	-	-
*Mary Carroll	129	169	198
*Rigoberto Hernandez	119	132	173
Ingrid Montes	86	105	-

^a410 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 206 being the majority. The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, second-preference votes were distributed in two subsequent rounds. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared elected as candidates.

Candidates for Districts II and IV

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the virtual Council meeting, to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* for Directors from District II and District IV, on the Board of Directors for the term 2023-2025. By internet ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected **Kimberly Agnew-Heard** and **Marcy Towns** as District II candidates; and **Christopher J. Bannochie** and **Lisa Houston** as District IV candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District II and District IV around October 1, 2022.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

DISTRICT II^a

Nominee	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round
*Kimberly Agnew-Heard	14	17	26
Gerard Baillely	8	-	-
Mark E. Jones	9	10	-
*Marcy Towns	14	18	19

DISTRICT IV^a

Nominee	1 st Round	2 nd Round
*Christopher J. Bannochie	12	29
Carmen V. Gauthier	9	14
*Lisa Houston	34	-
Pamela M. Leggett-Robinson	3	11

^a The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, second-preference votes were distributed in subsequent rounds. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared elected as candidates.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2023-2025 terms: **Milagros (Milly) Delgado, Malika Jeffries-EI, Will E. Lynch and Ellene Tratras Contis**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to all Councilors around October 1, 2022.

Council Actions

Committee on Committees Actions

- The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities*.
 - This petition sought to change the language in the duties of CWD from **students** to **persons** to be more inclusive to ACS members of all levels and backgrounds participating in the Society's meetings and events.
- The Council approved the continuation of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities
 - The Committee on Committee reviews each Society Committee no less often than every five years and advises the Board of Directors and Council whether they should be continued. ConC completed the performance review for the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities and recommended its continuation.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

Committee on Budget & Finance Petition

- The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Use of Dues*.
 - The petition has two major components. The first changes the basis for developing the total pool of allotments available for local sections and technical divisions. The second eliminates the connection between dues revenue and C&EN.
 - The total resource pool available for distribution to Local Sections and Divisions will be funded via a quasi-endowment established from the Society's unrestricted investment balances. This replaces the previous pool that was funded through the allocation of 20% of dues revenue to local sections and divisions.

Committee on Divisional Activities Action

- The Council approved a division name change.
 - Effective January 1, 2023, the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry (CARB) will change its name to the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry & Chemical Glycobiology (CARB).

Committee on International Activities Petition

- The Council approved a *Petition to Charter an International Chemical Sciences Chapter*
 - This petition, contingent on approval by the ACS Board of Directors, allows for a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Switzerland.

Committee on Membership Affairs

- The Council approved the extension of market testing of the international dues discount program based on World Bank country income levels.
 - The test provides reduced dues for international members residing in emerging nations, which host an ACS chapter, and as defined by World Bank income criteria.
 - The test results to date have suggested a positive impact on membership through new members and the expanded inclusivity that a wider global community provides.
- The Council approved the 2023 Schedule of Membership
 - The 2022 Schedule went live a few short months ago, and the 2023 Schedule was designed to add more value and increased choice for membership by adding clarity and a more intuitive explanation of how our membership works.
 - The 2023 Schedule of Membership did not change any dues, benefits, eligibility, or privileges from the 2022 Schedule.

Resolutions

- The Council passed several resolutions:
 - in memory of Past President Nancy B. Jackson;
 - in memory of deceased Councilors;
 - to officers and members of the San Diego Local Section.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

Highlights from Committee Reports

Budget and Finance

In 2021, ACS generated a net from operations of nearly \$79 million, which was almost \$48 million higher than budgeted. Total revenues were \$660 million, which was 5.2% or \$32.6 million over budget.

Expenses for the year were \$581 million, or 2.5% below budget. This overall result was attributed to strong revenue performance from the Society's Information Services units (CAS and ACS Publications), reduced spending due to COVID-19 related impacts, and careful management of expenses across the ACS.

The Society's overall financial position strengthened considerably in 2021 as Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increased by \$123 million to \$676 million on December 31. The increase was primarily the result of the \$79 million net from operations and growth of the Society's investments totaling \$71 million.

Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input regarding qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to nomelect@acs.org.

Committee on Committees

All Councilors, including new Councilors, were reminded to complete their online committee preference form for 2023 committee assignments. The preference form will be open to all ACS members and no one will be required to request permission to gain access to the form. The new form will allow users to review each committee by its main topic and focus, along with the skills and expertise needed to serve.

The committee preference form will open mid-April at [CMTE.acs.org](https://cmte.acs.org). Users will also be able to submit a skills assessment which will be used when considering which committees may best suit their talent.

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on March 18 and March 19, 2022 at the ACS spring meeting in San Diego. They considered several key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The Board opened its session with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect (DEIR), led by Immediate Past President, H. N. Cheng.

The Chief Executive Officer's Report

The Board received an extensive report from the CEO on issues relating to ACS core values of safety and DEIR, membership, financials, the ACS Institute, strategic initiatives, and upcoming events and activities. Notably, the strategic initiatives include funding of up to \$50 million over 5 years for sustainability, fostering a skilled technical workforce, accelerating digital research data projects, and accelerating life sciences growth.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The Board's Committees and Task Forces

The Board received and discussed reports from its committees on Executive Compensation, on Professional and Member Relations, as well as the ACS Governing Board for Publishing, Budget and Finance and the Working Group on Structure/Representation. Some of these committees requested and obtained Board action on one or more items, as follows.

- The Board received an extensive briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.
- Upon recommendation of the ACS Governing Board for Publishing, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of one of its members. The reappointment will be announced once the individual has been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved five nominees each for the 2023 Priestley Medal, the 2023 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS, and the 2023 Charles Parsons Award as well as a recommendation for an ACS nominee for the 2022 GRAND PRIX of the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie.
- Pending the approval by Council of the Petition to Amend the Use of Dues, the Board of Directors resolved to authorize the creation of a quasi-endowment from proceeds in the ACS General Fund. This would have an initial principal amount of \$85 million, the annual payout from which would fund individual technical divisions and local sections per the allotment policies established by the Committees on Divisional Activities (DAC) and Local Section Activities (LSAC). Further, the amount of funding available made available for this purpose would be the standard payout from this quasi-endowment or \$3.2 million, whichever is greater.

Other Society Business

By consent, the Board ratified interim actions on moving the June 2022 Board meeting to Sunday, May 22-23 in Atlanta, GA (so as to be co-located with the leadership institute); and approved the recommendation of the Office of Research Grants (with assistance from the Frasch Committee) for the 2022 Herman Frasch Foundation Grant in Agriculture Chemistry.

As is customary, the Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2022 and 2023.

Also, the Board adopted the resolution in memory of ACS Past President Nancy B. Jackson, who passed away in January.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

Officers

Angela K. Wilson, President	a.wilson@acs.org
Judy Giordan	j.giordan@acs.org
H.N. Cheng, Immediate Past President	h.cheng@acs.org

ACS Offices

Office of Secretary & General Counsel	secretary@acs.org
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Resources for Councilors

Budget and Finance	www.acs.org → About ACS → Financial Information
Nominations and Elections	nomelect@acs.org
Committee Preference Forms	CMTE.acs.org
2021 Highlights of ACS Achievements	www.acs.org/acshighlights
ACS Institute	institute.acs.org
Membership Affairs	mac@acs.org
ACS Charter	www.acs.org/govdocs
ACS Strategic Initiatives	www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/strategic-initiatives.html
Governing Documents	www.acs.org/govdocs