

## Councilor Report: ACS National Meeting & Exposition

Abby O'Connor

Trenton ACS councilor, Abby O'Connor, traveled to Chicago for the Fall 2022 Hybrid ACS National Meeting & Exposition, held from August 21-25. The Councilor attended the virtual council meeting on August 24, in person Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) board meeting on August 23 and the virtual District III caucus on August 21. In addition, there was a town hall for the candidates for the Director-at-Large. Overall, more than 11,000 people (virtual and in-person) attended the meeting. One new expanded area for the meeting is the inclusion of many Saturday workshop sessions including on deep learning, how to use TikTok, and many others.

The theme of the meeting was on Sustainability. The councilor was able to meet other councilors and reconnect with old students at the meeting. Attendees enjoyed technical sessions, social events, and governance activities.

At the meeting of the MARM board we reviewed the future MARM meetings including the final recap for the recent MARM sponsored by our local section. The MARM board was impressed with the MARM held by our local section at TCNJ in June 2022. There were 7 teams for the Chemagination competition. Our section could serve as a role model for regional models moving forward. We discussed getting industry involved in the MARM. In addition, we discussed the diversity of topics and fundraising efforts of the Trenton local section. The MARM by-laws were discussed and reviewed. The main review piece was on the language for the awards chair for MARM meetings. There was generally consensus from the MARM board members that the MARM board meeting will occur in future times virtually outside of the ACS national meeting. 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 local section is interested in meeting to discuss logistic for planning a MARM. 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. In addition, it was discussed that there are increased number of community associates, these members can participate in local section events but are not eligible to vote. There

Abby attended Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. Many councilors attended the meeting. In general, it was reported that the hybrid council meeting was a success! The next 2 ACS meetings in 2023 will offer a hybrid council meeting. At this meeting, Councilors voted to select five candidates for the Council Policy Committee (CPC). The Council selected Raychelle Burks, Anne Gaffney, Will Lynch and Frankie Wood-Black for three-year terms and Lydia Hines was selected to serve a one-year term. The council also elected William Carroll Jr.; Ella Davis, Carmen Guathier, Thomas Lane, and Jason Ritchie for three-year terms of the Committee on Committees (ConC). The Council also voted to elect Michelle Buchanan, Alan Cooper, Kelly Elkins, Ellene Tratras Contis, and Kathryn Uhrich for three-years terms on the Committee on Nominations and

Elections (N&E). The Council was reminded of the upcoming National election for Director-at-Large and the ACS president. Ballots will be sent to Councilors for voting by 10/1. One can opt in for a paper ballot otherwise the ballot is electronic. One special discussion occurred at the council meeting, which was lead by President Wilson. The focus was on “ACS for the Future”.

The Council approved the petition from N&E to amend the Elections Function which clarifies existing requirements. Additionally, Council approved the petition to amend the duties of DAC; this now provides authority for DAC to step in and help out Divisions which have inactive executive committees. Council approved LSAC’s petition for a name change from Northeast Tennessee Section to Tennessee-Virginia Highlands Local Section. Council approved the petition from MAC to amend the application and dues process for corporation associates. This will now allow for corporation associates to set fees based on sales revenue. The ACS is searching for a CEO. They are interested in identifying people who may be good candidates for the role. If you know someone contact ACS before the end of January 2023. These and other Council activities are captured below in the Councilor Talking Points:



**American Chemical Society  
ACS Fall 2022 Hybrid Meeting  
Chicago, Illinois  
August 21-25, 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 in a hybrid manner on August 24, and the Board of Directors meetings held August 19 and 20, 2022.

### **Actions of the Council**

#### Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (\*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Raychelle Burks**, **Anne M. Gaffney**, **Will E. Lynch**, and **Frankie K. Wood-Black** for a three-year term (2023-2025) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). **Lydia E.M. Hines** was elected to serve through 2023.

*Raychelle Burks	258	*Anne M. Gaffney	220
James C. Carver	168	*Lydia E.M. Hines	192
Deborah Cook	153	*Will E. Lynch	229
John Engelman II	111	Barbara Sitzman	153
Gregory M. Ferrence	141	*Frankie K. Wood-Black	213

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **William F. Carroll, Jr.**, **Ella L. Davis**, **Carmen Gauthier**, **Thomas H. Lane**, and **Jason E. Ritchie** for a three-year term (2023-2025) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

Rodney M. Bennett	161	Alan A. Hazari	169
*William F. Carroll, Jr.	245	*Thomas H. Lane	180
*Ella L. Davis	225	Donivan R. Porterfield	130
*Carmen Gauthier	219	Daniel Rabinovich	172
William J. Greenlee	97	*Jason E. Ritchie	245

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, Kelly M. Elkins, Ellene Tratras Contis, and Kathryn E. Uhrich** for a three-year term (2023-2025) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

Mark A. Benvenuto	157	Harry J. Elston	127
*Michelle V. Buchanan	215	Martin D. Perry	101
*Alan B. Cooper	196	Robert A. Pribush	138
Debbie C. Crans	185	*Ellene Tratras Contis	222
*Kelly M. Elkins	214	*Kathryn E. Uhrich	233

### Other Council Actions

#### Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- The Vice Chair of the Council Policy Committee (CPC) reported that both Council meetings in 2023 will be held in a hybrid manner, very similar to what Councilors experienced in Chicago. Councilors celebrating milestone anniversaries were acknowledged and thanked for their years of service on Council.
- The Chair of the Committee on Committees (ConC) recognized those chairs rolling off various committees and thanked them for their service. Newly appointed chairs of committees that report to Council were announced to all Councilors and Councilors were reminded of the new online committee preference form that was open over the summer to solicit names of individuals interested in serving on ACS Society Committees.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the continuation of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC).
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Elections Function. This action helps to clarify, consolidate and re-order existing requirements related to nominations and elections.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Divisional Activities, providing greater authority to step in and assist Divisions who have inactive Executive Committees.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition for a change in Section Name from the Northeast Tennessee Section to the Tennessee-Virginia Highlands Local Section.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Application and Dues Process for Corporation Associates, allowing Corporation Associates to set fees based on a sales revenue model.

## Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

### Council Special Discussion

President Wilson introduced and led a special discussion on “ACS for the Future.” She sought Councilor input on positive initiatives, programs or events that would greatly benefit ACS members or ACS at large.

Three specific questions were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:

- What can be accomplished to enhance the ACS experience?
- Why (or how) do you think it would make a difference?
- Who would be tasked with leading this effort (e.g. a section, committee, division, or other)?

Councilors provided their ideas and thoughts, and relevant Society units will receive this input within the next several weeks.

### Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors: N. Bhushan Mandava, Carol Mosher, and Paul V. Smith
- Congratulating Thomas Connelly for his leadership as Chief Executive Officer of the American Chemical Society for the past eight years
- Expressing thanks to the officers and members of the Chicago Local Section as well as to the divisional program chairs and symposium organizers responsible for the outstanding technical sessions
- Acknowledging Angela Wilson’s service as ACS President and presiding officer of Council

The fall 2022 meeting was held in a hybrid manner from August 21-25. As of August 24, there were 11,619 registrations (9,355 in-person and 2,264 virtual).

---

## Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 19-20, 2022 at the ACS fall meeting in Chicago. 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).

### Chief Executive Officer’s (CEO) Report

The Board received an extensive report from the CEO on issues relating to ACS Core Values, Membership, Strategic Initiatives, Financials, and upcoming events and activities. As part of the report, an update on the ACS Campaign for a Sustainable Future strategic initiative was provided by the ACS Director on Scientific Advancement.

### Board’s Committees and Working Groups

The Board received and discussed reports from its committees on Executive Compensation, Professional and Member Relations, Governing Board for Publishing, Budget and Finance, Committee on Corporation Associates, Investments, Working Group on Structure/Representation, and Working Group on What

contat

### **Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions**

Triggers Action by ACS. 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.
- On recommendation of the Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointments of Editors-in-Chief for several ACS journals. The reappointments will be announced once the individuals have 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 an ACS Nominee for the 2023 Perkin Medal.
- The Board approved amendments to the ACS Disaster Policy to include provisions on how and when to respond to human-made disasters and to ensure that the scope includes the "broader chemistry enterprise."
- The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation drafted, and the Board approved, amendments to the Board Regulations resulting in most Board Committee terms becoming three years with a maximum of two terms in alignment with other Society Committees.
- The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation was asked to draft appropriate petitions to amend the ACS Governing Documents to incorporate international representation on the Board. They plan to broaden the working group to include members from the committees: Council Policy; Nominations & Elections; International Activities; Constitution & Bylaws; and other Society stakeholders. The Board looks forward to ensuring international members have a voice and a vote on the Board of Directors.

#### **CEO Search**

CEO Thomas Connelly announced his retirement in May and the Board discussed the search for the next CEO. Executive search firm Korn Ferry International is assisting with the search. They are reaching out to an extensive network of organizations and individuals to solicit recommendations and applications from diverse, highly qualified individuals. The search is now underway with the goal of identifying candidates, interviewing them and selecting our next CEO with a targeted start date of January 1, 2023.

#### **Other Society Business**

By consent, the Board approved the recommendations from the Committee on Meetings & Expositions of sites and dates for four future ACS meetings and Board meeting dates and locations for 2023.

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

Finally, the Board adopted a resolution in memory of ACS Past Board of Directors Chair Paul V. Smith, Jr.

## 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 href="mailto:a.wilson@acs.org">a.wilson@acs.org</a>
Judy Giordan, President-Elect	<a href="mailto:j.giordan@acs.org">j.giordan@acs.org</a>
H.N. Cheng, Immediate Past President	<a href="mailto:h.cheng@acs.org">h.cheng@acs.org</a>

#### **ACS Offices**

Office of the Chief Executive Officer	<a href="mailto:ceo@acs.org">ceo@acs.org</a>
Office of Secretary & General Counsel	<a href="mailto:secretary@acs.org">secretary@acs.org</a>
ACS Meetings Department	<a href="mailto:meetings@acs.org">meetings@acs.org</a>

#### **Resources on the Web**

LSAC Speaker Service	<a href="https://communities.acs.org/t5/ACS-Speaker-Directory/bg-p/speaker-service-2022">https://communities.acs.org/t5/ACS-Speaker-Directory/bg-p/speaker-service-2022</a> (requires your ACS login to access this site)
Sustainable Aviation Fuel webinars	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/acs-nexus-of-jet-fuel-free-3-part-online-meeting-419979">https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/acs-nexus-of-jet-fuel-free-3-part-online-meeting-419979</a>
CEO Application	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/bdhf3avt">https://tinyurl.com/bdhf3avt</a>
ACS Strategic Initiatives	<a href="http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/strategic-initiatives.html">www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/strategic-initiatives.html</a>
Committee on Nominations and Elections	<a href="mailto:nomelect@acs.org">nomelect@acs.org</a> <a href="http://www.acs.org/elections">www.acs.org/elections</a>

###