

Report of Council Meeting Held on March 25, 2009 at the Grand Ballroom B/C in the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah

The 237th National Meeting of the ACS was held in Salt Lake City, UT from March 22 – 26, 2009. The Chicago section was represented by eleven councilors and two alternate councilors. The councilors who attended for the section were: [Cherlyn Bradley](#), [Charles Cannon](#), [Mark Cesa](#), [David Crumrine](#), Ken Fivizzani, Herb Golinkin, Russell Johnson, Fran Kravitz, Milt Levenberg, Barbara Moriarty and Susan Shih. The alternate councilors representing the section were Margaret Levenberg and Tom Higgins.

Unlike the last few council meetings, this meeting was less eventful with time for discussion of issues such as finances and ways to attract new members.

Finances: The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that, in spite of the economic challenges faced in 2008, the Society's operating performance held up well. However, the Society was adversely impacted by the historic collapse in the capital markets, which resulted in a sharp decline in the Society's unrestricted net assets from \$212 million at the end of 2007 to \$60 million at the end of 2008. There were two factors driving this decrease, both related to poor performance in the markets - substantial investment losses and a sizable increase in pension liability from the Society's Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

The Society has updated its contingency plan that contemplates potential threats from many different sources, their probability of occurrence, likely duration and financial impact. The updated 2009 Plan covers all operating and administrative units as well as member programs, and identifies new and emerging threats. ACS management has also updated the mitigation strategies to respond to the threats and ensure the Society's long-term financial sustainability. Society management and the Board of Directors are closely monitoring financial performance versus the budget.

The Council voted to set dues for 2009 at \$145. This vote was conducted using wireless "clickers."

Governance: The Council selected Nancy B. Jackson (Sandia National Labs, Central New Mexico Section) and Cheryl A. Martin (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia Section) as candidates for 2010 President-Elect. These two candidates will stand for election in the Fall National Election. Note that, as one councilor was overheard to say, Council has entered the 20th century and voting was conducted using wireless "clickers."

Councilors from our district choose Judith L. Benham (3M, retired) and Peter K. Dorhout (Colorado State) as candidates for our district director.

Meetings and Expositions: As of March 25, 2009, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 10,668 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 5,781; Students 3,439; Exhibitors 780; Exposition only 411; and Guests 257.

Economic and Professional Affairs: The Council VOTED to approve the newly revised Professional Employment Guidelines.

Membership: At the close of 2008, Society membership totaled 154,024, compared to 160,052 for year-end 2007. The decrease is attributed to the economy and a correction to the counts of 2,589 Emeritus members whom ACS has not been able to reach for many years. These emeritus members were identified as part of the transition to a new membership database.

Special Discussion Item: What can ACS do to attract new members, while better serving membership during these challenging economic times? An extended discussion of ideas about retention of current members and recruitment of new members was also conducted.

If you have any questions and/or comments about the above actions, please contact me or one of your other representatives. You may contact me by email (bmoriarty@nalco.com)

Barbara Moriarty