Council Committee on Meetings and Expositions

Report to Council

Madam President, Members of the Council, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) is happy to report that we accepted 6,684 papers for the 246th National Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. As of a few minutes ago, the total attendance for this meeting was, 10,717. The Exposition had 361 booths with 229 exhibiting companies.

 **[Registration Breakdown Slide on Screen]**

Per the National Meeting Long-Range Financial Plan, the Early Member Registration Fee for the 2014 national meetings will be $380.

The Board of Directors has established a Task Force on Financial Goals for National Meetings and Expositions. The mission is to review and recommend appropriate methodology for establishing the ACS national meeting registration fee on an annual basis. This group has met several times and is in the final stage of drafting their recommendations. We expect to submit these recommendations to the Board within the next 60 days.

We heard a report from staff regarding the Abstract System Replacement Project. A vendor has been chosen, contract negotiations have started, and an implementation & development plan has begun. The new system should be available for the spring 2015 National Meeting.

The Committee reviewed a request by a Division for a permanent exemption to the even programming rules. After a lengthy discussion the Committee voted to not consider requests for a permanent exemption.

We again looked at the reasoning behind a need to have WIFI access inside the technical session rooms. The cost of this feature is prohibitive and the Committee felt access to WIFI would cause a distraction to the technical content being delivered. The Committee voted not to implement WIFI access in meeting rooms at this time.

The Committee also discussed the issue of attendees inappropriately photographing and/or recording technical talks. We are taking additional steps to reinforce our policy that prohibits this.

Madam President, this concludes my report.