**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEETINGS AND EXPOSITIONS**

**New Orleans, LA**

The official attendance at the 255th ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA, totaled 16,726 (unaudited), this was record attendance for New Orleans. The Exposition had 370 booths with 231 exhibiting companies, including the career fair. More than 13,236scientific contributions were made in New Orleans, LA.

As part of M&E’s sustainability plan, a limited number of printed program books were available for sale.  1,050 program books were sold. The mobile app was downloaded 12,708 times, the highest download rate since its inception. The online planner was accessed 32,168 times.

In compliance with the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan, and the recommendation of the 2015 Task Force on Implementing National Meeting Financial Targets, M&E recommended that the Early Member Registration Fee for the 2019 national meetings be set at $505.

In Washington, DC the Expositions Subcommittee identified key strategic initiatives that were executed in New Orleans. These included a redesigned exhibit floor to allow for better traffic flow, less empty space, and better navigation. Additional enhancements included restyled expo theaters, which provide individual audio headsets to help mitigate ambient sound, one dedicated pavilion for the Career Fair, and additional networking lounges spaced throughout the floor.

The Regional Meetings Subcommittee hosted their Regional Meeting Planning Conference (RMPC) during the January 2018 Leadership Conference, which provided not only in-depth training for regional program chairs, but also allowed for their participation in the Leadership Conference. The RMPC will continue to be concurrent with the Leadership Conference moving forward.

M&E held its first strategic planning meeting in New Orleans, which included participation by members of the Divisional Activities and Younger Chemists Committees. Vision and mission statements, and goals and strategies were created for national and regional meetings. The committee will utilize some of these goals and strategies as they work towards the fall of 2021 in Atlanta with the experiment of eliminating Thursday programming, as announced in council last fall in Washington, DC.

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