

**Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 13, 2014**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees: Mary Jo Boldingh, Paul Brandt, Irene Cesa, Richard Cornell, Dave Crumrine, Ken Fivizzani, Herb Golinkin, Frank Jarzembowski, Russ Johnson, Mark Kaiser (phone), Mike Koehler, Josh Kurutz, Margy Levenberg (phone), Milt Levenberg (phone), Avrom Litin, Inessa Miller (phone), Peggy Schott, Anthony Touissant

Guests: Alyssa Avestro (phone), Beau Wangtrakuldee (phone), Gail Wilkening

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm. Following corrections for accuracy the February meeting minutes were unanimously approved following a motion and seconding.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**Chair's Report**

**Josh Kurutz**

Tonight's agenda has been slightly revised to accommodate Mark Kaiser's report. For the upcoming Section Dinner Meeting, which will feature chemistry and the law, there is still some work to do on publicity.

Josh was contacted by a school in Palatine about having a Section member come out to a PTA meeting, and he has now contacted the relevant committee chairs.

At the upcoming Dallas ACS National Meeting, Josh is planning to participate in a meeting about an ACS network, in order to assist in steering it in the right direction.

**Past Chair's Report**

**Mike Koehler**

No report

**Vice Chair's Report**

**Ken Fivizzani**

No report

**Chair-Elect's Report**

**Inessa Gorelik-Miller**

No report

**Secretary's Report**

**Peggy Schott**

No report

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES**

**Annual Report**

**Mike Koehler**

The complete annual report, including the Section's financial report, has been submitted to the ACS, Washington, DC Office for review. Thanks to Gail, Herb, and Ken for their assistance in completing the entries and review of the report. Thanks to all the committee chairs for their input in the report. This completes the Annual Report requirements for 2013.

## **Long Range Planning**

**Susan Shih**

Mike Koehler gave this report: In Conjunction with our Section Chair, the Long Range Planning Committee co-chairs reviewed and established our objective for the committee. The last Long Range Plan was revised in 2009. We are in the process of soliciting input from the existing committees regarding the “Long Range Plan” for the Section. We appreciate the input already received from several Committees in 2013. The committee will spend most of 2014 soliciting further input, reviewing the Section’s mission and goals, and documenting a 5-years plan, *2020 Vision for the Chicago Section, Long Range Plan 2015-2020*.

## **Bylaws**

**Russ Johnson**

No report

## **Policy**

**Ken Fivizzani**

Ken reported on two matters currently in process:

(i) *Election of new Gibbs jurors* – More juror candidates are needed for the list; four new jurors need to be elected. Ken had recently e-mailed to Gail Wilkening, Josh Kurutz and Peggy Schott the list of Gibbs jurors for 2013–2014, the ‘working’ list of juror candidates, and biographical information for Charles Lieber, whom Ken recently added to the list of candidates. Ken reviewed the list of possible jurors, and Josh asked if we should take a few minutes to surface new names. Josh noted that the current active jury is 50:50 gender-wise; however, of the three whose terms are ending, three are women. Names suggested by Josh included Francis Arnold and David Tirrell (both at Caltech), George Whitesides (Harvard), and Samuel Gellman and Ronald Raines (both at University of Wisconsin). Peggy Schott suggested Jack Kruper (Dow Chemical); Frank Jarzembowski suggested Bassam Shakashiri (University of Wisconsin); Mike Koehler suggested Joe Francisco (Purdue) and Ann Nally (Cameron University); and Paul Brandt suggested Scott Denmark, John Katzenellenbogen and Jeffrey Moore (all at UIUC). Josh suggested that we make some decisions at the next board meeting.

Ken reminded board members to send him names along with the person’s field of chemistry and biographical information. Josh raised the question – What happens when a chemist’s area of expertise is hard to define (e.g., George Whitesides). Josh also mentioned that he added a “Local Section” column onto Ken’s chart of juror candidates.

Ken asked if there was an updated electronic version of the bios of the Gibbs juror candidates, as this list ought to be distributed to the board by March or April in preparation for electing new jurors at the May board meeting. Gail said she has a master list of bios from 2011, 2012 etc.

(ii) *Chemical Bulletin Editor* – Ken stated that he would like to nominate Cherlyn Bradley for another year as editor, but as she was not at the meeting that idea was postponed.

## **National Affairs**

**Mike Koehler**

The councilors will be attending the National Meeting in Dallas, TX this week as representatives of the Chicago Section.

The Long Term Planning Committee would like to submit a candidate for one of the two director positions opening in the 2016, District V Director or At-Large Director. “Request for Suggestions” are due by May 13, 2014.

## **Nominations**

**Josh Kurutz**

Mike Koehler suggested that, since Joy Walker has backed out of the Director position, we need to fill the vacancy in accordance with the Bylaws. Josh suggested going to the next person on the list, namely Andrea Twiss-Brooks, until the next annual election takes place. Russ moved that Andrea be asked to fill the open Director position, and the motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

**Office Affairs****Susan Shih**

No report

**FINANCE PANEL****Treasurer's Report****Mark Kaiser**

For the month of February:

Deposits: \$20,150

This was a \$20,000 investment transfer, \$100 donation, and \$50 snack money.

Checks: \$4,899.04

Expenses were rent, salary, hospitality, Chemical Bulletin Production, dinner meeting deposit, etc.

Bank balance at 2-28-2014 \$19,783.97**Development****Inessa Gorelik-Miller**

Josh Kurutz reported that he and Inessa have been working on sponsorship. He recalled that in last month's Development Committee report, three companies had been contacted but none had offered to provide funds to the Section. BP Amoco is interested in a poster but not in contributing funds. Just recently, ExxonMobil came through with \$1,000! The committee is hoping to build on this success.

**Budget Director****Fran Kravitz**

Each month, the Monthly and Annual Budget Check-Ups reflect the section's financial activities as of the end of the previous month to correct for the anomalies we have seen in the QuickBooks program. The February Budget Check-Up is being presented to the Board as of 3/5/14. We have requested and received an investment transfer from the trustees of \$20,000 to start out the year. The monthly budget check-up indicates only two expense accounts are over budget: Chemical Bulletin Production and Dinner Meetings. The Dinner Meeting expenses were discussed last month. The Chemical Bulletin Production expenses reflect the extra cost of an 8-page issue instead of a 7-page issue. The Chemical Bulletin Production expenses were not offset by the Chemical Bulletin Advertising.

As always, we still need to be very careful in controlling our expenses with the current economy. Therefore, please remember to reduce spending whenever possible and look for additional sources of funding when putting together a program or activity for your committee. Please contact me if there are any questions about the 2014 February Budget Check-Up.

**Comptroller****Herb Golinkin & Barb Moriarty**

Herb Golikin reported that the financial component of the Annual Report went in to the national office on time. The consolidated financial statement for 2013 (ending December 31, 2013) was handed out to the board, and Herb went through each page briefly. The net income for 2013 was over \$12,000. We cannot touch certain funds as these are dedicated for special purposes by virtue of the solicitation and wishes of the donors. Mike Koehler noted that, thanks to the work of the Trustees, the Section's funds have increased nicely.

**Publications Business Manager****Frank Jarzembowski***April 2014 issue ad insertions:*

Mass Vac — ...2 columns (2/3 page) — "Meet the Protectors"

Micron — Business card size

**Section Trustees****Ken Fivizzani, Mark Kaiser  
& Milt Levenberg**

Ken reported that the value of the Section's portfolio had gone down between April and December in 2013. In the past month, the value at the end of January was \$1.162M and at the end of February was \$1.171M (a difference of ~\$8K). The Trustees recently transferred \$20,000 to the Section. Gross income from investments was 29.86%, which is better than at any time in the past. Herb reminded the board that according to the IRS, no more than one-third of the Section's income can be from investments. Ken Fivizzani gave an example of another kind of income, namely 'gifts in kind'. An example would be the cost of driving to the State Fair, which should be recorded and reported to the Section office.

**GOAL 1 — BE THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND INDISPENSABLE PROVIDER OF CHEMISTRY-RELATED INFORMATION.****Gibbs Arrangements****Margy Levenberg**

Margy reported that the Gibbs Arrangements Committee has signed a contract and finalized the menu at Meridian Banquets in Rolling Meadows for the Friday, May 16 Gibbs Award Dinner. Invitations will be sent by Gail to Section guests in the next few days.

**GLRM Representative****Susan Shih**

No report

**Hospitality****Richard Cornell**

No report

**House****Frank Jarzembowski**

No report – see Program Committee for related information.

**Pre-Dinner Meeting****Ken Fivizzani**

No report

**Program****Frank Jarzembowski & Tim Marin**

Frank reported that the theme of the next Section dinner meeting will be employment. Milt requested that the event details be sent to him for the website.

**Stieglitz Lecture****Josh Kurutz**

No report

**GOAL 2 — EMPOWER AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF MEMBERS WITH NETWORKS, OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES, AND SKILLS TO THRIVE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY.****Employment****Anthony Toussaint**

We have a new chair of this committee, Anthony (Tony) Toussaint! Tony stated that he plans to host an employment group at the April dinner meeting.

Avrom Litin asked if there is another networking event planned. Josh replied that the Younger Chemists Committee are planning to hold a networking event, as is the Senior Chemists Committee.

## **Membership Affairs**

**Inessa Gorelik-Miller**

Inessa made a suggestion that Kristen Browne be invited to the March dinner meeting. Kristin recently was recognized as a Northwestern University Presidential Fellow, and she is interested in the area of policy. Another suggestion would be to invite a student from the Wilbur Wright College ACS Chapter, which was honored recently with an Outstanding Chapter Award by the national ACS office. Josh added that, along with a student leader of that chapter, a faculty advisor might also be extended an invitation.

Inessa made a motion to increase the Membership Affairs budget by \$100, giving the committee a total of \$200 to work with. Herb Golinkin said that, technically, a written request along with a rationale for proposed use of the funds should be submitted to the Budget Director in order to formalize things. Mike Koehler suggested that Inessa could start initiatives with her Chair-Elect position.

## **Minority Affairs**

**Charles Cannon**

No report

## **Professional Relations**

**Barbara Moriarty & Russ Johnson**

No report

## **Senior Chemists**

**Claude Lucchesi**

Claude Lucchese sent this report: The Chicago Section Senior Chemists Committee (SCC) is developing a luncheon meeting at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago in May 2014 with a speaker from the Museum. The intended speaker will be the author of **GoReact**, an app used for an interactive periodic table developed at MSI. Attendees will be encouraged to bring their iPads and other compatible devices to enabling them to install **GoReact**, learn how to use it, and take it home so they can use the program to teach chemistry wherever they wish.

Regarding the Dallas ACS Meeting, I hope that you can sign me up to participate with the Speed Networking event on Monday afternoon. You may know that I will be participating with the International Activities Groups on Sunday afternoon to welcome 16 Italian chemists to ACS. I hope to engage in Italian conversation with the Italians. I also expect to be at the SCC reception in the International Lounge on Tuesday at 2:00 to 4:00PM.

## **Women Chemists**

**Margy Levenberg & Teri Collins**

No report

## **Younger Chemists**

**Alyssa Avestro & Beau Wangtrakuldee**

The focus of this month has been re-organizing YCC operations, drawing up a list of upcoming events for the year and coordinating the first YCC event of the year, "Beers with Peers."

### Re-Organizing YCC

The Co-Chairs meet via Skype on a weekly basis (30 min – 1 h) to update each other on progress. We finally gained administrative rights to the YCC Facebook page which will be managed primarily by Beau. We are still waiting for access to the old YCC listserv. In the mean time, we have organized our current contact list on Google Drive. We have also set up a Gmail account specifically for contacting the YCC community ([ChicagoACSYCC@gmail.com](mailto:ChicagoACSYCC@gmail.com)) whose use we hope will take off and become the new habit. Our intention is to pass on this email account to the future YCC Chair(s). Beau and Alyssa still use their personal email addresses for Chicago ACS business.

We are seeking commitment from Team Leaders at as many Chicago institutions as possible to help organize and advertise future YCC events. We acquired connections from IIT, Chicago State University, Loyola and Lewis University. Alyssa is working on securing team leaders from DePaul and the University of Chicago. A list of tentative upcoming events was distributed at the last BOD meeting in February.

#### “Beers with Peers” Networking Event

Alyssa has secured the event date for April 4, 2014 from 5–9 PM at HOWL AT THE MOON piano bar in downtown Chicago. The Co-Chairs have drawn up event flyers and distributed them by email to our active YCC contacts and at the NIU and NU campuses. Attendees can RSVP via Eventbrite or by emailing the YCC Co-Chairs. As of March 7, forty (40) people had RSVP’d on Eventbrite. We anticipate that 15–20 more will attend. Beau is organizing transportation for NIU students.

#### Fundraising

If 50 people attend the “Beers with Peers” event, HOWL AT THE MOON will donate \$50 to YCC. Details are given on the event flyer. We will also hold a 50/50 raffle (\$2 per ticket or \$5 for 3) at the “Beers with Peers” event to raise money for future YCC events. We plan to do some kind of fundraising at every event this year. Beau will provide raffle tickets and name-tag materials for the event. We hope to get reimbursed through 2013 rollover YCC funds, if any.

#### Miscellaneous

- Alyssa started working on an informational pamphlet to be distributed at YCC and Chicago ACS events. A draft will be presented at the BOD meeting for approval.
- Alyssa (3/18–21) and Beau (3/12–20) will both be attending the 247th ACS Meeting in Dallas, TX and plan to meet with other YCC members as well as meet up specifically with prospective YCC members from the Chicago area.
- The next YCC on the agenda is a Careers in Chemistry informational / mock interview day tentatively scheduled for May 24, 2014. Gail Wilkening noted that the committee has \$100 to start with.
- Alyssa said that the committee is seeking feedback from the Section about plans and events.
- Board members should feel free to invite persons over 35 years of age as they can serve as mentors.
- Beau may connect in the future with the local Chemical Engineers organization and with the Society of Cosmetic Chemists.

### **GOAL 3 — FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE, RELEVANT, AND EFFECTIVE CHEMISTRY EDUCATION IN THE WORLD.**

#### **Chicago School Board Liaison**

**Carmen Marquez**

Avrom Litin and Gail Wilkening have volunteered to serve as judges on Friday, March 21 for the Chicago Public Schools Science Fair event at the Museum of Science and Industry.

#### **Primary School Education**

**Fran Kravitz**

No report

#### **High School Education**

**Mike Dupuis & Russ Kohnken**

March is the month for the National Chemistry Olympiad. Russ reported that 79 students and 35 teachers are involved this year in our area. Currently there is a tie between the 2nd and 3rd place winners for one school and so a teacher will be asked to conduct a tie-breaker so that the 2nd one can be chosen for that school.

**Project SEED****Kathleen Mortell**

Kathy Mortell sent in this report: High school teachers received the student applications by email in February, with a deadline of April 4th for the three spots in the 2014 program. Several good candidates have expressed interest in applying. Approval notification of funding for the three mentors is expected from the National ACS by April 11th. Applications for the 2014 college scholarship for the two 2013 students who are eligible were submitted on March 8th. Scholarship winners will be announced May 12th.

**College Education****Tom Higgins**

No report

**Continuing Education****Teri Collins**

No report

**GOAL 4 — COMMUNICATE CHEMISTRY'S VITAL ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES TO THE PUBLIC AND POLICY MAKERS.****AWARDS****Awards**

Josh stated that someone is interested in chairing the Awards Committee, and that he will be in conversation with that person.

**Distinguished Service Award****Susan Shih**

No report

**Willard Gibbs Medal****Josh Kurutz**

Josh stated that the event just needs to be put up on Eventbrite.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH****Community Activities****Irene Cesa, Avrom Litin**

Irene participated along with Josh Kurutz, Avrom Litin and Mark Cesa at the DuPage Area Engineers Week event. Attendance was around 1,500 which made for a busy but fun day.

Looking to the future, Irene asked if Josh and Avrom could contact the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) to ask if National Chemistry Week could be held there this year, either on the first or last Saturday of that week which runs from October 19–25. This year's theme is "The Sweet Side of Chemistry – Candy". Josh responded with an enthusiastic 'Yes' and asked for a proposal from Irene; she agreed to send all the details and to consider sweetening the pot by asking MSI what we could offer to them. As for parking at the museum, it may be best to use public transportation.

Avrom mentioned some upcoming national events: Lee Marek's "Weird Science" presentation at Pittcon 2014, and the Argonne OutLoud Free Public Lecture called "Energy Slam" (April 3).

**Editor, Chemical Bulletin****Cherlyn Bradley**

Items for the April issue include some information on the dinner meeting, volunteers needed for the State Fair Science Tent, information on the Gibbs Award dinner in May, and historical Chemical Bulletin articles by Bernard Schaar, Managing Editor of the Bulletin in 1924 and by D.K. French, Chair of the section's Endowment Committee in 1924. Deadline for submitting items for the May issue is March 28.

**Environmental and Lab Safety****Ken Fivizzani**

No report

**Public Affairs****Jim Shoffner & Barb Moriarty**

No report

**Public Relations / New Technology****Russ Johnson**

Russ Johnson reported that the committee met on March 3 and ran a demo of the Section's new draft website. The committee is still working on some of the technical details.

**State Fair****Cherlyn Bradley**

The planning committee held a conference call March 1 at which we began discussing activities for this summer's tent project to be held August 8-17 in Springfield.

The two key issues continue to be getting more volunteers to help in the tent and securing funds. Lisa Wojnovich plans to help solicit funding through online applications for possible grant money.

The date of the next conference call meeting has not been set but will be in May. If you would like to help with the planning, let me know. If you would like to help in the tent in August, the online volunteer scheduler for the State Fair activity will be up and running shortly.

**Webmaster****Milt Levenberg, Josh Kurutz  
& Katie Leach**

Milt reported that he has created the Gibbs meeting page and added the February and March ChemShorts to our "old" website. Josh has essentially taken over the front page, and he has updated it to announce the March meeting. Milt expects that Josh will provide a detailed report to the Board of our progress on the "new" website hosted on StarChapter. Milt asked whether Josh has been able to put the arrangements for the Gibbs event on the website.

**Old Business****New Business**

- Peggy Schott announced that the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern University will host an alumni reunion the weekend of October 10–12, 2014. All former students, staff and faculty are welcome to attend. Registration is free at: <http://www.chemistry.northwestern.edu/alumni/2014Reunion.html> The reunion dates incorporate the Friday evening Basolo Lecture. Irene suggested the possibility of tying the reunion in with National Chemistry Week.

- Paul Brandt announced that North Central College in Naperville is hosting a "You Be the Chemist" Challenge<sup>®</sup> for 5th – 8th graders. The challenge is an initiative of the Illinois Chemical Education Foundation and consists of taking a regional exam; the winners then move on to the state competition.

The next board meeting is set for Thursday April 10, 2014.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Schott

