Meetings

Oct. 20, 21, 27: National Chemistry Week Events
November 15: Membership Meeting

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My Councilor duties started Sunday morning at the meeting of the Committee of Constitution and Bylaws (C&B). In addition to the usual list of mundane activities – introductions; the minutes to the previous meeting; reports from Councilor Caucuses; Bylaw amendments of Local Sections, Divisions, and International Chapters – we worked on the mother of all petitions: The Petition to Streamline the ACS Governing Documents (PSAGD). This behemoth is the result of the Joint Board-Council Policy Committee Task Force on Government Design, whose task is to reorganize the governing documents of the Society (the Constitution and Bylaws).

The objective of PSAGD is to preserve the current governance structure/provisions and create a third document called Standing Rules. Certain Constitution Articles will be moved to the Bylaws, and certain Bylaws will be moved to the Standing Rules. The motivation for this is to make ACS governance more agile, i.e., easier to change. This is because adoption of an amendment to the Constitution requires a two-thirds approval of ACS membership, while adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws requires only two-thirds approval of Council. Changes to the Standing Rules require approval of a simple majority of Council.

C&B was previously tasked to identify the parts of the Constitution that should be moved to the Bylaws, and the parts of the Bylaws that should be moved to the Standing Rules. It is unclear if the Task Force followed these guidelines. This year, my C&B Subcommittee and three others were tasked to verify that blocks of text were moved as per the PSAGD. Some changes in the moved text had to be changed for it to make sense, but it seems that other changes regarding committees and their functions were made as well, but who am I to quibble?

It is notable that C&B typically spends the better part of our Sunday on one or two petitions that pale in comparison to the 58-page colossus that is the PSAGD. Typical petitions are usually one to three pages and are discussed by C&B ad nauseam, but the end result is a petition that is consistent with the petitioners’ intent, has no unintended alternative meanings, and is consistent with the current Constitution and Bylaws. As one fellow C&B member said, it seems that we are proceeding way to fast with the PSAGD. The PSAGD was only Under Consideration in Boston; in Robert’s Rules speak, that means it was not discussed at Council. A “clean version” of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules that would result from approval of the petition will be circulated to C&B members soon, with comments due in late October. Watch this space.

After C&B, I was off to the Town Hall Meeting, where four candidates vied for Director at Large: Lee Latimer, Ingrid Montes, Frank Blum, and Angela Peters. Both Latimer and Montes are currently serving as Directors at Large, and typically the challengers are only there to get their feet wet, but using my patented four-point system, I ranked Peters first, followed closely by Blum, with Latimer and Montes well behind. My last stop for Sunday was District-II Caucus, where I was able to plug the Patterson-Crane Award.

Council started Wednesday with the typical Councilor breakfast where all seats were taken, even though it took place at the Hynes Convention Center, where ACS used to hold its Exposition! After a moment of silence for recently deceased Councilors, Council voted for councilors nominated for Elected Committees of Council: Council Policy Committee (CPC); the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E); and the Committee on Committees (ConC). I’ve been a Councilor for about 15 years now, but it’s only dawning on me now that Councilors from these Committees are the who get seats at breakfast!

The Bylaw Petition on Affiliation with Other Technical Organizations was approved by two-thirds of Council. Heretofore, Local Sections and Divisions could affiliate with other technical organizations pending confirmation by C&B. Now, these affiliations require the additional authorization by either the Local Section Activities Committee or the Division Activities Committee.

Much more controversial was the Bylaw Petition to Remove Restrictions for International Chemical Sciences Chapters, which was also approved by two-thirds of Council. Several councilors (who I’m guessing have red baseball hats at home) warned that approval of this petition is the beginning of a slippery slope of huge changes that will eventually result in the ACS being controlled by foreign entities. However, this petition merely allows international chemical sciences chapters to charge their members local dues, which are collected by the Society along with ACS dues. For ACS to remit the local dues back to the international chapters, Bylaw IX, Section 4 needed to be changed. This amendment also allows international chapters to be represented at Council.

President Dorhout introduced and led a Special Discussion on what role(s) ACS should play in preventing sexual harassment in the sciences. He highlighted several recent articles, workshops and studies that have called attention to the issue, notably a symposium, “Science of Sexual Harassment” organized during the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans (Spring 2018) by the Women Chemists Committee and Chemical & Engineering News; and a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine consensus study report: “Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine” (2018). He directed Council’s attention to existing ACS codes and initiatives to address sexual harassment, and offered items for discussion and potential action:

- More signs/information at National Meetings regarding our policies and supporting information
- Trained volunteers at national meetings for reporting sexual harassment
- A webinar on preventing sexual harassment for local sections or divisions

To further inform the discussion and Councilor input, the following question was posed: Have you ever witnessed or experienced sexual harassment at an ACS meeting or ACS event? The results were:

Yes 23% (94 responses)  No 77% (319 responses)

Your faithful Councilor, Steve Trohalaki
**Upcoming Meetings**

**October 20th, 21st, & 27th**

**National Chemistry Week Events**

We'll celebrate NCW with two events this year:
- The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery on Saturday, October 20th and Sunday, October 21st, from 11 AM–4 PM.
- Saturday, October 27th, from 1–4 PM, at the Centerville Library.

This year’s theme is **Chemistry Is Out of This World**! Come out and help the Dayton Section explore the chemistry of and in outer space. If you want to volunteer for either of these events, contact Melinda Greer at (513) 936-7165 or at greermd@ucmail.uc.edu.

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**November 15th**

**Membership Meeting**

Where: Wellington Grille, 2450 Dayton Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45434

When: Social at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM

This year we have just one new 50-year member, Dr. Paul Seybold. Dr. Seybold will be invited to give a short talk on what attracted him to chemistry and his career as a chemistry faculty member at Wright State. It’s bound to be a humdinger! The section would also like to recognize all our volunteers (except for Steve) who have contributed their time to make our 2018 section activities so successful.

We especially wish to congratulate Shriya Rangaswamy on achieving the rank of "Honors" in the 2018 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. We’ll also announce the results of our Section Elections, bid farewell (and good riddance) to outgoing officers, and welcome newly-elected officers.

Please e-mail Dr. Aaron Burke at aburke1333@aol.com or call at 937-890-2312 to make your reservation by November 10th.
**SECTION ELECTIONS**

Although the Executive Committee maintains that the Section is running like a well-oiled machine, and furthermore, there is no collusion(!), the ever present chants of “Drain the Swamp” is like the worst earworm imaginable. If it’s any solace, two out of the three candidates for office have absolutely no (or very little) experience with Dayton Section Governance! Yes, the elections are uncontested, but whose fault is that?

The Chair-Elect will serve in that capacity in 2019, as Chair in 2020, and as Immediate Past Chair in 2021. The Secretary will serve the year remaining in the current two-year term. The Treasurer will serve a two year term beginning in 2019.

Section members will soon receive, via email, instructions on how to vote electronically. Section members who think that email is just too 1980s, can send a request for a paper ballot to the Section Secretary at the Section’s address (American Chemical Society, Dayton Section, 5100 Springfield St., Ste. 108, Dayton, OH 45431) via the US Postal Service. Return the ballot by mail, but if you also think that US Mail is just too 1780s, you’re out of luck.

The candidates, their biographies, and their statements follow below and on page 5.

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**Office: Chair-Elect**

**Candidate:** Prakriti Pollack

**Position Title & Place of Employment:**
Instructor, University of Dayton

**Education:**
- MBA, Raj Soin College of Business, Wright State University (2014)
- Ph.D., Chemistry, The Ohio State University (2003)
- M.S., Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (1997)
- B.S., Chemistry, Presidency College, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India (1995)

**Professional Society Affiliations, Offices Held, Dates, Services to ACS:**
- American Chemical Society (1999-present)
- Treasurer, Dayton Section of the ACS (2015-present)

**Other Memberships and Activities:**
- Volunteer at Five Rivers Metro Park, Dayton OH (2005-present)

**Statement:**
I want to uphold the mission of ACS: “To advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people,” and further ACS vision of “Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry.

As a chair my goals are:
- Increase our sections' visibility.
- Involve the schools of inner city Dayton in our events and programs.
- Make ACS a platform for other chemists and chemical engineers in Dayton area to connect and enhance their professional development.
- Contribute to public’s understanding of chemistry in their communities through outreach programs.
SECTION ELECTIONS

Office: Secretary
Candidate: David H. Wang

Position Title & Place of Employment:
Senior Chemist, Maverick Molding Company, Blue Ash, OH 45242

Education:
M.S., Polymer Chemistry and Physics, Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, China (1990-1993)
B. S., Chemistry, Nankai University, Tianjin, China (1986-1990)

Professional Society Affiliations, Offices Held, Dates, Services to ACS:
American Chemical Society (2001-present)

Other Memberships and Activities
None

Statement:
I am glad to have the opportunity to make contribution to the chemistry community in the Dayton area and will do the best I can to help all the ACS members at Dayton Section.

Office: Treasurer
Candidate: Justin C. Biffinger

Position Title & Place of Employment:
Assistant Professor of Chemistry, University of Dayton

Education:
B.A., Biochemistry, Ithaca College (1997)
M.S., Inorganic Chemistry, Bucknell University (1999)
Ph.D., Organic Chemistry University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2005)

Professional Society Affiliations, Offices Held, Dates, Services to ACS:
American Chemical Society (1997-present)

Other Memberships and Activities
American Association for the Advancement of Science (2006-present)
American Society for Microbiology (2016-present)
Sigma Xi, Ithaca College Chapter (1997-present)
Phi Lambda Upsilon-Rho Chapter (2002-2005)
Vice-President (2003)

Statement:
I’m interested in outreach and chemical education through research and collaborations in the Dayton area and I’m excited to get to support the local chapter of the ACS while helping students discover how Chemistry can lead to an exciting and challenging career.
**Past Meetings**

**Thirteenth Picnic of the New Era**

A score of Section members and their families met at Sugarcreek's Magee Park on Saturday, August 4th, for hot dogs, burgers, brats, camaraderie, and dessert (not necessarily in that order).

![Auguste Edouart would be proud of this composition.](image1)

![The Chair-Elect and Chair seek respite from the glare of day, but cannot escape the camera’s eye.](image2)

The Section thanks the Chair, Anastasie Weaver, and our Treasurer, Prakriti Pollack, for doing all the shopping, and to Steve for doing all the grilling.

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**Patterson-Crane Award**

The winner of the 2018 Patterson-Crane Award is Prof. Paul S. Weiss, for creating a new Journal, *ACS Nano*, and leading its Editorial Staff. To quote his nominating letter, Prof. Weiss “invented a new type of journal, run a new way,” and its “scholarly forward posture is part of every article published.” Prof. Weiss was presented with a $3000 honorarium jointly from the Dayton and Columbus Sections.

The Patterson-Crane Award was to be presented at the Central Regional Meeting starting this year, but the CRM in Toledo was canceled. Prof. Weiss, who was the Program Chair for the August 2018 National ACS Meeting in Boston, offered to organize a half day symposium at Boston. The speakers and their talks were truly impressive:

- **Paul S. Weiss** — *Communicating opportunities in nanoscience and nanotechnology*
- **Jillian M Buriak** — *What does an ACS editor do, in 2018? Much more than ‘just’ editing*
- **Fraser Stoddart** — *Treating molecular nanotechnology to show and tell*
- **Lloyd J Whitman** — *Communicating science, especially nanoscience, to and from the federal government: A personal perspective*
- **George M. Whitesides** — *Telling Stories*

The Dayton Section administered the Patterson Award from 1949–1973. In 1975, the award was renamed the Patterson-Crane Award and became a joint award of the Columbus and Dayton Sections. Austin M. Patterson and Evan J. Crane were the first two Editors of *Chemical Abstracts*.

The Section thanks the members of the Patterson-Crane Award Committee: Steve Trohalaki (Chair), Rachel Jakubiak, and Jim Carey.

The 2020 Patterson-Crane Award will be presented at the Central Regional Meeting in Columbus. A call for nominations will appear on our website in the Fall of 2019.
Bitters occupy a curious niche in the history of food and drinks, especially given their early history as patent medicines with rather dubious reputations. Take one of the oldest, Angostura. Its original greenish-tinted bottle contained an herbal concoction made from roots, bark, and spices. The “Aromatic Bitters” took their name from the Venezuelan city where they were first created (Angostura was subsequently rechristened Cuidad Bolivar in 1846). Interestingly, early botanists also gave the name Angostura to three different species of trees, including *Galipea officinalis*. Because the bitters’ recipe is a tightly guarded secret, locked in a vault and known by only five employees, whether the trademarked concoction once contained the bark from any of these Angosturas remains something of a mystery. Either way, the recipe’s since to be reformulated — in much the same way that Coca-Cola removes the potent alkaloids in coca leaves — and now Angostura neither contains Angostura, nor is it produced in Angostura.

See https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/a-brief-history-of-bitters-159271950/ for more.
Alzheimer's Avoidance Therapy*  Unscramble the letters to reveal a chemical name. Then, use the circled letters to solve the riddle. Answers next edition!

DeGINOYX

AehHoppST

AIMNNOTY

Two lawyers walk into the Element bar and are surprised to see Kenny, their old college classmate, behind the bar. “You always thought you were smarter than us, eh Kenny?” the first lawyer says, then adds, mockingly, “What say you bring me a scotch and H-2-0?” The second lawyer says, “Yeah, bring me a scotch and H-2-O, too, pinhead!” Kenny pours a scotch and water for Lawyer-1, and scotch and hydrogen peroxide for Lawyer-2. Both lawyers down their drinks, but when Lawyer-2 keels over, Lawyer-1 yells, “What the hell, Kenny!” Kenny replies,

Answers for Last Edition

BORON LYSINE HYDROGEN

A \( p \) orbital pulls into a parking lot, but the attendant tells him, “We’ve got no spots for you,” and makes the \( p \) orbital turn around and exit the lot. Just then, an \( sp^3 \) orbital pulls up, and the attendant lets him in. Outraged, the \( p \) orbital pulls back in and says, “What gives? You said the lot was full, but you let that guy in! The attendant points to the sign and says, “I guess you can’t read. It says, HYBRIDS ONLY!”

Solution for Last Edition

*Surveys suggest that mental exercises, including word puzzles, may delay the progression of Alzheimer's Disease.

Quotable Quotes for $1000, Alex!

“I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work.”

– Plato

“Name the greatest of all inventors. Accident”

– Mark Twain

“A beautiful lady is an accident of nature. A beautiful old lady is a work of art.”

– Louis Nizer

“I aimed at the public’s heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach.”

– Eric Schlosser

“Are you crazy? This is like discovering Plutonium ... by accident!”

– Jerry Seinfeld