

## Councilor Report: ACS National Meeting & Exposition

Abby O'Connor

Trenton ACS councilor, Abby O'Connor, traveled to Indianapolis for the Spring 2023 Hybrid ACS National Meeting & Exposition, held from March 26-30. The Councilor attended and participated in the hybrid council meeting on March 29, the in person Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) board meeting on March 28, the District III caucus on March 26, the technical program, and the closed Committee on Environmental Impact (CEI) on March 25. Several students from Councilor O'Connor's research lab participated in the inorganic and SciMix posters sessions. Councilor O'Connor was appointed as an associate member to the CEI for 2023. At the CEI meeting, Councilor O'Connor worked with the educational subcommittee on future initiatives coming from the committee.

The theme of the meeting focused on the "Crossroads of Chemistry". 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. There were 12,623 registrations (10,792 in-person & 18,31 virtual). The front porch social sponsored by the ACS president and YCC was quite popular with the community.

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 in particular at the profit made from the meeting, the number of registrants and partnerships with industry. We reported that all undergraduates received a reimbursement for registration fees. The next MARM will be a nano-MARM held by the NY local section on June 9-10 at the graduate center at CUNY/St. John's. We discussed updates to the MARM website. We approved the creation of an award to recognize the contributions of Bill Suits to the region. The monetary award will be given to an undergraduate student to attend a MARM. The North Jersey Local Section is working on language for the award selection. The 2024 MARM will be at Penn State from June 5-8. The board has tentative plans for North Jersey to host MARM 2025 and MARM 2026 will be hosted by Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna at Hershey.

Councilor O'Connor attended Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. Most councilors were present in person. There were several technical difficulties during the meeting including spotty wi-fi access to attendees in the meeting. Due to the format of the hybrid meeting, all votes were cast online using the LUMI platform which required internet access for all participants at the meeting. Unfortunately, the hotel could not support all the devices that needed access to the wi-fi. For the next hybrid council meeting IT will confirm the ability to support so many devices on the wi-fi. The fall ACS meeting in 2023 will offer a hybrid council meeting. President Giordan had a special discussion for Councilors to provide input on key issues facing the Society and opportunities to improve the structure of committees.

At the Council meeting, Councilors voted to select two candidates for President-elect for 2024. The Council selected Dorothy J. Phillips and Florian J. Schattenmann as the candidates. The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) announced the results for the candidates for Directors from District III and District IV. The councilors in these districts selected Diane Krone and Bonnie Lawlor (as District III candidates) and Janet Bryant and Jeanette Van Emon (as District IV candidates). We congratulate our local section member Benny Chan for being nominated to serve in this role. Ballots will be sent out around

10/1/23 to members in District III to vote. N&E announced the selection of 4 candidates for directors-at-large; they are Wayne Jones, Daniel Rabinovich, Carolyn Ribes, and Joseph Stoner. Daniel Rabinovich was elected to a two-year term on Committee on Committees.

The Council approved the petition to amend the duties of the Committee on Environmental Improvement to change the name of the committee to the Committee on Environment and Sustainability. The Councilor Expense Program was reviewed by the Council Policy Committee (CPC) and voted to approve a streamlined process for fall 2023. Council approved the petition to amend the duties of the Council Policy Committee to authorize CPC to review the conduct of councilors. CPC has set the divisor for Local Section and Division representation at Council for the period 2024-2027. Notifications will be sent by the Secretary to all affected units by May 1. Please note that online preference forms to serve on ACS committees are open until July 3 and this is open to all ACS members. Council approved the petition to Add Plan B to Council Meetings, which authorizes the postponement of voting at Council in the case of technology failures or natural disasters. LSAC announced the launch of the ACS speaker directory for those interested in hosting in-person, hybrid, and online events. The Committee on Meetings and Expositions is actively working collaboratively with other groups to re-imagine ACS meetings, targeting increased value and relevancy. These and other Council activities are captured below in the Councilor Talking Points:



American Chemical Society  
ACS Spring 2023 Hybrid Meeting  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
March 27-30, 2023

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

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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 March 29, and the Board of Directors meetings, held on March 24-25, 2023.

### Actions of the Council

#### Election Results:

#### Candidates for President-Elect, 2024

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2023: Mary K. Engelman, Dorothy J. Phillips, and Florian J. Schattenmann. The fourth nominee withdrew for personal reasons prior to the Council meeting. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Dorothy J. Phillips and Florian J. Schattenmann as **candidates for 2024 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall 2023 National Election.

#### President-Elect 2024<sup>a</sup>

Nominee	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
<b>Mary K. Engelman</b>	45	-
<b>*Dorothy J. Phillips</b>	194	214
<b>*Florian J. Schattenmann</b>	164	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>401</b>

<sup>a</sup>403 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 202 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, the lowest vote-getter, Mary K. Engelman, was dropped and her second-preference votes were distributed in the subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

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

**Candidates for District III and VI**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the hybrid Council meeting; to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2024-2026. By internet ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Diane Krone and Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor as District III candidates, and Janet L. Bryant and Jeanette M. Van Emon as District VI candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District III and District VI around October 1, 2023, for election of a Director from each District.

**DISTRICT III<sup>a</sup>**

Nominee	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round
Benny C. Chan	6		
*Diane Krone	16	18	25
*Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor	14	15	21
Stephanie J. Watson	11	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>

**DISTRICT VI<sup>b</sup>**

Nominee	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
*Janet L. Bryant	17	21
*Jeanette M. Van Emon	14	18
Susan Kauzlarich	7	-
Richard V. Williams	7	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>

<sup>a</sup> The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> round column. 47 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 21 being the majority. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getters, Benny, C. Chan and Stephanie J. Watson, were dropped and their second-preference votes were distributed in two subsequent rounds. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were declared elected as candidates.

<sup>b</sup> The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1<sup>st</sup> round column. 45 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 21 being the majority. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getters, Susan Kauzlarich and Richard V. Williams, were dropped and their second-preference votes were distributed in one subsequent round. 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 the 2024-2026 term: **Wayne E. Jones, Jr., Daniel Rabinovich, Carolyn Ribes, and Joseph P. Stoner**. 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 the Council around October 1, 2023.

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

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Daniel Rabinovich** for a two-year term (2023-2024) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

Alan A. Hazari

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\*Daniel Rabinovich

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### Other Council Actions

#### **Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions**

- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Council Policy Committee to authorize CPC to review the conduct of Councilors.
- As required by the ACS Governing Documents, CPC has set the divisor for Local Section and Division representation at Council for the period 2024-2027. The formula is based on membership numbers as of December 31, 2022. Notification will be sent by the Secretary to all affected units by May 1, with details on how they will be impacted.
- CPC reviewed the Councilor Expense Program and voted to approve a streamlined process for fall 2023. The committee also voted to review further streamlining options for the program going forward.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Environmental Improvement to change the name of the committee to the Committee on Environment and Sustainability.
- ConC announced that the opening of the online preference form to all ACS members begins on April 3 and will run through July 3. Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2024 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](https://cmte.acs.org) to complete their preferences.
- 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 Add Plan B to Council Meetings, which authorizes the postponement of voting at Council in case of technology failures or natural disasters.
- N&E reminded Councilors that any petition candidates to ACS National Office must be certified by the July 15 deadline to be placed on the ballot this fall.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), Council approved the 2024 Schedule of Membership.
- The Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC) announced the launch of the ACS Speaker Directory, a new resource for our component group leaders to access a wide range of speakers for their in-person, hybrid, and asynchronous events.

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- The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) is actively engaged in collaborative efforts to re-imagine ACS meetings, targeting increased value and relevancy. Councilors can expect to receive more information on the Future of Meetings project in the coming weeks, starting next month with the M&E Chair comment in C&EN.

### Council Special Discussion

President Giordan introduced and led a special discussion on the ongoing review of Society Committees. She sought Councilor input of positive ideas, key issues, and opportunities to improve the structure of committees.

Four specific prompts were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:

1. Ideally, for ACS to have a committee structure that is forward thinking and able to address opportunities for members, ACS and the chemistry enterprise, we would...
2. Current and future key issues impacting ACS, the chemistry enterprise and our committees include...
3. I wonder what the positive impact on committees, member involvement, and ACS would be if we were to...
4. I wish that committees at ACS could...

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 Presidents Brian M. Rushton and Dr. S. Allen Heining.
- In memory of deceased Councilors Yorke E. Rhodes and Maurice M. Burse.
- In sincere appreciation of the Indiana Local Section, host Section for the spring 2023 ACS meeting

The spring 2023 meeting was held in a hybrid manner from March 26-30. As of March 29, there were 12,623 registrations (10,792 in-person and 1,831 virtual).

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## Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on March 24-25, 2023, in Indianapolis, IN. 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 Report

The Board received an extensive report from the new CEO, Al Horvath, on issues relating to employee engagement, the Skilled Technical Workforce Strategic Initiative, C&EN, and upcoming events/activities.

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### Board Committees and Working Groups

The Board received and discussed reports from the Governing Board for Publishing, as well as its committees on Executive Compensation, Professional and Member Relations, and the Working Group on Structure and 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 Society Committee on Publication, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of several ACS journal editors. The reappointments will be announced after the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.
- Upon the recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board voted to approve an Editor-in-Chief of the journal *ACS ES&T Air*. The appointment will be announced after the individual has been notified and appropriate arrangements for their service has been made.
- The Board voted to approve the reappointment of a member of the Governing Board for Publishing who falls in the category of being a member of the Society with executive experience from academia, but who is not a member of the Board of Directors. The reappointment will be announced after 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 (P&MR), the Board approved recommendations for establishing The David A. Evans Award for the Advancement and Education of Organic Synthesis, the 2024 Othmer Gold Medal nominee, and the screened lists of five nominees each for the 2024 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS and the 2024 Priestley Medal.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR), the Board voted to approve an amendment to Board Regulation VII, Sec. 3 (c) requiring Board approval of the filing of amicus briefs in legal proceedings.
- The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation provided an update on their efforts to add an International District Director to the Board of Directors in the form of the *Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors*, which was considered by the Council at the spring meeting.

### Other Society Business

As is customary, the Board heard reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for 2023 and 2024. The Board also received an update on the status of the search for the new Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Society. The Board held general discussions on two topics. The

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first focused on raising items of strategic concern from members of the Board, and the second was dedicated to sharing feedback received from ACS members, elevating their voices to all Board members.

Finally, the Board adopted resolutions in memory of ACS Past Board Members and Presidents Brian M. Rushton and S. Allen Heininger.

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## **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**

Judy Giordan, President

[j.giordan@acs.org](mailto:j.giordan@acs.org)

Mary Carroll, President-Elect

[marycarroll-ac@union.edu](mailto:marycarroll-ac@union.edu)

Angela K. Wilson, Immediate Past President

[a.wilson@acs.org](mailto:a.wilson@acs.org)

### **ACS Offices**

Office of the Secretary & General Counsel

[secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org)

### **Resources on the Web**

Committee on Nominations and Elections

[www.cmte.acs.org](http://www.cmte.acs.org)

President and Director Nomination Form

[ACS Nominations Form](#)