Virginia Local Section AND SENIOR CHEMISTS

ACS Senior Chemists Committee (SCC)

Robert A. Yokley, Ph.D.

July 10, 2021
Have you looked recently at your section’s demographics?
If not, you may be surprised!
Society-wide, senior chemists (age 50 and over) represent almost one third of ACS membership.
Based on our SCC experience, that’s true for this section too!
LOCAL SENIOR CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

- Do you have a senior chemists committee in your section?
- Currently, 65 local sections report having a senior chemists committee/group.
- It’s a great way to connect and support senior chemists within your section.
- The ACS Senior Chemists Committee is available to help you with resources.
- We have experience with what often works (and what doesn’t!)
- Of course, YOU know your section best.
- Together, we can help you PLAN FOR SUCCES S
EVENTS FOR SENIOR CHEMISTS

• 50, 60, and now 70-Years of ACS service/membership recognition
• Quarterly or monthly breakfasts or lunches
• Visits to local museums, landmarks, and themed-attractions in the area
• Networking event with senior chemists and students and Science Events
• Celebratory events – e.g., section anniversaries, special acknowledgement of contributions to chemistry

These suggestions are meant to augment, not replace, your section’s other activities.
SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

• Seniors are still chemists at heart
• They can be sharper than you expect
• Sometimes they march to a different drummer
• They have earned the right to say “no” (and sometimes will!)
• You need to know what works best for them

Let’s look at an example or two…
Here are some ideas for planning member service recognition programs:

- List is sent from ACS Membership Affairs to every section each spring
- Contact may have changed (not updated, there’s second home)
- Probably best handled with a luncheon event (driving in darkness is a turn-off)
- Urge attendees to speak for five minutes about their career paths (condensing a lifetime of work into a 5 minute speech is tough! You may need to use a hook, if someone really gets going!)
- Section members really do enjoy the talks
- Student invitees can learn a lot
A 50, 60, & 70 SERVICE YEAR EVENT

• Combine others (with non speaking role) with the students for networking
• Section may need to offer to provide transportation in some cases
• Sons, daughters, neighbors may be the transporters
• Buffet (so every individual can find something appealing) is best (and cheaper) than sit-down service with waiters
• Invite previously honored attendees to attend recognition events (at no charge) to encourage and increase attendance
• Describe other section events and invite honorees to attend those as well
QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING

• Convenience is the key for success
• Restaurant convenient to freeways, parkways, main streets
• Free parking is a must
• Shopping centers are good
• Avoid rush hour traffic
• Everyone pays their own check and tip (avoids light eaters getting socked by big eater’s bills – important!)
• Spouses/significant others are welcome
• Bad weather means postponement
• Group decides purpose: social, short talk, today’s news
LOCAL ATTRACTION OUTING & TOURS

• People travel away from home to see attractions elsewhere

• Somehow, we rarely find time to visit local attractions (maybe next week, they will be there upcoming anytime, I’ll wait until it’s sunnier or warmer)

• It’s more pleasant to visit with others than to go alone

• “I don’t like driving alone”

• You do a service by lowering the activation barrier

• Museums, water purification plants, zoos, botanical gardens, sports events, local pubs, wineries, academic department facilities all are possibilities
SCC RESOURCES

• **ChemLuminary Awards** – one is given annually for the outstanding single senior’s event; another is given annually for the most outstanding continuing annual series of events (self-nominate in FORMS).

• **Mini-Grants** – generally up to $500 to do something involving seniors in your section

• **THE SENIOR CHEMISTS NEWSLETTER** published three times annually and sent to more than 40,000 ACS members over age 50; has a 30% opening rate

• Senior Chemists on the Move! ACS Network (a chat group)

• Senior Chemists Website at [www.seniorchemists@acs.org](http://www.seniorchemists@acs.org)
STARTING A LOCAL SECTION
SENIOR CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

• It’s just like starting and maintaining a YCC, WCC, or any other subcommittee
• Personally approach a potential leader for a short discussion with a pledge to follow-up
• Advertising in your newsletter probably won’t work
• Tossing out the need at an ExecCom probably won’t work either
• Use your section’s membership list to find initiators
• Share the work load – non-seniors are welcome to join in
• Remember, if you aren’t a senior now, sooner or later you will be!
QUESTIONS
Please send them to
the SCC Mailbox at
seniorchemists@acs.org