**Women Chemists Committee
Oral Report to Council
Philadelphia, PA
August 24, 2016**

Madam President and Members of Council:

I am honored and humbled to be giving my final report to Council on behalf of the Women Chemists Committee (WCC).

It is an exciting time for WCC. For the first time in history, the immediate past president, the current president and the president-elect are all women! In 2017, WCC will be celebrating our 90th anniversary, and we will be revising our strategic plan.

In 2016, we have been investing much of our energy in both promoting and recognizing the professional accomplishments of women in the society.

At the 252nd ACS National meeting, the Chicago Local Section received a ChemLuminary Award for its outstanding local section WCC. The first cohort of 8 awardees of the WCC Merck Research Award presented at a half-day symposium and were recognized at a special awards luncheon. The fall 2016 winners of the WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Award presented their research at a poster session prior to the WCC Luncheon.

WCC is partnering with the ACS Board Standing Committee on Grants and Awards and the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board to increase the number and quality of nominations for ACS National Awards from underrepresented groups. A working breakfast session was also held at this meeting. It was an informative and highly useful discussion of the nomination process and provided insight into how to prepare competitive nomination packages.

Putting the Periodic Table cards, which were distributed at this meeting, in your wallet will give you good geek cred. They also convey an important message:

ACS national awards nominees were 17% female for 2017, compared to 14% female in 2016.

ACS membership is 29% female. We are not there yet!

More nominations for women are still needed.

As was clear from the breakfast session, every division, every local section, every one of us here needs to be part of the solution.

WCC challenges you to nominate an amazing woman chemist for an award this November!

Madam President and Members of Council, this concludes my report.

Amber F. Charlebois

2016 Chair, Women Chemists Committee