



ACS Virginia Section Immediate Past-Chair's Report

Annual Report

Working on annual report, with the Administrative Form Section almost complete. Requesting that the ACS give access to Stacey Sank, Mike Hunnicutt and Julian Bobb.

This is a copy of the 2019 Chair's Report, providing a narrative of the past year's activity/successes/challenges on the Annual Report

In 2019, the Virginia Section continued to hold seven regular monthly meetings and three executive meetings. The regular meetings were held in towns from Fredericksburg to Charlottesville to Williamsburg, as well as Richmond, which allowed nearly every member to attend a meeting within an hour drive of their home. The topics at our regular meetings included; chemistry among the stars, rational vaccinology, your career and the local ACS Section", photochemistry's role in the Deepwater Horizon Spill, research integrity, the endogenous cannabinoid system and drug addiction, safety in academic laboratories, and flavor chemistry and perception. Meetings were held at both industrial and university locations. The meetings featured local and nationally known speakers, including Dr. Peter K. Dorhout, the 2018 President of the American Chemical Society.

Three of our meetings featured awards. In March, we met at Afton Chemical Corporation to honor both our Distinguished Service Award Winner and our Distinguished Research Award winner. In April, we met at the University of Virginia to honor our outstanding senior chemistry majors from colleges and universities in the Virginia Section. In September, we met at Virginia Commonwealth University to recognize the Distinguished Elementary School Science Teacher award winner, the Distinguished Middle School Science Teacher award winner, and the Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teacher award winner. Also, at the September meeting we recognized the fifty- to seventy-year members of the ACS and presented them (those who attended) with their certificates. Those not in attendance were mailed their certificates.



Our members have been very active in many activities this year aside from our regular meetings. These activities include the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, Chemistry Olympiad, National Chemistry Week, distribution of safety materials to all high schools in our section, demonstrations at local schools and to middle and high school students, student affiliates groups, judging regional and state science fairs, and volunteering for many other local activities. The American Chemical Society awarded the Virginia Section another ChemLuminary Award. The Virginia Section has won a total of 19 ChemLuminary awards. This year the Section was nominated in one category – Most Creative & Innovative Use of the CCEW Theme. This award was presented at the national meeting in San Diego in August by the ACS Committee on Community Activities to recognize 2018 section activities for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW).

The Executive Committee held three meetings in 2019. We approved a new financial goal for our strategic plan, “Ensure financial resources are available to fund section activities over the next 50 years,” composed of 3 Strategies, Strategy 1: Identify options to diversify and grow Revenue Stream and implement/promote 2 initiatives in 2019-2020, Strategy 2: Explore setting up endowment for Local Section to start implementation in January 2020 and Strategy 3: Formalize financial controls and accounting policies to ensure section resources are managed appropriately to clearly document resource management.

We officially have changed our website host, and the section has a brand-new website <http://acsva.org/>

Many of committee were extremely active in 2019. The Younger Chemist Committee, the Women’s Chemistry Committee, the Awards Committee, the Community Activities Committee, and Project Seed chaired held many activities which will be described in another sections of FORMS by their leaders.

The section is made of around 1320 (according to our eRoster) ACS members; high school, middle school, and elementary teachers; and numerous other professionals who work in our area. About 100 members are very active, on committees and attending meetings and events.

The biggest challenges are getting more of our current members active, and attracting new members to join.

Submitted:

Past-Chair

Joseph Pompano