

Special Pre-College Education Report

ACS Virginia Section

Executive Committee Meeting

May 12, 2018

At the previous Executive Committee Meeting, I volunteered to collect some information about the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). I apologize for being unable to attend this meeting of the Executive Committee.

Suggestion: The Virginia Section should consider sponsoring some AACT memberships (see below) and make a concerted effort to be represented at meetings where chemistry/science teachers congregate.

History in ACS: What to do for high school teachers was a subject much debated at the national level of ACS both before and after I became involved with the Society in 1963. In September 2013, AACT was approved as an organization within the ACS, with support provided by six (6) staff members through the Education Division at ACS Headquarters. It has taken a few years for the organization to get organized and start making a difference.

AACT serves K-12 and has a governing board and an advisory board. The latter group includes experienced ACS governance notables, including George Bodner, Katie Hunt, and Don Wink.

At present, the number of AACT members in the Virginia Section is small, probably less than 20 in the metro Richmond area. If an exact count is desired, a special request would need to be made for which there might be a fee.

Virginia: The state has an AACT volunteer coordinator, Ms. Loubna Elhelu, a teacher at the Palm Tree School in Fairfax (lelhelu@palmtreeschool.com). She is trying to find her way in the ACS bureaucracy and promote AACT to chemistry teachers in Virginia, but she is inexperienced in doing such work. In late April, she was preparing to give a presentation on AACT at the Virginia Association of Science Teachers. Ann Sullivan has provided high school teacher contacts she has from our section territory to Loubna.

Activities and Teacher Support: AACT is acquiring and sponsoring classroom resources for teachers at elementary, middle and high school levels. It accumulates and publicizes information about professional development and potential awards for teachers from both within and outside ACS. Digital communication and idea sharing among teachers is offered. *Chemistry Solutions* is magazine-like online periodical for teachers.

Membership Benefits Statement: AACT membership is open to educators and anyone with an interest in K-12 chemistry education. Benefits include an annual subscription to two publications, *ChemMatters* and *Chemistry Solutions*; [classroom resources](#) such as

lesson plans and [multimedia](#); professional development [opportunities](#); access to member insurance, and more.

Sponsoring Members: AACT advocates local sections sponsor membership for teachers at \$50.00 each for one year through a convenient mechanism. Some sections are seeking to sponsor up to 100 teachers. Details are provided at <https://teachchemistry.org/get-involved/sponsor-a-member>.

teachchemistry.org

SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP

This card entitles you to a sponsored membership to AACT
THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY FOR K-12 TEACHERS OF CHEMISTRY

As a sponsored member, your \$50 annual membership fee has been paid in full by a donation. Please follow the instructions on the back of this card to activate your one-year membership and take advantage of AACT member benefits.

YOUR SPONSORSHIP HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY:

I recently (May 2, 2018) represented ACS at a Teacher Enrichment Program sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education at the MathScience Innovation Center in Richmond. I distributed information about AACT and one member was in attendance (in addition to me).

Submitted by: Ken Chapman