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To: ACS Virginia Section Executive Committee Members

The approved 2021 section budget included \$350.00 for an exhibit at the 2021 Virginia Association of Science Teachers Professional Development Institute (VAST PDI; Nov. 16-18).

The VAST PDI meeting again was forced to be a virtual affair and used a software management tool referred to as WhoVa. Exhibit fees remained constant.

I prepared a website to provide convenient links to the education-related websites of the Virginia Section, the national ACS, the Division of Chemical Education, and the American Association of Chemistry Teachers.

Participation at the ACS website was comparable to the previous year. However, statistical information facilitating comparisons to the previous year or even to other exhibitors for 2021 was unavailable. (You may recall that in 2020, the ACS website for the VAST PDI was one of the most visited and received favorable comments from visitors.) The number of teachers participating in the website raffle in 2021 was double that of the preceding year.

A request for funding the exhibit for 2022 is included in the proposed 2022 budget. However, my ability to provide the previous level of participation in-person and/or virtual may be seriously compromised in 2022. Another volunteer for this activity is needed.

Principal Pro: The virtual exhibit provided effective communication with many middle and high school teachers and communication may have been facilitated better than at a live exhibit.

Principal Con: There was no way to attract more elementary school teachers, many of whom do not believe chemistry has a place in their classrooms.

Ken