

Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Virginia Commonwealth University

Room: 3309 Temple Building

Friday, 13th Sept. 2019

Meeting – 4:30 P.M.

Attendees: Joe Pompano, Vanessa Lopez, Joe Crockett, Larry White, Rob Davidson, Ken Chapman, Denise Walters, Samy El-Shall, Ann Sullivan, Aaron Durr, Jim Beck, Brian Moores, Kathryn Deibler, Julian Bobb, Jim Demas, Kristine Smetana, Sarah Porter

1. Call to Order at 4:35 PM
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from Sept. 2019 Meeting

Minutes were approved with a minor change to the wording in the Councilor's report and an update to the attendance.

4. Introduce the candidate for Vice Chair, Vanessa Lopez.

Joe introduced Vanessa Lopez, who is currently working as an analytical chemist at Altria. She gave a brief introduction and told the committee that she has been active in the YCC and the mentorship program, and that she is looking forward to being more involved with the section.

5. Discussion of the new website

Joe discussed the progress of the new website. He had a meeting with Ted Glass to work on the website. The website acsva.org was previewed (this is a placeholder for right now). Currently it has activities listed, the Bulletin, meeting announcements. Joe and Ann pulled up the work-in-progress site, to show what it will look like. It looks very similar to the old website. Something new – a NEWS tab, which is a blog-like place where we can post general information on past events. Larry mentioned that there needs to be a section for awards. Ann suggested that we need to think about what we want on the website and what can be archived. We are looking for someone who is really interested in website design, so please contact Joe or Ann if you know anyone who might want to take over the webmaster duties. If you know someone, please contact them individually.

Changeover date/access to old website – Old website is still active but Ann is posting minimally. The new page may be open as early as next week, and then the old website can be shut down. When the old site goes down, we should email everyone in the section with the new site. The old site may go down any day.

Jim will be sending out the October meeting notice next week, he will include the information about the new website.

Larry asked what mechanism we will use if we want to indicate what should stay on the website. He mentioned the section on the History of the Section, and the nomination forms for teachers.

Sarah asked about Google searching. Ann said that it would take some time for searches to change, but Kathryn mentioned that the ACS has updated their website links to our new site.

6. 2019 Budget Review & Discussion

- a. Treasurer's report – Rob Davidson
- b. Financial spreadsheet – Rob Davidson

Rob discussed our revenues and expenditures. He mentioned that we usually get most of our revenue at the beginning of the year and most expenditures at the end of the year, but the budget is looking fine right now. We had planned to transfer \$15K from our trust fund, leaving a deficit of \$6K in the original budget. Generous support from Pfizer (now Glaxo) and Altria will help close this deficit. Reminder – use the expense reimbursement form to help Rob sort out expenditures. Ann mentioned that the form is linked on the Google site.

We did request to increase our voluntary dues to \$7.

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's budget – especially for committees to do something different next year.

Joe C. asked how members who paid three years ahead would be affected. If you did that, you locked in the price at that time.

Denise discussed increased involvement from the Section with the Science Museum of Virginia. Denise and Joe will work together to meet with the SMV board to discuss this involvement. They will come back to the Exec committee with a proposal and a dollar amount next time.

7. Leadership Development training in January, who to send?

The ACS has a 2 day training for local section officers. It was suggested that Vanessa Lopez go to this training, and all in attendance were in agreement. Vanessa was given information about the meeting, and Rob noted that her company might cover the cost but otherwise the ACS and the Section can cover the trip. A discussion followed about previous attendees and the cost to the Section.

8. Elections – Nominations

- a. Councilor: both Joe Crockett and Janet Asper are running.

b. Alternate Councilor: Ann Sullivan is running. Depending on who is elected for councilor we would have to back fill the other alternate councilor position.

c. Any new nominations?

Ann discussed the Alternate vs. Regular councilor positions. It will be a run-off between Ann, and Joe or Janet, whoever has the most votes. Jim said that this does not follow our by-laws technically, but the Exec committee can appoint the lowest vote getter.

Survey Monkey – we have a paid account that we can turn on for a certain period of time. Check with Krista Weisbart about access to the account and ask Rob to authorize payment.

9. Councilors reports on the San Diego National Meeting. – Janet Asper

Ann reported for Janet, and discussed the re-vamping of the publicity committee. Ann reported on behalf of Linette, who is attending the SERMACS board as a voting member of the section. Bids are requested every year, we may consider it in the future. She also discussed an upcoming celebration of the anniversary of the ACS Scholars program. Linette has asked for a list of past Scholars and we can apply for an IGG grant. We should consider whether we want to host an event for this anniversary. We need to nominate someone for an Outreach Volunteer Award. Kristine (by phone) suggested that Ann should be nominated. There is a \$2000 grant available for METT membership engagement through technology. This would be a good grant to use for streaming our meetings online. Reporting of our local section report – FORMS is disappearing. Whoever becomes the new regular councilor will have to do the final submission.

Joe C. discussed that we can get a grant for setting up at Senior Chemists Committee. It was also discussed that we will need to replace Julian on the YCC because he may be leaving the area at the end of the year.

Kristine asked that everyone on the Executive Committee donate two hours of their time on Sunday Oct. 20 at the SMV. This is during National Chemistry Week. Kristine said that at ChemLuminary awards, there is a big factor in member participation. Our member participation is not very good – we do not have a large number of very active members in our section. We need people to start volunteering. The target for the Oct. 20 event is teachers, and how they can incorporate the periodic table into everything they teach. The event will be advertised to support Richmond Public Schools, and teachers will be able to take items back to school with them. Right now only one person has committed to participating but we are hoping for better participation. Kristine is involved with a high school science club. Kristine would also like to get activities at different places (e.g. SVCC, JMU, UVA, etc). She suggested that we could give each school a small amount of money to support an event. Kristine and Ann are planning on a “Walk through the periodic table” with focus on “Marvelous Metals.” We have not won Best Section at ChemLuminary awards despite our high number of activities and nominations. Kristine also discussed the storage space and the number of items that we already have that can be reused over and over again. There is still a box of awards missing – Kristine asks that whoever has the box please return it. No one knows who has the keys.

10.The Section's exhibit at the Virginia Association of Science Teachers meeting at Hotel Roanoke November 14 (evening)-16. (until noon). Ken Chapman

Ken is looking for someone to help volunteer at the meeting. They are also looking for donations of gifts that can be given to science teachers. Kristine will order some kits and will check the storage space.

11.The National Historic Chemical Landmark program of ACS for the Rotunda at UVA. Larry White

Larry shared a picture of a chemical hearth that Thomas Jefferson designed in a classroom laboratory at UVA. Thomas Jefferson and John Emmett strongly believed that students need to do experiments to learn chemistry. The hearth was covered by a wall before the Rotunda fire, and it was uncovered during renovations later on. We would like for this site to be a National Historic Chemical Landmark. There is only one other one in Virginia (Jamestown). Larry would like for the local section to sponsor a ceremony. This could happen at the April section meeting at UVA. There may be nothing else like this still in existence in the world. National ACS provides plaque and booklet, local section hosts a ceremony (possibly in 2021 or 2022 at the earliest). Multiple people at UVA and Nationals will work on submitting the application. It won't cost the Section any money. There was consensus that Larry and his team should move forward with the application.

Distinguished award for high school chemistry teachers – has been given since 1948. We have a nominee for SERMACS for the high school teachers this year. We need to be proactive about getting the forms out for the Regional nomination.

Other business:

*Joe C. updated on the safety packet project. Still need to hit Albemarle, Henrico, and Prince William. Please let Joe C. know if you can help. Denise offered to take the packet to Godwin.

*Chemistry Olympiad – needs new volunteers. If you know someone please ask them.

*Kristine is on a “Theme Team” – this year’s SOCED theme is chemistry and art.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.