

**Bonnie A. Charpentier**  
**President-Elect**  
**Oral Report to Council**  
**March 21, 2018**

Mr. President, colleagues and friends,

It is a great honor to be standing here before you, and to add my welcome to New Orleans during its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I hope you've had some time to sample the spirit of this great and diverse city, including the music and the food. I'm sure you know New Orleans as the birthplace of jazz; you may not know that the first opera performed in the United States was in New Orleans in 1796.

Thank you to all who have reached out to me with ideas and concerns. I appreciate the time and thought invested in those suggestions. Today, I'll provide a brief summary of the areas I plan to focus on in 2019, some conversations I've been having at this meeting, and invite you to join the conversation.

I've noted here before that I believe the role of the ACS presidential succession should be a collaborative one. I'm privileged to follow two individuals who have sponsored programs that resonate with me and provide the opportunity to build on those programs, and to help support sustainability of presidential initiatives.

**(SLIDE 1)**

For my presidential succession years, and specifically for 2019, my first area of focus is Advocacy. The times demand it. More specifically, I want to see us become more effective in advocacy at the state level. The second area in advocacy is to provide information and best practices for those members who would like to run for office, be it school board, local, state or national office.

Another area of focus is Safety and the Environment. I have been speaking with divisions and committees about potential programming in this broad area.

My overarching theme is Collaborations. Potential specific areas of collaboration include what works in industry and academic partnerships; International partnerships, such as collaborations between student international chapters and student chapters in the US; and partnerships across ACS entities, as well as between ACS and other societies with shared goals.

Groups I've spoken with for collaboration so far at this meeting and via telecon include the Committee on Chemistry & Public Affairs for discussions of Advocacy initiatives, the Division of Chemistry Health & Safety and the Committee on Environmental Improvement on the focus of Safety and the Environment, and several different groups, including the Committee on International Activities and the Committee on Divisional Activities, regarding collaborations. As the Cajun representative in the ACS presidential succession, I've been thinking that putting together plans for 2019 is a lot like making gumbo. First you make a roux. It takes a lot of different ingredients, and there are many, many potential recipes.

(SLIDE 2)

There is still time for you to add ingredients, so please contact me with ideas, either here or by email after the meeting at [b.charpentier@acs.org](mailto:b.charpentier@acs.org).

Mister President, fellow Councilors, this concludes my report.

# Presidential Themes for 2019



- **Advocacy**
  - Strengthen advocacy at the state level
  - Support chemists to run for political office
- **Safety and the Environment**
- **Overarching theme of Collaborations**
  - Industry and academia
  - International
  - Within ACS and with Societies outside ACS

# Got ideas?



# [b.charpentier@acs.org](mailto:b.charpentier@acs.org)