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## Councilor News and Committee Alerts

### Spring 2021



Dear Fellow ACS Members,

The new year begins as the previous year ended: under challenging circumstances. However, the COVID-19 vaccinations have begun to take place, and 2021 brings hope for better times ahead. With that in mind, I wanted to share some important changes to the ACS Strategic Plan approved by the ACS Board of Directors in December 2020. The two additions will strengthen the Society's commitment to creating a more diverse and inclusive chemistry enterprise, something that is important to me and essential to continued growth and innovation of the chemistry enterprise.

I am proud to report that:

1. The ACS Board voted to modify our existing core value of “Diversity, Inclusion and Respect” to include Equity. The revised core value, “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect” (DEIR), better captures our belief in diversity in all its forms. We embrace and encourage an inclusive chemistry enterprise and strongly support an equal and equitable environment for the practice of chemistry. In order to meet the global challenges facing us today and advance chemistry, we need to be more inclusive and respectful of people of all backgrounds, perspectives, experiences and ideas. This important update ensures that we will work to promote equity in the chemistry enterprise.

2. The ACS Board voted to adopt a new goal for the ACS Strategic Plan. “Goal 5: Embrace and Advance Inclusion in Chemistry” aims to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and respect; identify and dismantle barriers to success; and create a welcoming and supportive environment so that all ACS members, employees and volunteers can thrive.

I encourage you to take the time to review both the revised DEIR core value and the new Goal 5 posted [here](#). I also encourage you to learn more about me and my presidential priorities by reading the recent C&EN interview [here](#) that appeared in the Jan. 4 issue of the magazine. As the article notes, I look forward to collaborating with all of you to benefit chemistry and enhance its growth. If you have ideas or thoughts that you’d like to share with me, please reach out to me anytime at [h.cheng@acs.org](mailto:h.cheng@acs.org).

As members of ACS, I hope you share my commitment to work toward achieving the ACS vision: “Improving all people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry.” And I ask you, what role would you play in shaping the future of chemistry?

Best regards,

H.N.

[Read About New Organizational Changes at ACS](#)

## Spring 2021 Governance Meetings

As all Governance meetings for the Spring 2021 Meeting will be held virtually, please refer to the [Governance page](#) as your resource to see when committees, caucuses, and Council will be holding their meetings. The page will be updated as more meetings are scheduled. Please note that all meeting times are listed in Eastern Time. Should you wish to add your Governance meeting (no committee activities, please), contact [secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org).

**Town Hall Meeting  
2022 Nominees for ACS President -Elect**

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## **Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms**

**Diane Krone, Chair**

Over the past couple years, the Committee on Committee's (ConC) has taken a hard look at the committee structure and appointment process. We discovered many members who wanted to serve on a national committee were confused as to where, how long, and under what conditions they could do so. Some requirements had systematic barriers preventing or limiting engagement opportunities and unintentionally excluded members and some demographic groups (especially those underrepresented in Council).

With these thoughts in mind, ConC drafted the Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms. This petition that would harmonize the ACS committee structures, relax the "Councilor only" designation that exists for some of the ACS committees, and standardize committee term limits. Please note that this petition is up for Council action for the Spring 2021 Council meeting (March 24th).

[Read More](#)

**Carolyn Ribes****Amanda Patrick****Michelle Kidder**

## **ACS Networking with Chemistry Professionals, Students, and Ice Cream Virtual Event**

Sponsored by the ACS Senior Chemists and Younger Chemists Committees

This networking event will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 p.m., EDT to allow undergraduates, graduates, and younger professionals an opportunity to meet with chemistry professionals about their career experiences, areas of expertise, alternative careers, and resources. Guest panelists are Carolyn Ribes, ACS Director-at-Large and Technical Leader in the Core Research & Development Group of Dow Benelux; Amanda Patrick, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Mississippi State University; and Michelle Kidder, Research Staff Scientist and Scientific Lead for Net Zero Carbon Strategies in the Energy and Transportation Science Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Please join us for this engaging virtual event and bring your scoop of ice cream with you. **Registration for the event is free** – the first 25 registrants will receive a special treat!

[Register Now](#)



## Save The Date – ABCChem 2022 December 13-16, 2022

Mark your calendars to participate in the Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry (ABCChem 2022) in Marrakech, Morocco, from December 13-16, 2022. The conference theme is “Linking the World Through Chemistry”. Details on the conference, Call for Symposia, and more will be made available in the coming months at [www.abcchem.org](http://www.abcchem.org).



COVID has introduced new ways of living and working, and many of those changes will remain in the “New Norm.” Are you ready for the post-COVID world? Join ACS CEO Tom Connelly and ACS Director of Meeting Operations Robin Preston, as well as Frankie Wood-Black, Instructor of Northern Oklahoma College and Principle of Sophic Pursuits, Inc. as they provide insight on what ACS and society at large will look like as we move forward during these uncertain times. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 30 from 1:00-2:00 p.m., EDT. During this interactive broadcast, discover how COVID-19 will change and perhaps improve the ways we communicate, learn, and meet beyond the end of the pandemic. You will learn: ways seniors can prepare to adjust and thrive with the changes to society due to COVID; the impact of COVID-19 in 2021 on seniors (e.g., travel and volunteer work); and what skills will seniors need for a post COVID-19 world.



Thomas Connelly, Jr.



Robin Preston



Frankie Wood-Black

This webinar is co-produced by the ACS Senior Chemists Committee, the ACS Office of Philanthropy, and ACS Webinars. Register here and plan to join us!

## 2021 ACS Diversity Calendar

Please download the 2021 ACS Diversity Calendar, which includes religious and secular holidays from around the world, major celebrations, notable dates, and celebrations of diverse chemists. The calendar is downloadable both through [Outlook](#) and [Google Calendar](#).



## ACS Fellows Program 2021

**Nominations are open for 2021 ACS Fellows. Nominations will be accepted online at [www.nominatefellow.acs.org](http://www.nominatefellow.acs.org) until April 1, 2021 (11:59 PDT).**

The American Chemical Society Fellows Program recognizes members of the ACS for excellence and leadership in both of two areas: (1) science, the profession, education, and/or management, and (2) volunteer service in the ACS community. We look forward to receiving your nominations and the opportunity to recognize chemical professionals who are making an impact.

### Eligibility

- The selection of ACS Fellows is based on both of two defined areas: (1) Documented excellence and leadership that has an impact in the science, the profession, education, and/or management; and (2) Documented excellence and leadership in volunteer service, based on specific results achieved, in service to the ACS and its membership and community.
- Nominees and nominators must be current members (including retired and emeritus members) in good standing of the ACS. Former members or deceased members will not be considered as nominees.
- Current members of the ACS Fellows Selection Committee, ACS Fellows Oversight Committee, ACS Board of Directors, and current ACS staff are not eligible to be nominees or nominators.

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## **Congratulations to the New ACS Councilors & Alternate Councilors**

**Join us for an Orientation & Committee Networking Virtual Event on March 12**

The ACS Council Policy Committee is hosting a **2021 New Councilor Orientation Virtual Program** for all newly elected Councilors and Alternate Councilors **on Friday, March 12 from 4:00-5:00 p.m., ET with a special networking session with Committee Chairs and Mentors to follow from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** This program provides an excellent opportunity to meet with other ACS leaders, establish mentoring relationships, and learn more about the Society and how to get involved with ACS committees. Special remarks will be given by the ACS President, the President-Elect, the ACS Board Chair, and the Executive Director & CEO.

If you are a newly elected Councilor or an Alternate Councilor, **please place this important date on your calendars and let us know if you are able to attend the orientation program by sending an email to Semora Smith at [s\\_smith@acs.org](mailto:s_smith@acs.org).**

The **Mentorship Program for New Councilors** will continue in 2021, so please let us know if you would like to have a mentor assigned to offer guidance to you in your new role as Councilor and/or Alternative Councilor.



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## Exciting Transformative Schedule of Membership Up for Vote at Council Meeting

By Brian Mathes, MAC Chair

The Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) is very excited to present the transformative 2022 Schedule of Membership (SoM), up for action at ACS Spring 2021! With the passing of the Petition on Benefits and Dues (approved in the spring of 2020), we have taken a giant step forward to allow the Society greater flexibility to respond more quickly to changing forces in the market and chemistry enterprise. However, transformation cannot happen if we stopped here. The 2022 SoM will transform the way members and non-members interact with ACS by delivering more specific, relevant value to members, and capturing customers already using ACS products and programs to increase engagement. Further, it aims to clean up some of the complexity and red tape that currently exists in the governing documents.

The transformative 2022 SoM was developed in an all-encompassing, three-year process. It consists of extensive market research validating the membership value hypothesis, collaboration with Council, Committees (B&F, C&B, Divisions, Local Sections), as well as Members, and various MAC tests to gather data on level of interest from current and future members. We aim to provide a new personalized and flexible experience for ACS members and potential members.

Within that research, financial modeling forecasted the Society's future dues revenue and member growth. From this forecasting, it is clear that we cannot delay these changes – by shifting to deliver what our members need and desire, ACS will truly transform into a 21st century membership organization. Please attend the upcoming MAC open meeting on March 22nd and the Schedule of Membership discussion meetings on March 9th and 11th to see all this data presented in full.

- MAC open meeting on March 22, at 5 PM EST – [Click to register and download calendar invite](#)
- Schedule discussion on March 9, at 9 AM EST - [Click to register and download calendar invite](#)
- Schedule discussion on March 11, at 6 PM EST - [Click to register and download calendar invite](#)

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# Committee on Chemical Safety: Keeping Safety at the Forefront

**Kirk Hunter, Chair**

The past year proved to be productive for the Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS), despite the added workplace responsibilities for many of the committee members due to the pandemic.

The committee adopted a new strategic plan (SP) including revised vision and mission statements. The strategic plan reflects the leadership role of the committee as its members collaborate with a growing list of stakeholders, external and internal to the ACS, on projects that promote the ACS core values of *'professionalism, safety, and ethics.'*

Significant progress on the strategies within the SP has emerged through the engagement of the three subcommittees: Education, Partnerships, and Emerging Issues with support from the Safety Advisory Panel (SAP), a technical group that focuses on emerging and complex chemical safety and regulatory issues.

In keeping with the committee's mission and strategic goals, its members and partners continue to update and develop impactful resources for students, educators and researchers.

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## News from the Committee on Meetings and Expositions

**Rick Ewing, Chair**

The mission of the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) is to create a platform to connect the global chemical enterprise took on a new challenge in a COVID-19 world. As M&E plans conferences of the future, we recognize several trends. The national meeting has experienced a growth in content and concurrent sessions, but little growth in meeting attendance. To accommodate increased content, remote sites have been used for some technical session. We continue to see an increased globalization of attendees, although there is a decreased attendance by industry members.

The fall 2020 ACS meeting had 6,521 attendees. Technical programming contributions totaled 4,375. M&E made recommendations for extending the ACS policy on forbidding the recording of content to include protection of virtual content. Options were made available to presenters to have material available post meeting or for a limited time.

M&E's four subcommittees have been benchmarking other scientific conferences in the areas of technical programming, vendors and expos, networking, and other creative ideas to shape our national and regional meetings. The Expositions and Industry Subcommittee reported that the Virtual Fall Expo exceeded revenue by 65% with 70 participating companies. The regional meetings subcommittee held a town hall meeting to get input and feedback on the impacts of the COVID-19 and regional meeting planning. All of the 2020 regional meetings were either terminated or rebooked into future years, except for the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting, this took place virtually in November. The Operations Subcommittee has been analyzing the price point of virtual conferences across a number of organizations and continues plans for future sites for national meetings.

[Read More](#)

## News From the Younger Chemists Committee

Kristin Nuzzio, Chair

The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) began the year with several exciting initiatives to further our mission to advocate for, develop, and support rising chemists to positively impact their careers, the ACS, and the future of chemistry. In January, we hosted the YCC course track at the annual Leadership Development Institute and provided a series of virtual leadership trainings to 30 younger chemist awardees. In collaboration with 2021 ACS President H.N. Cheng and the ACS office of External Affairs and Communications, members of the National YCC and local sections participated in a Chemistry Advocacy Workshop in February to learn about science advocacy and policy at the federal level. This interactive virtual workshop was an invaluable experience for younger chemists and provided practice in planning and executing advocacy activities.

During the spring National meeting, the YCC is co-sponsoring several symposia including “Starting a Successful Research Program at a Predominantly Undergraduate Institution,” “From Finding your Future to Crafting Your Career: Professional Development for Chemists at Every Level,” and the 6th Space Chemistry Symposium in Front of Chemistry in Space. We are also looking forward to the second virtual Networking with Chemistry Professionals event with the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC), featuring SCC and YCC panelists in academia, industry, and government, on March 21.

Additional activities at the National level include the kick-off of the Global Career Consultants program in collaboration with CEPA. This program is designed to identify, engage, train, and retain a new group of international Career Consultants. The YCC is working with the team to help facilitate this program and provide opportunities for participation for global early to mid-career chemists. The YCC is also excited to announce the launch of a pilot mentoring program with SCC for National committee members.

The YCC will host our virtual Committee meeting on Saturday, March 6. During the meeting, the Committee will finalize goals for 2021 and participate in subcommittee working group sessions, building on the success of last year’s meetings which utilized breakout rooms in Zoom. A social for members of the Committee will follow. The YCC regularly updates our Facebook ([ycc.acs](https://www.facebook.com/ycc.acs)), Twitter ([@ycc\\_acs](https://twitter.com/ycc_acs)), and LinkedIn social media accounts. Please also check out our website (<https://acsycc.org/>) to stay up-to-date on our activities. We look forward to collaborating with you this year!

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## Constitution & Bylaws: Updated ACS Governing Documents

The January 1, 2021 edition of the ACS Governing Documents is available at <http://www.acs.org/govdocs>. Also at this link are certified bylaws for Divisions, Local Sections, and International Chemical Sciences Chapters, model bylaws, and other information. Contact the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) at [bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org) if you have any questions.



## Tips for Successful Virtual Meetings

By Angie Abraham

Virtual meetings are the new normal. And with people starting to ask whether remote work arrangements might continue well into the future, it's important to take steps to enhance the video experience of meetings. ACS Web and Research Representative Courtney Swecker offers these tips to make your next video-assisted call a success:

- **Get the lighting right.** Make sure you're positioned for ample and balanced lighting.
- **Choose the right background.** Avoid a cluttered environment to help keep the meeting distraction-free. Check ahead to see if the videoconferencing platform has alternate backgrounds to select from.
- **Do a sound check.** Test your microphone and speakers before joining a virtual meeting. When you're the presenter, a dry run is essential.
- **Convey the right body language.** Remember to sit up straight, just as you would in an in-person meeting.
- **Get close, but not too close.** Place your computer at the distance, where your shoulders or torso are visible.
- **Play to the camera.** Put the camera at eye level and look directly into your computer's camera.
- **Maintain interaction.** Keep the attention of your meeting attendees with interactive features like polling, multiple choice questions and breakout rooms.
- **Evaluate and enhance.** Record your session and review later to identify areas of improvement.
- **Say your acknowledgements at the finish.** If hosting the meeting, take a moment to thank everyone for their time and attendance. Wrap up by acknowledging those who helped with the meeting or presented.

### FREQUENTLY REQUESTED ACS OFFICES

Unless otherwise noted, first dial (800) 227-5558. When prompted, dial the extension given below. To contact other offices, dial the 800 number and ask for operator assistance, or visit the ACS website at [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org).

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Ext. 6080

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Ext. 4600

[division@acs.org](mailto:division@acs.org)**Education**[education@acs.org](mailto:education@acs.org)**Gifts and Other Products**

Ext. 8455

[help@acs.org](mailto:help@acs.org)**National Chemistry Week**

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Ext. 4461

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