Women Chemists Committee

Oral Report to Council

New Orleans, LA

March 21 2018

Mr. President and Fellow Members of Council:

The Women Chemists Committee, also known as WCC, celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2017. We have started 2018 with a new Chair, new Staff Liaison, and new Committee on Committees Liaison. The WCC is now implementing the recommendations from the 2017 strategic planning process, including the implementation of a new committee structure.

It was evident to many this year that awareness and prevention of sexual harassment is a topic of enormous importance to all women. WCC was pleased to partner with Chemical & Engineering News, or C&EN, to sponsor a full-day symposium entitled “Science of Sexual Harassment”. This symposium was an overwhelming success with attendees filling the room beyond capacity. WCC is grateful for the financial support from C&EN, the Committee on Minority Affairs, the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board, the Division on Professional Relations, and the Younger Chemists Committee. This symposium, was followed by a bystander intervention workshop presented by consultant Sherry Marts, titled, “No Means No: How to Stop Harassment”.

The WCC luncheon celebrated the numerous accomplishments of Valerie Kuck, recipient of the 2018 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal. In addition, Dr. Rebecca Ruck, recipient of the 2018 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, was honored during a half-day symposium.

In addition to new updates and changes, WCC is happy to continue the 29th year of the WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Award. Nine of the Spring 2018 winners shared their accomplishments at a poster session prior to the WCC luncheon.

The winners of the 7th annual WCC Rising Star award, which recognizes early to mid-career women with exceptional accomplishments in their fields, spoke at a half-day symposium and were honored at the WCC “Just Cocktails” networking reception and Open Meeting.

* Lastly, the WCC has been reaching out directly to members through events such as the Women Chemists of Color networking event and the Women in the Chemical Enterprise breakfast. Each of these events focused on helping women chemists to network with one another and to consider the career paths of successful women chemists.
* WCC is looking forward to a year filled with continued advocacy efforts in the areas of: sexual harassment prevention and awareness, lab safety for reproductive health, and the status of non-tenure tack faculty. I want to thank any of you who have nominated a woman for an ACS technical award and I want to encourage everyone to continue to nominate women for these prestigious awards.

Mr President and Fellow Members of Council, this concludes my report.