

Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 25 January 2020

History Committee

History of the Virginia Section

The chapter for 2016 has been written and has been submitted to the web site. The subsequent year (2017) is almost completed and will be submitted in a few months. Some other sources of information are now available, including *Bulletins* not currently used in writing the *History*, other Section documents, and contact information for ACS national offices that may have information about the Section. These sources will be used to “rewrite the History” to incorporate pertinent information into the website account to the *History of the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society* when possible.

Nomination of a National Historic Chemical Landmark

The History Committee Chair is serving as a liaison with Mary Ellen Bowden, Senior Research Fellow, Science History Institute (formerly The Chemical Heritage Foundation) and Sophie Rovner, National Historic Landmarks Program Manager, to name the Chemical Teaching Laboratories site in the Rotunda at the University of Virginia as an American Chemical Society National Historic Chemical Landmark (ACSNHCL). The site formerly included laboratories first planned by Thomas Jefferson. It currently still includes a “Chemical Hearth” used to provide various temperatures for demonstrations and experiments for chemistry classes. Dr. Brian Hogg, Senior Historic Preservation Planner in the Office of the Architect for UVa, is also a resource on the application project. The History Chair will be responsible for the completion of the application with the assistance of Dr. Hogg, Laura White and assistance from Ms. Bowden and Ms. Rovner. The Virginia Section Executive Committee indicated it is in favor of the Section nominating the site for historical recognition. The application will be submitted to the ACSNHCL committee by the end of March, before the committee meets for the April meeting. Before the committee meeting in the fall, the application will be revised as needed according to their recommendations and resubmitted. The goal is to have the application approved in time to plan the ceremony at the April 2021 VA Section meeting at UVa.

Respectfully submitted,

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Awards—Education

Nominations for possible recipients still on file were reviewed, and nominators and schools were contacted about strong nominees. The committee selected three recipients from this pool for awards in education who were honored at the September Section meeting in September 2019: Distinguished Elementary School Science Teaching Award to Ms Betty Edwards, South Hill Elementary School in Mecklenburg County; Distinguished Middle School Science Teaching Award to Ms. Rebecca Slominski, Walker-Grant Middle School in Fredericksburg City; Franklin D. Kizer Distinguished High School Chemistry Teaching Award to Ms. Suzanne McIninch of New Kent High School in New Kent County.

Several tasks needing to be addressed were listed in the last report. It was suggested that nominations be made for awards for past recipients at the Regional and National levels. Necessary documents for Martha Mikell, last year's High School Award recipient, were submitted to SERMACS for the Regional ACS Award for High School Teaching. No information has been received by the VA Section Awards Committee about the outcome. Since this has now been done for the first time, it should be easier to continue to submit Section recipients for regional and national awards. Other tasks include revision of Section nomination forms, which has now been done by the Awards Committee and is now ready to put on the website; contact with as many schools as possible in the Virginia Section for a new set of nominations for 2020, including teachers not yet selected who may be worthy. A letter from the Awards Committee was included with all science safety books which were distributed to schools in the Virginia Section informing principals about a new nomination form being made and requesting new nominations for worthy teachers when that is completed. To date, only one contact has been received for two teachers. The Chair plans to contact nominators as is possible to collect new nomination forms for past nominees that are still active teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

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Committee Members