

C&B REPORT FOR ACS.ORG
Fall 2013, Indianapolis
Oral Report to Council (modified)

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Harmon B. Abrahamson, Chair
September 8, 2013, Indianapolis, IN

Madam President, members of Council, and guests. Since the beginning of this year, the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) certified **eight** sets of bylaws.

Since the spring meeting in New Orleans, C&B has submitted detailed bylaw reviews to **12 Local Sections, one Division, and one Region**. We thank these units for taking the initiative to update their bylaws. Note that Regions are not explicitly mentioned in the Society's governing documents. We agreed to review these bylaws in an advisory capacity.

Units that have received C&B's Preliminary Report of required and recommended bylaw changes have eighteen months to make the changes, have their members vote, and report results back to C&B to complete the certification process. C&B has recently sent a number of reminders to Local Sections and Divisions that are in jeopardy of having to start the process over.

There are 109 Local Sections that have not updated their bylaws since 2000, and 14 Divisions that have not updated their bylaws since 2007. These and other Divisions and Local Sections must still conduct their elections by U.S. mail because their bylaws are not up to date. C&B has a **bylaws status report** posted at www.acs.org/bulletin5, so that you (and everyone else!) can see which units have up-to-date bylaws and which ones are delinquent.

At this meeting, C&B discussed and approved a new optional process for expedited bylaw reviews that will be faster than C&B's current three-month turnaround, but this route offers limited customization. A set of questions must be answered by a unit that would like to take advantage of the expedited bylaw review. After C&B receives the responses, C&B will prepare a document that shows the new changes compared with the current bylaws. The unit must then submit the proposed bylaw changes to its members for **vote** in accordance with the current bylaws. The date of voting and the vote results must then be submitted to C&B, which will certify the bylaws on behalf of Council. We cannot offer expedited bylaw reviews for Divisions and Local Sections that are incorporated, because their bylaws must be in accord with their Articles of Incorporation, which requires detailed review.

Councilors, please inform your Local Section or Division officers that they should contact us at bylaws@acs.org for information on how to update bylaws.

New petitions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws **must** be received by the Executive Director **by November 27** to be included in the Council agenda **for consideration** at the spring 2014 meeting in Dallas. We encourage you to send your draft petition to C&B at least a month before the deadline, so that C&B can give initial input.

If you are a Councilor who has not yet committed to service on an ACS committee and would like to try C&B, to make an impact on the Society's governing documents and unit bylaws, please see me or send an email to bylaws@acs.org.

Madam President, this concludes my report.