

## **Report of Council Meeting Held on March 29, 2006 at the Grand Ballroom in the Atlanta Hilton in Atlanta, GA**

The 231<sup>st</sup> National Meeting of the ACS was held in Atlanta, GA from March 26-30, 2006. The Chicago section was fully represented by 12 councilors and two alternate councilors. The councilors who attended for the section were: Roy Bible, Cherlyn Bradley, Charles E. Cannon, Mark Cesa, David Crumrine, Russell W. Johnson, Fran K. Kravitz, Claude A. Lucchesi, Barbara E. Moriarty, Seymour H. Patinkin, Marsha Anne Phillips and Stephen Sichak. The alternate councilors representing the section were Inessa Gorelik and Milt Levenberg.

As is the custom, the council remembered past Chicago councilors Stan Drigot and Nat Gilham.

**Finances:** The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that the Society ended 2005 with a net contribution from operations of \$11.6 million, which was \$9.1 million favorable to the approved budget. The amount exceeded expectations due to higher-than-budgeted print and electronic information services revenue and investment income, as well as expense savings from staff vacancies and reductions in information technology spending.

The Council voted to set the dues for 2007 at \$132, an increase of \$5, to cover the increase in the Consumer price increase. In addition, the special assessment for 2007, which was expected to be \$8, was decreased to \$4. 2007 will be the last year of the special assessment.

**Governance:** The council selected two candidates for 2007 President-Elect to stand for election this fall. They are Bruce E. Bursten and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri. The candidates for District V director were chosen to be John E. Adams and Judith L. Benham. The candidates running for Directors-at-Large were announced to be William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr, Dennis Chamot, Peter K. Dorhout, Paul R. Jones, Valerie J. Kuck and Dorothy J. Phillips. Three candidates will be elected, two to serve a full term (2007-2009) and one to serve the remainder (2007-2008) of the term created by the resignation of James D. Burke, effective December 31, 2006.

A Governance Review Task Force was jointly appointed by the Board of Directors and the Council Policy Committee to review the Society's governance and its Constitution and Bylaws, to ensure that the Society has a governing framework to enable the Society to best fulfill its mission, meet membership needs and remain a world-class organization. The task force is looking at five key elements: membership, governance structure, governance organization, geographical organization and disciplinary organization. The task force has prepared an initial set of ideas that were discussed at various committees and other governance structures.

In addition, a Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG) was also established to assist the Committee on Budget and Finance in reviewing all society programs. Programs will be reviewed every four years. This is in addition to the Committee on Committees that reviews committees.

**Membership Affairs:** Membership in the American Chemical Society was 158,422 as of December 31, 2005. This represents an increase over 2004, reversing the recent trend of decreasing membership.

**Meetings and Expositions:** The 231<sup>st</sup> ACS national meeting attracted 12,546 registrants as of March 28, 2006. This included 4158 student members.

**Economic and Professional Affairs:** As of the end of Tuesday, there were 1247 job seekers at Chemjobs Career Center and 197 posted positions available. The number of interviews conducted in Atlanta as of the end of Tuesday, was 1180. A total of 29 workshops, 33 mock interviews and 75 resume reviews were held in Atlanta.

**Special Discussion Topic – Membership:** Several groups have made recommendations recently that the requirements for ACS membership be less restrictive. The council discussed the topic as to whether requirements for ACS membership be less restrictive, more restrictive or stay the same. Many councilors expressed their views; some felt undergraduate students pursuing a degree in the chemical sciences should be made student members, rather than student affiliates. Others felt that our criteria for membership should be tightened.

If you have any questions and/or comments about the above actions, please contact me by email ([bmoriarty@nalco.com](mailto:bmoriarty@nalco.com)) or one of the other councilors.

**Barbara Moriarty**