

Chicago Section Annual Report 2001 Narrative

The Chicago Section instituted the use of an Annual Report Committee. This committee is comprised of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Secretary, Editor of THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN, and four additional members. The committee members help to compile the information to be included in the annual report. The final report is written by the Chair based upon these submissions. (Strategic Thrusts 4 and 5) NEW

For the 15th Chicago Section celebration of National Chemistry Week 2001 we returned on November 3 to the refurbished Adler Planetarium. An extensive and multifaceted program of demonstrations, poster contests, exhibits and lectures filled the newly available space for another exciting Chicago Chemistry Day. The 1100 attendees were involved in these activities organized by the Chicago Chemistry Day Committee and conducted by 153 volunteers. The demonstrations by high school chemistry teachers, which have been the mainstay of all past Chicago Chemistry Days were increased with 29 teachers performing with the help of 17 AP students from West Leyden and Downers Grove South High Schools. These demos comprised simple experiments that illuminated physical phenomenon such as the effect of vacuum on aerated substances (eg.marshmallows) and the surface tension in drops of water augmented with an illustrative poster. In addition to the rounds of demonstrations performed throughout the day, several were rerun as a grand finale to cap off the day. The efforts of undergraduate students from Roosevelt and Loyola Universities and University of Illinois Chicago further increased the assortment of demonstrations during the very busy six hours time frame. One dynamic display showed pulsating beads of mercury due to the redox reaction of surface oxidized Hg with an iron nail. The Planetarium's large classroom was the over-crowded location for the contests and other "Hands-on fun for kids of All Ages". Chromatographic separations of dyes in felt tip pens on coffee filter paper and pH is pHun measurement of the acidity of common household items attracted an overfilled room of students eager to do some hands-on chemistry. On the artistic side, there was equal enthusiasm for Posters and Chemistry contest. The volunteers were overwhelmed by the response by so many kids. There were numerous excellent posters, and the contest winners accepted their prizes and took their posters home to grace their refrigerators. The 14 exhibits from industry, academia and government labs and agencies, dispersed in the new Milky Way Galaxy area, rivalled the spectacular view of the Lake front in intriguing the Chemistry Day visitors. There were five presentations in the Lecture Hall that mirrored the diversity of exhibits with topics on food flavor, fuel cells, lead toxicity and light in the chemical laboratory. The fifth and roundup presentation by Helen Free on "Chemistry, It's All Around Us All the Time" brought home that chemistry is truly ubiquitous and not restricted to the laboratory or even to Chemistry Day at the Planetarium. It was a challenging but successful day for all involved and special thanks are due to the Planetarium's Michelle Nichols, Peggy Postregna, and Marge Marek for their help. The Membership Affairs Committee maintained an information table during this event to provide local chemists with information about the ACS and to assist those who desired to join the organization. These committees

also provided two demonstrations: invisible ink using windex and phenolphthalein, and making a polymer using elmers glue and borax. Periodic tables, moles, pens, and pencils were given out along with samples of lip balm from Blistex. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 4 and 10)

The Chicago Section participated in the activities of the DuPage Area Engineers' Week, held on Saturday, February 24, 2001 at Illinois Institute of Technology – West Campus. Approximately 500 students, parents and teachers attended the afternoon activities. Students, parents and teachers participated in pH is pHun measuring the acidity of various household items, and learned the importance of pH. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 4 and 10)

The Chicago Section held its annual Scholarship Exam for high school students on May 5th at Loyola University on May 5th under the direction of Dr. Daniel Graham. Over 80 students participated in competing for the seven scholarships totaling \$13,950. (Strategic Thrusts 3, 4, 8 and 10)

On March 10th the first round of the Chemical Olympiad was held at Loyola University. Thirty students participated of which nine advanced to the National Level held on April 21st. Both competitions were under the direction of Dr. David Crumrine. Each advancing student was personally called and congratulated. Each student and the nominating teachers were invited to attend the Section Awards Night on June 22nd. (Strategic Thrusts 3, 4, 8 and 10)

On December 1st 24 teachers attended the workshop "Technology in the Chemistry Lab". Teachers received a binder with information about chemistry software, directions about lab set up, and general information about ACS. A \$50 gift certificate and other fun prizes were donated for this event. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3 and 9)

The Chicago Section became an approved provider of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU) under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Education. These CPDU's are needed by teachers in the State of Illinois for recertification. They are being provided to teachers when they attend a Section meeting or participate in other technical offerings of the Section. The paperwork to pre-approve each event and the number of CPDU's for that event is minimal, and the Section is required to keep records of these for three years following the event. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3 and 9) NEW

The College Education Committee in conjunction with our Career Services representative held a college career conference. Rich Bretz of the National Career Services Division spoke on "Managing an Effective Job Search". Resume reviews were conducted at this event. (Strategic Thrusts 2 and 4)

The annual presentation of the WILLIARD GIBBS MEDAL, FOUNDED BY WILLIAM A. CONVERSE was to Professor Tobin Marks of Northwestern

University. It was presented "For highly original research that has had a major, lasting impact on the important areas of chemical science, including f-element coordination and organometallic chemistry, homogeneous small molecule and polymerization catalysis, molecule-based photonic materials, low-dimensional electronic conductors, oxide chemical vapor deposition, high temperature superconductors, and metallocene anti-tumor agents." (Strategic Thrusts 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10)

In August 2001 the Membership Affairs Committee and the Younger Chemists Committee assisted the Host Committee in making members feel at home in our city, and provide useful information. The main thrust of this activity was in the registration area, not in the hospitality booth, and expanded the services that the Section provided visiting ACS members. The Host Committee compiled the "Guide to Sights and Restaurants" for the use of visitors to Chicago during the National Meeting. As a souvenir for lucky winners a raffle was conducted for T-shirts bearing the name of our fair city in Periodic Table symbols. (Strategic Thrusts 2 and 4) NEW

A series of continuing education seminars was instituted for the purpose of helping to enhance the careers of employed industrial chemists, and to provide some retraining for our unemployed members. These were provided at the minimal cost of \$10, but were free to the unemployed. The purpose is to provide some introductory information in areas that are new to the members or which update their knowledge of new techniques. They could then use this knowledge as a foundation for further study or for practical applications. (Strategic Thrusts 1,4 6 and 7) NEW

The Minority Affairs Committee participated in the seminar at which the Honorable Danny K. Davis, Congressional Representative of the 7th District of Illinois gave a presentation on the ACS mentoring program. He honored the work being done to encouraging underrepresented minorities to excel in the chemical sciences. (Strategic Thrusts 3 and 5) NEW

The Minority Affairs Committee held a panel discussion with an audience of teenagers at the Peggy Notebart Nature Museum. The emphasis was science education and resulted in a lively discussion about careers in various scientific disciplines including chemistry. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10)

The Chicago Section Long Range Planning Committee worked on ways to ensure continuing and improved services in the five to ten year future of the Section. Among the areas of concern are employment (re-establishing the job club, posting job openings on the web site, providing a list of web sites regarding employment in THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN and on the Website, conducting resume reviews and mock interviews), mentoring program for student affiliates, continuing education seminars, extending the availability of CPDUs to encourage teacher participation, greeting and mentoring new members to the Section, and setting up a speakers bureau for in-school programs. In the area of technical programming programs of an increase of general appeal lectures and tours were suggested as ways to improve interest in

monthly meetings. The possibility of a member survey to determine their preferences was considered, inviting speakers from some of the ACS divisions such as Professional Relations, Chemistry & the Law, Health & Safety etc., holding more meetings at area colleges/universities to increase the involvement of student affiliate groups with section activities, and direct contact between the Younger Chemists Committee and student affiliate groups were avenues considered for future implementation. In the area of governance the need to set up a succession of committee chairs possibly via the use of co-chairs or vice-chairs would ensure a continuing entourage of experienced people who later could step into the officer and councilor positions. The Long Range Planning Committee discussed setting up an Annual Report Committee which was done, and which was discussed above. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10)

The Chicago Section uses a form entitled INFORMATION ON GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER. This form is filled out by the individual speakers well in advance of their appearance. The information is used for publicizing the meeting both in THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN, and on the Section's Website. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6). NEW

The Program Committee arranged for a variety of interesting speakers during the course of the year. Due to the events of September 11 we experienced one last minute cancellation, but were successful in obtaining a replacement speaker on a very interest topic in the same general discipline. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10)

The Public Affairs Committee presented the 2001 Public Affairs Award to the Honorable Harris Fawell, a past US Congressman from the 13th District (IL). Mr. Fawell received the award and presented a lecture titled "The Challenges of Leadership in a Global Marketplace," at the section meeting held on March 16, 2001. In conjunction with that meeting Dr. Jeffrey S. Gaffney from Argonne National Laboratory presented a Topical Group talk entitled, "Smog Chemistry: Ozone and Peroxyacetyl Nitrate (PAN) Formation." The Chicago Section joined several sections around the State of Illinois in the state capital of Springfield. There we had a half day session discussing current legislative matters of concern. We then met with individual members of the state legislature to express our views of some of the current bills. Most of these dealt with science education. The committee plans to develop a brochure describing the Chicago Section that will be presented to legislators to explain who we, what we do, and areas in which we might be of service. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10)

THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN continued its unwavering activities to present matters of interest to the Section members. This year the editor worked with our webmaster in bringing selective articles to the electronic format. Ten issues were published including a special double issue (August and September) for the Fall 2001 National meeting held in Chicago which was double the size of that for the previous National meeting held in Chicago. A noted feature continues to be the column "ChemShorts for Kids" which has received many acclaims from its readers. Although this column is not new to the Section, a milestone was achieved this year which may be unique to all ACS sections.

ChemShorts for Kids" has been published by THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN since 1992, and this year the 100th ChemShort was published. The members of the Chicago Section thank and applaud Kathleen A. Carrado for carrying out this invaluable teaching endeavor. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10)

The Chicago Section continues in its efforts with Project SEED. This summer we had three students participate in research programs at Finch UHS/Chicago Medical School. One of these was a SEED I student and two worked at the SEED II level. Funding was provided by Finch through research grants. The Project SEED Committee continues to work on expanding the program through publicity, directed mailings and personal contacts. (Strategic Thrusts 3, 4, 5 and 10)

The two candidates for President-Elect of the ACS were invited to attend one of the Section's monthly meetings, and to present a one minute summary of their platforms. William Carroll was able to attend, but Elsa Reichmanis was otherwise engaged and provided a brief statement to be read to the members. (Strategic Thrusts 4) NEW

An analytical laboratory and office services company provided a series of seminars for non-profit organizations designed to enhance their administration, improve their members participation, and assist with financial programming. Members of the Section's Board of Directors attended these seminars in order to develop new practices that could be applied within the Section for improving the services to the members. One session focused on ways to energize and activate local section volunteers. Among the ideas presented were holding joint meetings with other societies and publicly recognizing volunteers. Forming a network among the groups for student outreach was also suggested. A second symposium presented ideas for generating non-dues revenues such as seeking corporate sponsorship for continuing education presentations and selling advertising in publications. (Strategic Thrusts 1) NEW

The Chicago Section entered into a collaboration with the Division of Chemical Health and Safety and the Women's Chemist Committee to nominate Hull House for National Chemical Landmark status. This nomination is based on the activities of Dr. Alice Hamilton in her work at Hull House. A medical doctor, she is credited with being the founder of industrial toxicology. Her studies focused on the effects of heavy metals and of organic solvents. (Strategic Thrusts 5, 9 and 10) NEW

For the first time in many years a Section Manual was compiled. This is a comprehensive reference document containing job descriptions for each of the officers, committees and their chairs, and councilors; committee and officer annual reports; governing documents; procedures; and historical information. In addition it contains a directory of the people who serve as Board members, committee chairs, or other vital capacities, and a detailed calendar of events and deadlines. Copies of this loose leaf manual were distributed to each person serving on the Board of Directors, to the Councilors, and to other individuals serving in an official capacity with the Section. This first edition has proven useful in helping people to understand what is expected from them and in providing assistance in meeting these goals. It is anticipated that this will be

updated on an annual basis by the people who serve in the various capacities. (Strategic Thrusts 4) NEW

The Chicago Section Website (<http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago>) continues to be an important means of communication with our members. Details of our monthly meetings are posted, and members and non-members alike can register for these meetings electronically. A link was provided which directs e-mail contact to the Section Chair. Through articles in The Chemical Bulletin members have been invited to express their concerns, offer ideas for new and improved programs, volunteer to assist the Section in areas where they feel a need for improvement, and complain about those things they don't like. This helps the flow of communication which should result in the betterment of the Section for all members. In order to keep the Website from getting cluttered, while not losing important information, an archiving facility was established. As announcements and stories on the Website become non-current they are moved to the archives. These archives can be accessed easily by any visitor to the site, but they are not in the way of browsing through current offerings. (Strategic Thrusts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10) NEW

A new handout was developed to acquaint new members with the Chicago Section and its various offerings. This documentation, together with hospitality mentors, people who greet new members at Section meetings and take them under their wing to get them involved in Section activities, will have the effect of ensuring a continuing evolution of active members and leaders within the Section. (Strategic Thrusts 4, 5, 6 and 10) NEW

In recent years the Section's budget has shown anticipated deficit spending. Yet a careful analysis of the cash flow over the course of our fiscal year has shown that deficit spending does not always occur. In order to control the projections and obtain a more realistic picture of finances the Section instituted line item budgeting which will take effect in the next fiscal year. This requires each officer, committee chair, and perfunctory to provide a list of events, supplies, revenues and their specific amounts together with justification for each item. This will eliminate the lump sum request budgeting that has been used for many years, and which has proven to be inappropriate for generating balanced budgets and is inaccurate in its forecasts. It is hoped that this will provide a tighter control of finances, eliminate unrealistic forecasting, and prevent deficit spending in some years. (Strategic Thrusts 4) NEW

During our annual Holiday Party this year attendees were asked to bring one or more nonperishable food items. These were collected and turned over to a local food pantry. Some members also donated cash in lieu of food items, and this cash was used by the food pantry to purchase perishable items. As a new activity we were pleased to have collected over 200 pounds of food items as well as \$75.00 in cash. (Strategic Thrusts 4 and 10) NEW

The Section undertook a complete revision of its Bylaws. These include changing our fiscal and operations year to a calendar year basis from the current academic year basis. Bylaw changes were submitted to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for a preliminary review. (Strategic Thrusts 4) NEW

Chicago Section Goals

The object of the Chicago Section has long been the promotion of all chemical interests. This past year the Section adopted the mission statement to encourage the advancement of chemical sciences and their practitioners. This mission statement became the new object of the Section when approved by the membership. The various activities described above in sections A and B describe the many ways in which the Section did strive to accomplish this mission, and will continue to do so. A tremendous amount of progress was made in carrying out this mission

Chicago Section Chair's Goals

My personal mission, as Chair of the Section, has been to increase the level of services to the members. By increasing the services through such efforts as assistance in career enhancement, employment aids, opportunities for expansion of scientific horizons, and providing expanded activities the Section can create interest in our members to partake in Section functions. This also can be expected to lead to greater involvement by our members in not only partaking but also conceiving of and planning other activities. Various activities to reach this goal included the series of educational seminars to help enhance the careers of employed industrial chemists, and to provide some retraining for our unemployed members. These are provided at the minimal cost of \$10, but are free to the unemployed. The purpose is to provide some introductory information in areas that are new to the members or which update their knowledge of new techniques. They could then use this knowledge as a foundation for further study or for practical applications. Other efforts to fulfill this mission were described above. Assessing the success of these efforts is difficult to quantify, but there have been many new faces seen at Section activities throughout the year.

Goals for Next Year

1. Achieve National Historical Chemical Landmark status for Hull House base upon the work of Dr. Alice Hamilton.
2. Continue monthly offerings in Continuing Education and Professional Training for section members and students.
3. Provide programs and services that will increase attendance at monthly meetings and participation on Section committees.

Goals for Next Year's Chair

1. Revise the Section Policies to eliminate those that are obsolete, and modify others to bring them into line with current practice.
2. Conduct a member survey to determine the needs and interests of our members as recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee.
3. Implement a more consistent system for handling our finances.

Suggestions and Concerns

We contacted National earlier in the year with concerns regarding the collection of Local Section Dues by National. It seems that any shortfall in a member's dues payment is considered to be due to the member's desire to pay less than the requested amount in this "voluntary" item -- voluntary since local section dues are not required. Payment of national dues, division dues and subscriptions receive first crack at the dues payment since these are "non-voluntary". However it must be realized that divisional dues and subscriptions are strictly voluntary since no member is required to join any divisions or subscribe to any publications. Therefore these are as voluntary as are local section dues. Giving divisional dues and publications subscriptions priority access to the dues payment may be doing a disservice to the member who inadvertently paid less than intended. In effect any shortfall in collection of National dues, divisional dues or subscriptions by any member is taken from the pool of local section dues collected by National before the local section dues collection is turned over to the local section. This is evident in the local section dues report that shows negative payments for some individuals. When the initial inquiry regarding the odd amount of local section dues payment to the Chicago Section was made, the voluntary nature of the local section dues was cited as the reason. This practice also provides National with a cushion that negates the need for rebilling those members whose payments fall short of the invoiced amount, thus saving National the cost of sending another bill to those members. I question whether the Board of Directors has authorized the use of the Local Section Dues Pool as a slush fund for these purposes. When the above description of the local section dues being used as a slush fund for National was presented, we were told that a response would be forthcoming soon. We even suggested that an inquiry be made of ACS legal counsel as to the legality of using these monies for a slush fund, and that the practice is unethical if not illegal. It certainly is a deceitful practice in that members are not aware of the manner in which local section dues payments are being dispersed. We have not received a response to this inquiry, nor have we received a copy of counsel's legal opinion in this manner. Although National is quick to request the resources of local sections be used for National instituted programs, National perpetuates the practice of not responding to local sections when the request is embarrassing or not of immediate benefit to National.

Long Range Plan for the Chicago Section

The Chicago Section Long Range Planning Committee worked on ways to ensure continuing and improved services in the five to ten year future of the Section. The main avenues of concentration are:

Employment: Re-establish the job club

Post job openings on the web site

Provide a list of web sites regarding employment both in THE
CHEMICAL BULLETIN and on the Website

Conduct resume reviews and mock interviews

Mentoring program for student affiliates

Continuing education seminars at affordable cost to unemployed members,
underemployed members and students

Extend the availability of CPDUs to encourage teacher participation

Greeting and mentoring new members to the Section

Setting up a speakers bureau for in-school programs

In the area of technical programming:

Programs of an increasing general appeal Lectures and tours to improve
interest in monthly meetings

Conduct a member survey to determine their preferences

Invite speakers from some of the ACS divisions such as

Professional Relations, Chemistry & the Law, Health & Safety etc.,

Hold more meetings at area colleges/universities to increase
the involvement of student affiliate groups with section activities

Pursue greater direct contact between the Younger Chemists Committee
and student affiliate groups

In the area of governance:

Pursue the use of co-chairs or vice-chairs to ensure a continuing entourage
of experienced people who later could step into the officer and
councilor positions.

Establish an Annual Report Committee to help compile and write the
Annual Report (accomplished in 2001)

Establish procedures for the smooth transition from an academic fiscal
and operations year to a calendar fiscal and operations year.