



Virginia Local Section AND SENIOR CHEMISTS

ACS Senior Chemists Committee (SCC)

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DEMOGRAPHICS



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 SUCCESS



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...

A 50, 60, & 70 SERVICE YEAR EVENT



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

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