**Council Committee on Meetings and Expositions**

**ACS 2019 Fall National Meeting & Exposition**

**San Diego, CA**

Madame President, Members of the Council, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) wishes to report that 9,594 scientific contributions have been made to the 2019 ACS Fall National Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, CA. As of August 26, the total attendance for this meeting was 12,409. The Exposition included 405 booths with 266 exhibiting companies, including the Career Navigator Live.

M&E continues to execute the strategy developed during our 2018 strategic planning session. We are working to enrich the attendee experience, including by concentrating the technical program in and near the convention center, enhancing poster sessions, and improving the exposition and other experiences for all attendees, while seeking ways to make the meeting more valuable to industrial attendees and members.

The Technical Programming subcommittee has proposed a method for setting later deadlines for fall meeting abstract submissions, after the spring meeting concludes, by enacting early room assignments for the fall 2020 meeting. Planning discussions are under way with divisions and program chairs for an experiment on this proposed new process.

By recommendation of the Technical Programming Subcommittee, M&E will conduct a one-day experiment at the 2021 Spring National Meeting in San Antonio, TX, to create a dedicated mid-day window for poster programming in the exhibit hall, to prepare for the broader experiment in Atlanta in fall 2021.

M&E is continuing to utilize alternative meeting room sets. In close partnership with the Agrochemicals (or AGRO) Division, five theaters were utilized for all AGRO technical programming in one ballroom at the Convention Center. They held their poster session event in the same room.

The Exposition and Industry subcommittee continues to address the M&E strategic goal of increasing industrial participation in the Exposition. Two show floor Expo Theaters and the Industry Networking Lounge hosted over 15 industry-focused programs including an Entrepreneur Pitch Competition, featuring eight teams of start-up companies during the two-day exhibit.

**The M&E Subcommittee on Regional Meetings hosted a roundtable breakfast on Tuesday, August 27.  This session allowed regional organizers and leadership to share best practices with their peers and provide valuable tools and resources for organizing and hosting regional meetings. Nearly 3,300 attendees participated in the five regional meetings this spring, and three regional meetings will take place this fall. The subcommittee continues to liaise with region boards and local sections hosting regional meetings to strengthen Regional Meeting support with enhanced resources.**

Madame President, this concludes my final report as M&E chair.