

## **Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations**

### Report to the ACS Board of Directors

The Board Standing Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations (PA&PR) met on June 5, 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Committee members and highlighted several items behind Tab 1 of the agenda book:

- PA&PR Committee Information Sheet
- Message points for communicating with policymakers on ACS top-tier policy priorities
- Chart of major ACS coalitions and partnerships associated with policy statements
- Letter of concern that ACS, along with six other scientific societies, sent to U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva relative to his letters to 7 academic institutions who employ faculty who have challenged the current state of climate science.

The Chair provided an update on two recent National Historic Chemical Landmark ceremonies as well as two upcoming ceremonies:

- The first of two Keeling Curve ceremonies was held on April 30 at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory in Hilo, Hawaii.
- The Kelly Pneumatic Iron Process was celebrated on May 11 at a morning ceremony at the Lyon County Public Library in Eddyville, Kentucky, and an afternoon ceremony and reception at Murray State University.
- The second "Keeling Curve" ceremony will be held on June 12 at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, in La Jolla, California.
- The ceremony for the "Edwin Land and Instant Photography" will take place on August 13 at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Approval of Minutes** - The Committee **VOTED** to adopt the minutes of the March 2, 2015 virtual meeting.

### **ACS Public Policy Statements**

The Committee discussed 3 public policy statements. The Committee took the following actions:

At the recommendation of the Committees on Science; Environmental Improvement, Chemistry and Public Affairs; Corporation Associates and the Division on Energy and Fuels, the Committee voted by voice to approve the statement "Hydraulic Fracturing" as a public policy position of the Society.

At the recommendation of the Committee on Environmental Improvement the Committee voted by voice to adopt the statement "Water Treatment and Conservation" as a public policy statement of the Society.

At the recommendation of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities, the Committee voted by voice to adopt the statement "U. N. Convention of Persons with Disabilities" as a public policy statement of the Society.

### **ACS Legislative Summit Debrief**

The Chair led the Committee in a discussion of the recent ACS Legislative Summit and the Science, Engineering and Technology Working Group Congressional Visits Day (CVD).

Committee members voiced satisfaction with the organization and execution of the Summit, but did make several suggestions and recommendations to help improve future interactions with Congressional offices and federal agencies. As to CVD, the Committee's view is that ACS should continue to participate at a minimal level so as to preserve staff and governance time and commitment for the ACS Legislative Summit.

The Chair asked that the Committee's suggestions and recommendations be reviewed by staff of the ACS Office of Public Affairs for incorporation in future Summits.

### **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John Adams, Chair