

Councilor Report: ACS National Meeting & Exposition

Abby O'Connor

Trenton ACS (TrACS) councilor, Abby O'Connor, traveled to Denver, CO to attend the hybrid ACS National Meeting & Exposition, held from August 18-22. The TrACS Councilor attended and participated in the hybrid council meeting on August 21, the in person Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) board meeting on August 20, the District III caucus on August 18, the technical sessions, and the day long Committee on Environment and Sustainability (CES) meeting on August 17. At the CES meeting, Councilor O'Connor worked with the educational subcommittee to recommend projects for CES to support via the sustainability mini grant program. Councilor O'Connor created a new scoring rubric and updated the language in the call for mini grants for the committee to review and discuss. Councilor O'Connor is serving as a co-chair for the awards and mini grants program. ACS has asked committees to consider options for reducing the number of in person meetings. CES voted to have 1 in person meeting starting in 2026. There will be a series of virtual meetings to complete the work typically done by the committee. In 2025, the committee will host strategic planning to develop a new set of initiatives for the group's work on sustainability. Other ACS committees may be following a similar footprint moving forward. The committee continues to collaborate with technical divisions to support efforts at regional and national meetings. Discussions were had with regards to changes to the national meeting footprint, where smaller more topical meetings, with virtual components, would happen at the fall meeting and larger more traditional fully in-person ACS meetings would happen in the spring. This is moving forward and will be in place in Fall 2025. The number of consecutive sessions starting next fall will shrink and there will be no technical programming on Sunday. We received the new ACS code of conduct for volunteers. The new changes now apply to all people at ACS events and should be used when hosting events sponsored by the local section. The Trenton Local Section was nominated for a ChemLuminary award for the 2022 MARM hosted by the section. While we did not win the award the councilor presented a poster and shared the successes of the MARM with many other local sections.

The theme of the meeting was "Elevating Chemistry". The keynote lectures featured Jennifer Heemstra, Temple Grandin, Athina Anastasaki, and Zhenan Bao. New interdisciplinary sessions rolled out at this meeting co-sponsored by several divisions. Talks were held in hybrid format. Attendees enjoyed technical sessions, social events, and governance activities and socials. There were 11,569 registrations (10,245 in-person & 1,324 virtual). The ACS continued to have additional amenities at the meeting to support their members and this included larger networking socials, wellness rooms, childcare, vibrant expo, cornhole and other games at the convention center, child care resources, and much more.

At the meeting of the MARM board we reviewed the future MARM meetings including the final recap for MARMs to be hosted in the region over the next 5-10 years. We learned that ACS will once again support in person training for regional teams hosting regional meetings. The 2025 MARM will be held at Seton Hall. The planning team is looking for people to hold symposia, if interested contact the program chair is Steve Silverman from Merck. The plenary speakers will be Morten Meldal, Phaedria Marie St. Hilaire, and Rebecca Ruck. The MARM 2026 will be hosted by Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna at Hershey; the bid

package was shared with the board by John Freeman. Nominations for chair-elect for the MARM board are being solicited by the past chair. MARM 2027 will be hosted by the Princeton section with support from the south Jersey local section. MARM 2028 will now be a full meeting hosted by the society of Washington DC. Tim Hanks, a member of meetings and exposition, shared that they will expand the number of ChemLuminary awards given for the regional meeting. They are looking to give out two outstanding regional meeting awards based on attendance small/medium and large/extra large, along with a third award to recognize the most innovative and creative event at a regional meeting. MARM 2029 likely to be hosted by the Philadelphia section and will be at Rutgers Camden.

Councilor O'Connor attended the Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 21st. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format. Election for candidates for elected committees (Council Policy Committee, Committee on Committees, and Committee on Nominations and Elections) occurred. The largest action taken up by the council was voting to approve the Petition for Global Representation on Council. The council voted in favor of this action which now allows for the creation of Global Electoral Zones for the election of councilors outside of the local sections. The ratio of councilors will be maintained at 80:20; however the 80 now represents councilors elected by local sections + councilors elected by zones and the 20 is still for division councilors. There is a cap of ~40 councilors elected by zones. The number of division councilors will be adjusted to maintain the 80:20 ratio; the number of local section councilors will not change unless the number of members in a local section changes which will cause the number of councilors to be adjusted based on the bylaws. The council voted in favor to amend the name of the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) to Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals (CTP). The Council approved continuance on a number of committees including on ethics, Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols, and Project SEED. Upon board approval, the committees on chemical safety, public affairs, minority affairs, professional training, science, community affairs, senior chemists, women chemists, and younger chemists will also continue, due to favorable vote of continuance by the council. Upon recommendation of CEPA, council approved updates to the Academic Professional Guidelines, which incorporate aspects of AI, and the chemical professional's code of conduct. New international chemical sciences chapters were approved in East and Northeast India, West India, and Bangladesh. The bylaws for 11 units, including 5 local sections, 3 divisions, and 3 international chapters were certified. The YCC celebrated 50 years and are encouraging younger chemists to join the society. New members will receive 50% off their first year dues using the code YCC24. The national ACS meeting will move to Los Angeles in 2029 (Fall).

Respectfully submitted,

Abby O'Connor

These and other Council activities are captured below in the Councilor Talking Points:



**American Chemical Society
ACS Fall 2024 Meeting
Denver, Colorado
August 18 – 22, 2024**

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 on August 21, and the meeting of the ACS Board of Directors held between August 16 – 18, 2024.

Actions of the Council

Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Donna Friedman, Matthew Grandbois, Diane Grob Schmidt, and Kimberly Woznack for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). Sheila Murphy was elected for a two-year term from 2025 – 2026 to fill the unexpired term of Jeanette Van Emon, who was elected to the ACS Board of Directors.

*Donna Friedman	301	*Sheila Murphy	202
*Matthew Grandbois	284	*Diane Grob Schmidt	212
Barbara Hillery	119	Lori Stepan	119
Fran Kravitz	129	Keith Vitense	155
Louise Lawter	152	*Kimberly Woznack	206

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Allison Aldridge, Mary Engelman, Katherine Johnson, Daniel Rabinovich, and Brian Mathes for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

*Allison Aldridge	270	Lucian Lucia	119
Mark Cesa	121	*Brian Mathes	216
Roger Egolf	84	Susan Olesik	208
*Mary Engelman	254	*Daniel Rabinovich	238
*Katherine Johnson	249	David Roush	128

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- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Peter Dorhout, Holly Davis, Kevin Edgar, Donivan Porterfield for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

Mitchell Bruce	139	Gregory Ferrence	150
*Holly Davis	323	Michael Kenney	108
*Peter Dorhout	326	*Donivan Porterfield	151
*Kevin Edgar	208	Michael Singer	108

Other Council Actions:

Highlights from Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of CPC, Council approved the Petition for Global Representation on Council, as amended on the Council floor [Yes 375 (90.58%) / No 39 (9.42%)]. This petition allows for the creation of Global Electoral Zones for the election of Councilors by ACS members living outside the territory of existing Local Sections. The petition was amended [Yes 400 (97.09%) / No 12 (2.91%)] to count these Councilors elected by Zones with Councilors elected by Local Sections for the purpose of calculating the number of Councilors elected by Divisions as shown in the equation below. This petition will be referred to the ACS Board of Directors for confirmation.

$$\frac{(\text{Councilors elected by Local Sections} + \text{Councilors elected by Zones})}{\text{Councilors elected by Divisions}} = \frac{80}{20}$$

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with concurrence of CPC, Council approved [Yes 394 (99.49%) / No 2 (0.51%)] the Petition to Amend the Name of the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) to the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals (CTP). This change recognizes the fact that the term “technician” does not adequately reflect the variety of titles used for these positions across the broader chemical enterprise.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with concurrence of CPC, Council approved [Yes 393 (99.75%) / No 1 (0.25%)] continuance of the Committees on Ethics; Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols; and Project SEED and, subject to the concurrence by the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Chemical Safety; Chemistry and Public Affairs; Community Activities; Minority Affairs; Professional Training; Science; Senior Chemists; Women Chemists; and Younger Chemists.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Council approved the Academic Professional Guidelines, as amended to reflect the shared responsibility and accountability with the academic institution, faculty, and other mentors in creating a safe environment, [Yes 392 (98.49%) / No 6 (1.51%)] and the Chemical Professional’s Code of Conduct [Yes 382 (96.71%) / No 13 (3.29%)].

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council approved the creation of the following International Chemical Sciences Chapters, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors: Bangladesh [Yes 375 (96.40%) / No 14 (3.60%)], East and Northeast India [Yes 377 (96.67%) / No 13 (3.33%)], and West India [Yes 370 (96.61%) / No 13 (3.39%)].
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for a total of 11 units with five Local Sections: Columbus, Permian Basin, Inland Northwest, Midland, and Pensacola; three Divisions: Divisions of Colloid and Surface Chemistry (COLL), Environmental Chemistry (ENVR), and Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL); and three International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Switzerland, Egypt, and Guangdong, China.
- The Committee on Younger Chemists (YCC), in celebration of their 50th anniversary, encourages early-career chemists to join ACS. Through September, new members can join ACS for a 50% discount off their first year of annual dues by using discount code YCC24 when joining online.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors;
- In sincere appreciation of the Colorado Section, host Section for the ACS fall 2024 meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting;
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Mary K. Carroll.

Meeting Attendance

ACS Fall 2024 was held from August 18 – 22, 2024. As of August 22, there were 11,569 registrations (10,245 in-person and 1,324 online).

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 16-17, 2024, in Denver, CO. They considered several key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions. The meeting was opened with a reflection on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect (DEIR) focused on inclusive hybrid meetings.

Board Actions

- Upon recommendation of the ACS Chief Operating Officer, the Board voted to approve that the Arthur C. Cope Fund utilization be revised to include a two-year postdoctoral fellowship program to be awarded to

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Ph.D. candidates or postdoctoral researchers within their first two years of pursuing postdoctoral research in organic chemistry, providing support up to \$85,000 per year for two years, beginning in 2025.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E), the Board voted to approve to change the ACS Spring 2028 meeting location and date from San Diego, CA, March 5-8, to Houston, TX, March 19-23.
- Upon recommendation of M&E, the Board voted to approve to change the ACS Fall 2029 meeting location from Boston, MA, to Los Angeles, CA, August 19-23.
- Upon recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, the Board voted to approve a Salary Merit Guideline and Inflation Assumption for use in preparing the 2025 proposed budget and the 2026 and 2027 forecasts.
- The Board voted to approve the use of \$20,000 from the 2024 Presidential budget to support the ACS LEADS Conference.
- The Board voted to approve the use of \$10,000 from the 2024 Presidential budget to support the ACS Student Chapter Membership Campaign.
- Upon recommendation of the Board Committee on Professional & Member Relations (P&MR), the Board voted to approve the DEIR statement as modified during the meeting.
- Upon recommendation of P&MR, the Board voted to approve the ACS nominee for the 2025 Perkin Medal.
- Upon the recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of *Organic Process Research & Development*. The appointment will be announced after the individual has been notified and appropriate arrangements for their service has been made.
- Upon recommendation of the Society Committee on Publications, 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 recommendation of the Governing Board for Publishing (GBP), the Board voted to approve the amended Board Regulations as presented.
- Upon recommendation of the of the ACS Task Force to Recommend Appointments to the GBP, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an individual with senior management experience relevant to the operations of the Publications Division, only one of whom may be a SOCIETY member, but not a member of the Board of Directors. The appointment 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 Budget and Finance (B&F), the Board voted to approve the advance member registration fee for 2025 spring and fall meetings: \$549 for in-person and \$249 for virtual.

Board Discussions

- The Chair of Committee on Strategic Planning (SPC), Will Lynch, facilitated a Board discussion on strategic topics for the 2025 June and December Board meetings. A topic preference poll will be sent to the Board in November and will be used to inform their decision at the December 2024 meeting.
- The CEO, Albert Horvath, facilitated a strategic discussion with the Board on the relationship between ACS and local sections and divisions, as well as student and International Chemical Sciences Chapters.
- The Board Chair, Wayne Jones, facilitated a discussion about opportunities to improve Board efficiency and progress towards achieving previous suggestions. He also provided an opportunity for the Board to discuss feedback from the ACS member community and the process for input and action into the Voice of the Community tool.

Reports

- The CEO, Albert Horvath, and his staff, reported on the evolution of membership engagement, planning for the 150th anniversary of ACS, the ACS Brand, financials, organizational objectives, and other ACS activities.
- The presidential succession shared updates with the Board on their significant activities and initiatives on behalf of the Society and its members.
- The Chair of SPC, Will Lynch, provided an update focused on the Board's progress towards the 2025 Strategic Plan.
- The GBP provided updates from the Presidents of CAS and Publications and brought recommendations forward to the Board.
- The Chair of P&MR, Katherine Lee, and the Chair of B&F, Natalie LaFranzo, brought recommendations forward to the Board.
- The Chair of P&MR, Katherine Lee, and the Chair of B&F, Natalie LaFranzo, brought recommendations forward to the Board.
- ACS General Counsel, Tokë Vandervoort, provided an update on the Youth Protection Policy and Volunteer Background Check process. The communications will roll out to the ACS member community beginning on August 26, 2024.
- ACS Secretary, Kimberly Knight, reflected upon her first 30 days in the role and plans to meet with each Board member over the next 60 days.
- Written reports were reviewed from the General Counsel, Executive Vice President for Human Resources, Treasurer, and the Committees on Budget and Finance, Chemical Safety, Chemistry and Public Affairs, Chemists with Disabilities, Community Activities, Education, Environment and Sustainability, International Activities, Minority Affairs, Patents and Related Matters, Professional Training, Publications, Science, Women Chemists, and Younger Chemists.

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

Mary K. Carroll, President

marycarroll-ac@union.edu

Dorothy J. Phillips, President-Elect

d.phillips@acs.org

Judith C. Giordan, Immediate Past President

j.giordan@acs.org

ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary

secretary@acs.org

Resources on the Web

Committee Preference Form

www.cmte.acs.org

Nominations for President, Directors, and Elected Committees

nominations.acs.org

ACS Governing Documents

www.acs.org/govdocs