

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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Contents

Looking Back on 2012	1
Midland Section to Host the 44 th ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM) in 2013	1
Councilor Corner: An update from the 244 th ACS National Meeting	2
2012 Directors-at-Large Election - Different Candidates, Different Numbers, Same Result	4
Midland Section ACS Historical Exhibit Coming in 2013	5
Douglas Beyer Wins 2012 TAOC Award	5
In Past Issues of <i>The Midland Chemist</i>	6
Upcoming Dates, Events, and Updates	6

Looking Back on 2012

Gina Malczewski, Chair

I entered office in January with these goals:

- Updated and current website information, including the Google calendar
- Completion of the Handbook revision
- Membership up 5%
- Volunteerism up 10%

We are finishing the year up 79 members by my count, which is over a 10% increase—and this without a Membership Chair, which we still need for 2013. It appears we involved seven new outreach volunteers, and acquired new volunteers as officers and board members, so we have also met that goal. We have preliminarily approved 17 Handbook sections, with seven or so more to go, so we have made great progress in that area, too. The website still needs updating, but we now have a new webmaster, Greg Cushing, and are aligning our directors more formally with committees to try to accomplish this. We also made big decisions regarding the future of *The Midland Chemist*.

We are still looking for publicity help, and chairs for Awards and Science Olympiad committees are also needed. Please consider volunteering!

I hope you continue your interest and involvement in ACS in 2013; thanks to all who made our accomplishments possible. Please contact your new chair with questions or suggestions. I am also still here to help as past chair.

Happy Holidays!

Midland Section to Host the 44th ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM) in 2013

Phil Squatrito, Meeting Chair

The Midland Section will host the 44th ACS Central Regional Meeting, May 15-17, 2013, on the campus of Central Michigan University. The general theme of the meeting is *Building Blocks for a Sustainable Future*.

Technical sessions on various aspects of chemistry related to sustainability as well as general sessions in the traditional areas of chemistry and chemical education are planned.

A series of plenary sessions will feature prominent speakers on topics of global significance. Confirmed plenary speakers include Dr. Martine Vermeulen, retired Global Manager of Product Safety & Regulatory Compliance at Dow Corning, and Dr. Kishor Wasan, Professor and Associate Dean of Research at the University of British Columbia. There will also be a special symposium sponsored by Dow Corning celebrating the 150th anniversary of the discovery of organosilicon compounds. Featured events of the meeting include a vendor exposition, a combined exhibition of paintings & photographs related to the history of the chemical industry in mid-Michigan, and the Central Region awards banquet, featuring remarks by Dr. Mary Kirchoff, ACS Director of Education.

Registration and abstract submission are now open! Visit our web page for links (<http://2013cerm.sites.acs.org/>). All Midland Section members are invited to submit abstracts and attend the meeting. Volunteers to help with planning/hosting the meeting are still welcome as well. Please contact Phil Squatrito (p.squatrito@cmich.edu or 989-774-4407) to volunteer, or for more information.

Councilor Corner: An update from the 244th ACS National Meeting

Wendy Flory, Councilor

Downtown Philadelphia was the setting for the Fall 2012 ACS National Meeting which took place in late August. The theme for this meeting was *Materials for Health and Medicine*. This East Coast meeting drew a total of 13,251 attendees, 8,157 papers, and an exposition with 280 companies. For those interested, the breakdown in attendance was:

- 7773 full paying attendees
- 3159 students
- 1249 exhibitors
- 733 exhibition only
- 337 guests

The following are highlights that may be of interest to the Local Section.

ACS ChemLuminary Results

The Midland Section was nominated for the Outstanding Kids and Chemistry Award for the stellar program by our Local Section volunteers throughout 2011. This group presented demos and hosted events at a rate of one per week! This was a fantastic effort, however it wasn't enough to bring home the award. This hasn't diminished the local efforts. The same group has kept up this amazing pace into 2012 and will hopefully be recognized for the 2013 ChemLuminaries. Good luck for future awards, team!

2012 Fall ACS National Elections

The fall meeting means that it is election season. Running for election:

- The president-elect candidates are Dr. Thomas Barton (Iowa State Univ.), and Dr. Luis Echegoyen, (Univ. of Texas at El Paso).
- Candidates for directors-at-large are C.A. Duane (D&D Consultants of Mentor); V.J. Kuck (Lucent Technologies); B.Z. Lawlor (NFAIS); and I. Montes (Univ. of Puerto Rico).
- Candidates for District I director are T.R. Gilbert (Northeastern Univ.) and N. D. Jespersen (St. John's Univ.).

- Candidates for District V director are J.E. Adams (Univ. of Missouri) and P.K. Dorhout (Kansas State Univ.).

Nominations and Elections

The following were elected by the Council to serve starting in 2013:

- Committee on Committees: G. Bryan Balazs, Dawn A. Brooks, Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, Ingrid Montes, Spiro D. Alexandratos, and Judith Currano.
- Council Policy Committee: Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Lee H. Latimer, and Carolyn Ribes.
- Committee on Nominations and Elections: Cherlynlavaughn Bradley, Milagros Delgado, Carol B. Libby, Les W. McQuire, and Donovan R. Porterfield.

Petitions Up for Vote

- Petition on Candidate Comment in C&EN and the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds--This petition to restrict candidates for election to the board of directors from publishing comments in C&EN, from May through the election, was TURNED DOWN by the Council.
- Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds--This petition clarifying the point that the board of directors could grant funds to international chapters for specific purposes was TURNED DOWN by the Council (64% to 36%).

Petition Up for Consideration

An amendment was up for consideration: Petition to Amend National Election Procedures. This petition would shorten the campaign period for candidates for president-elect and charge the Nominations and Elections (N&E) with proposing two candidates. Currently, four are proposed by N&E, and the Council selects two of the four to run. This will be up for vote at the council meeting in Spring 2013.

Addition of a New Committee

The vote was overwhelming to formally establish a Joint Board-Council Committee on Senior Chemists. Their mission is to enrich the educational, technical, and cultural lives of the ACS Membership by ministering to and employing the talents of senior ACS members. While the minimum age is 50 years, the committee is aimed at those members over 60 years of age. Many chuckled because the gap from Younger Chemists Committee to Senior Chemists Committee is only 15 years.

Realignment of Electoral Districts

The Council approved (58% to 42%) the redistricting to shift two local sections in District II (Hampton Roads and Western Maryland) to District III. (The local sections supported the shift.) During the discussion, councilors asked the Committee on Nominations and Elections to conduct a comprehensive review of the optimal alignment of local sections within districts.

Special Topic

ACS President Bassam Shakhashiri presented and moderated a discussion on *“What major efforts should ACS pursue to help alleviate water and other global challenges?”* Members of the ACS feel a responsibility as scientists and citizens to help address global challenges facing society in the 21st Century to help sustain Earth and its people. These challenges include increasing population growth, limited natural resources, malnutrition, disease, climate change, violence and war, and the denial of basic human rights, including the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. This discussion focused primarily on the crisis of available water suitable for drinking, agriculture and industry. Following the presentation, more than thirty councilors engaged in a discussion of these and other global challenges, and offered numerous suggestions. Councilors are invited

to continue discussion of this topic within the ACS Network Councilor Group at <https://communities.acs.org/message/11677>.

Actions of the Board of Directors

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve Society nominations for the Perkin Medal and the National Science Board Public Service Award.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), the Board voted to approve an advance member registration fee of \$370 for national meetings held in 2013.
- The Board of Directors considered two other recommendations from the Committee on Budget and Finance and voted that an in-depth review of the expectations for the financial goals for National Meetings be performed, and that a financial plan for the long-term viability of the *ACS Presentations on Demand* program be developed and shared with B&F at its 2013 spring meeting.

Other Tidbits:

The Board held a well-attended open session which featured a special forum titled “*What are the ‘real world’ ethics issues faced by students and practitioners of chemistry?*” Members attending this standing-room-only session offered personal observations about ethical issues they have observed, or been challenged by, and possible options to address them.

- In order to increase the available time for abstract submission for the ACS National Meetings, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions will be studying the feasibility of eliminating the print version on-site program books with a target of the 2013 fall national meeting in Indianapolis.
- The 10th anniversary of Chemists Celebrate Earth Day will be celebrated in 2013. All local sections are encouraged to participate.
- Interesting website on climate science sponsored by ACS: www.acs.org/climatescience.

2012 Directors-at-Large Election - Different Candidates, Different Numbers, Same Result

Wendell L. Dilling, Director and Historian

In the 2012 ACS election for directors-at-large, four candidates ran for two positions (*Chem. Eng. News*, Nov. 26, 2012, p 7). Directors-at-large are selected by councilors with each councilor having two votes. The vote tallies were as follows:

Ingrid Montes	225	58.7%
Valerie J. Kuck	183	47.8%
Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor	150	39.2%
Carol A. Duane	143	37.3%

The number of councilors voting was 383. Some (65) voters obviously voted for only one candidate. The numbers shown following the vote tallies are the percentages of voters who voted for that candidate. According to the current bylaw, the two candidates (Montes and Kuck) who received the most votes were elected (plurality). Only Montes was elected by a majority (>50%) of the voters. Kuck was not favored by a majority of the voters.

Similar situations occurred in the 2009 and 2011 elections for directors-at-large where one of the candidates was elected by less than 50% of the voters [*Chem. Eng. News*, Mar. 15, 2010, p 5-6; Nov. 28, 2011, p. 9 (379 voters)]. If one believes in election by majorities then, as stated previously, ACS election procedures should be

changed. A method (multiple instant run-off) was proposed to carry out elections in which two or more candidates are elected with each being elected by a majority of the voters.

Because this situation of candidates being elected with less than majority support by the voters has occurred three times in the past four years, it is time for the ACS to amend its bylaw to prevent such occurrences. Institution of a multiple instant run-off procedure for all elections where more than one candidate is elected would make all ACS elections at the national level require majority support for election. Elections for president-elect, district directors, and directors-at-large would all operate under the instant run-off method.

The 2012 Midland Section election for directors had a similar outcome as the National directors-at-large election described above. Three directors were elected from six candidates. Each voter (Midland Section members) had three votes. The three director candidates who were elected received votes from 75.7%, 70.4%, and 47.0% of the voters. Thus, as in the directors-at-large election above, one of the elected candidates was selected by a minority of the voters. Again a change in voting procedure is in order.

Midland Section ACS Historical Exhibit Coming in 2013

The Midland Section ACS will have an exhibit of Section historical materials on display in the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University for several months in the first half of 2013. This exhibit will also be featured at the 44th ACS Central Regional Meeting being held at CMU on May 15-17, 2013. If any Local Section members have suggestions of special historical items that they feel should be part of this exhibit, please inform the Section historian, Wendell Dilling, at dilli1wl@cmich.edu or 989-631-1621. The entire Midland Section ACS historical archives are too large to exhibit all of it.

MMTG Participates in 2012 Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Program

Jeff Seifferly, 2012 MMTG Chair

The Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program matches families in need with individual and/or corporate sponsors who adopt them for the holidays. New clothes, toys and even a wonderful Christmas dinner are provided to those who otherwise wouldn't be able to celebrate due to the hardships of their financial situations. MMTG has participated in this program for many years, occasionally collecting enough in donations to adopt a second family. This year's MMTG Adopt-A-Family chairperson is Michelle Rivard and she would be pleased to welcome your participation. You can email her at michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com if you would like to contribute or volunteer your time.

Douglas Beyer Wins 2012 TAOC Award

Bob Howell, Councilor

Douglas E. Beyer of The Dow Chemical Company is the 2012 recipient of the Technical Achievements in Organic Chemistry Award sponsored by the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry. The award, recognizing outstanding contributions to industrial research by non-Ph.D. scientists, was presented to Doug at the 244th ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia. Doug's award address was entitled, *Monomer Distribution and Depletion in Vinylidene Chloride Copolymerization*. Doug is a longtime employee of The Dow Chemical Company and has made contributions in several areas, most notably in the area of Saran barrier plastic packaging. He now leads the Saran group. He is the author of over 150 Dow technical reports, 9 external publications, and 17 patents.

Doug received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Michigan State University and his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin. He has long been a member of the ACS and served as the Midland Section ACS treasurer from 2001 to 2004.

In Past Issues of *The Midland Chemist*

Wendell Dilling, Director and Historian

40 Years Ago This Month

In *December Seminar*, “*Transition Metal Ion Complexes of 2-Substituted Pyridine N-Oxides and Some Observations on Na₂Fe(CN)₅NO*,” “Dr. Douglas X. West, Monday - December 11 - 4:45 p.m. – Dow 566 Bldg. Library Auditorium, ABSTRACT, Transition metal ion complexes which have pyridine N-oxide ligands were first prepared about twenty years ago. However, only recently has much interest been shown in these compounds. Dr. West’s interests have centered on metal ion complexes which involve 2-substituted pyridine N-oxides.”

30 Years Ago This Month

In *Summary Report of 14th CRM* by Wendell L. Dilling, General Chairman: “The 14th Central Regional Meeting is now history. Our feedback indicated it was very successful thanks to the dedicated efforts of the committee chairpersons and numerous other Midland Section people. The idea of the Midland Section’s sponsoring a Central Regional Meeting originated in 1973 when I proposed on October 15 to the Board of Directors that we host such a meeting. The Board, Chaired by Donald R. Petersen, unanimously approved the proposal.”

20 Years Ago This Month

In *Notes from the FSM Registration Committee* by Sandra Stolz-Dunn: “The 1992 Fall Scientific Meeting was held on November 7, 1992 at Delta College. Approximately 500 people attended the meeting (compared with 660 last year). A meeting survey was placed in the center of the program book and 83 people responded. The results indicated that 60% of the people thought future meetings should be held at Delta College, 25% at Dow High School (where previous meetings have been held), and 15% at other locations or alternate between Dow High and Delta. The survey response indicated that Delta had better parking and more space than Dow High School. Also, chairs were seen as being better suited for the keynote address than the bleachers used in the past. There was also a favorable response to the fact that the Fall Scientific Meeting has broadened its focus to include area educators and students. The majority of the survey respondents also indicated that the Fall Scientific meeting had met their expectations and they will attend future meetings.”

10 Years Ago This Month

In *Section Initiates Scholarship Fund Drive* by Lin Dorman: “In keeping with the mission of the American Chemical Society ‘to encourage in the broadest and most liberal manner the advancement of the chemical enterprise and its practitioners,’ the Midland Section has endowed a scholarship fund to provide financial support to college students seeking academic degrees in the chemical sciences at colleges and universities in the Section’s area. Since educational costs have risen faster than inflation, there is a constant need for monetary reinforcement to support academic pursuits. This endowed scholarship fund will help address that need.”

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Updates

- January 7 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#
- January 19 – Kids’ Day at the Midland Mall. To volunteer or for more information, contact Gina Malczewski at gina.malczewski@dowcorning.com

- May 15-17 (Wednesday-Friday) – 44th ACS Central Regional Meeting (CERM) (<http://2013cerm.sites.acs.org/>), Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI. For more information, contact the 44th CERM Meeting Chair, Phil Squatrito, at p.squatrito@cmich.edu or by phone at 989-774-4407.