

## Montana Section ACS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 14, 2018 | Chico Hot Springs

Present: Tyler Smith (Chair), Steve Rowley (Chair-Elect), Robert Szilagyi (Treasurer), Nick Natale (Alternate Counselor), David Hitt (Webmaster via Webex), Casey Massena (Secretary), John Hartman (future Councilor), Seth Pattee (future Treasurer), and Matt Queen (Future Chair-Elect).

1. Chemistry safety.

Tyler wanted to spend a few minutes sharing stories about encouraging lab safety. John told a story in which his students were using crucibles. He made sure to warn them: "Caution. Hot metal looks just like cold metal."

2. The Executive Committee meeting minutes from May 2018 via Webex were approved.

3. Treasurer's report by Robert Szilagyi (see data provided by Robert for details).

Summary: 2017 overall was neutral in terms of spending and deposits. The 2017 checking account closed with \$ 7879 and the savings account \$ 36,975. The spending for 2017 was \$ 10,688 and the deposits amounted to \$ 10,428.

The year to date checking balance is \$ 5590 (due to expenditures amounting to \$ 13,700 and deposits \$ 10,416). The current savings account balance is \$ 37,072. The ACS dues for 2018 dropped from 2017.

Discussion: Robert addressed the point that investing in high-quality meetings may cut into spending but could also pay for themselves through member recruitment. John brought up that ACS grants (e.g. Innovative Project Grants) could offset meeting costs. Tyler reflected that expenditures associated with high-quality meetings and travel awards were impactful on the 2018 budget. Perhaps getting donors for future awards could save money.

4. Councilor's report relayed by Tyler (Janice could not attend).

Summary: Janice provided some key bullet points from the National ACS Meeting in Boston for Tyler to relay to the board. ACS membership in the US continues to drop, while international membership is increasing. Chemical safety continues to be a big national awareness concern. Lastly, sexual harassment was an important area of discussion at the national meeting.

5. Committee reports.

*Nominations and elections committee.* There are four positions up for election: Chair-Elect (2-year term, Matt Queen), Treasurer (2-year term, Seth Pattee), Councilor (3-year term, John Hartman), and Alternate Councilor (3-year term, Nick Natale). Further talk about changing the bylaws in 2019 to include a NORM Board representative, which Nick has been filling unofficially for a number of years, was brought up. This board member would receive travel support. This year, electronic

balloting will be established to save on mailing costs. To facilitate this transition, Casey will be sending out postcards to every Montana ACS member to alert them to the change. A free online platform will be utilized for the electronic election.

*Meeting planning.* The Spring Meeting will be held at Carroll College on Saturday, April 13, 2019 with perhaps an emphasis on undergraduate research. The call for abstracts should be elicited mid-March. The Fall Social was set for Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Fairmont Hot Springs.

*Member Outreach.* The Science Expo in Billings was identified as a good hub for outreach. Science fairs could also be targeted. Earth Week (spearheaded by John) and Chemistry Week (headed by Nick) have and will be utilized for outreach. John proposed a \$ 1500 line item for 2019 to purchase materials for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week. This proposal was approved by the committee. Casey addressed getting Montana ACS on social media, specifically on Facebook. John quickly talked about Project Seed, which reaches economically disadvantaged high-school students. These high-school students are mentored in summer research programs. John requested \$ 750 for a returning high-school student's stipend (Helena College will provide \$ 750, and ACS will provide \$ 1500). This line item was approved. Robert did raise the concern that these items will be taken from savings. The next MT NORM meeting may help to replenish the savings account (perhaps in 2025). John recommended that we be nominated for a Chem Luminary Award. John also requested some funds be available to help sign up students for ACS memberships. This was approved.