**Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)**

**Report to Council**

**254th ACS National Meeting**

**Washington, DC**

**August 23, 2017**

Madam President, Members of the Council, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) wishes to report that 9,375 scientific contributions have been made to this National Meeting. As of August 21, total meeting attendance was 12,749. The Exposition had 421 booths and 282 exhibiting companies.

**[Show Registration Breakdown Slide]**

As part of M&E’s comprehensive sustainability plan, fewer print copies of the program book were produced for sale in Washington, DC. By August 21, 1,499 program books were sold, vs. 1,270 in Philadelphia, to nearly 13,000 attendees. The mobile app has been downloaded 8,376 times vs. 9,899 downloads in Philadelphia.

The Expositions Subcommittee identified key strategic initiatives that include identifying non-opposed Exposition hours, collaborative sponsorship opportunities across business units, attracting more buyers and decision makers, and retaining first-time exhibitors.

The Regional Meetings Subcommittee will host the 2018 Regional Meeting Planning Conference during the January 2018 Leadership Conference. ACS single sign-on will be deployed for all regional meetings and collaborative marketing initiatives will be established to reach a broader audience.

To further enhance National Meetings, M&E will hold a strategic

planning meeting and partner with DAC and YCC to discuss the following areas: overall meeting space and cost concerns; competitive analysis of the Exposition; increasing the functionality of the meeting mobile app;; and discussing the poor performance of Thursday technical programming. To this end, M&E voted to carry out an experiment by eliminating Thursday programming during the spring ACS Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in 2021.

After the San Francisco meeting, at the Board’s request, a task force was created to consider how to respond to the Texas bathroom bill. The group composed a Freedom to Meet Without Limitations position statement, indicating strong ACS opposition to such efforts to discriminate against transgender individuals, backed up by potential withdrawal of national meetings and conferences from Texas. With Board of Directors approval, the ACS President sent a letter to this effect to the Chairs and Councilors of Texas local sections, to provide them with guidance on issues of public access and accommodation regarding the ‘bathroom bill’ that was being debated in a Texas Special Session. Texas recently closed its Special Session without taking action on the proposed transgender bathroom access legislation. Though the Governor could still call another Special Session, all indications point towards him not doing so. If not, the Texas Legislature will not reconvene for two years.

The Early Member Registration Fee for 2018 national meetings

was approved for $475. In addition, M&E approved a $10 overall expo-only flat fee rate for Boston 2018 to encourage local attendance.

Madam President and members of council, this concludes my report.