

COBB, D. RICHARD *Rochester Section*. Retired, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, New York.

Honors: ACS Volunteer Service Award, 2017; ACS Fellow, 2017; Northeast Region, ACS Volunteer Award, 2006; Special Recognition Award, Division of Chemical Technicians, ACS, 2005, 2002; ACS Rochester Section Award, 2005, 2001, ACS Rochester Section, “Salutes to Excellence” Award, 2004.

Professional Positions (for the past ten years): Retired, Eastman Kodak Company, Senior Research Associate, 1969-2011, Division Health, Safety & Environmental Director, 2000-11.

Service in ACS National Offices: Committee on Committees, 2017-22; Committee on Nominations and Elections, 2011-16, Chair, 2015-16; Council Policy Committee (Non-voting), 2014-16, 2008-10; Committee on Membership Affairs, 2008-11, Chair, 2008-10, Committee Associate, 2007; Board of Trustees, Group Insurance Plans, 2008-10, ex officio, 2008-09; Committee on Admissions, 2002-07, Consultant, 2008, Chair, 2003-05, Committee Associate, 2000-01; Committee on Technician Affairs, 1998-03, Chair, 2000-02, Committee Associate, 1997; ACS Governance Review Taskforce, 2005; Board Oversight Group on Leadership Development, 2005.

Service in ACS Offices: *Rochester Section:* Councilor, 2008-22, 1999-2003; Chair, 2007, Chair-Elect, 2006; Secretary, 2005; Alternate Councilor, 2004, 1998-99; Treasurer, 1995-97. *Business Development & Management Division:* Immediate Pat Chair, 2016, Chair, 2015, Chair-Elect 2014. *Chemical Technicians Division:* Councilor, 2007-09, Chair, 1997; Chair-Elect, 1996; Membership Committee, Chair, 1998. *Northeast Regional Board of Directors:* Chair, 2013-16; Vice Chair, 2007-12. *Northeast Regional Meeting:* On-Site Coordinator, 2018-22 (meeting postponed until 2022), Organizing Committee 2012; General Chair, 2004.

Member (current): Member of ACS since 1994. *ACS Division(s):* Business Development & Management.

Related Activities: ACS Leadership Development, Facilitator: “Coaching and Feedback”, “Collaborating Across Boundaries” and “Engaging Colleagues in Dialogue”.

STATEMENT D. Richard Cobb

Cobb... A vision for change ~ with a focus on members.

As a candidate for District I Director, I want to present what I think is the most important issue facing the ACS at this time. There are many pressing issues, which the ACS faces today, including the Covid-19 situation and how it impacts the Society and our members. However, I have also observed that another major issue is the disconnection between grassroots membership and Society governance.

Our Board of Directors is doing a fine job in the “business” aspect of the Society, but we are a “membership Society” and that connection between governance and grassroots members is where I feel the Society is weak.

I have seen this disconnect in a variety of forms:

- Many decisions are often made “for” Society members by small groups within ACS governance, with little to no time spent on asking members what their needs are and what is important to them.
- Areas of the Society that should be available to aid members, their Local Sections and their efforts to organize and run Regional Meetings, are often not sufficient in meeting the needs of members and even with guidance offered, it seems to be a “one size fits all” response.
- Problems and concerns brought forth are often caught up in a maze of ACS bureaucracy

District Directors are the “governance” closest to the members within their respective districts and that in itself could be better cultivated. In my opinion, it is not enough to go on as we have and assume that appearing at a Regional Meeting and holding a Councilor Caucus at a National Meeting is an effective use of District Directors. To this point, here is what I pledge to do to help in this area:

- I will schedule to virtually participate in a minimum of one Local Section meeting for each Section within District I, per year. I will do this to keep members informed on what governance is doing, but more importantly, to keep my ear to the rail as to what our Local Sections are doing and where they need help. In other words, I would look to have each Local Section within the District as part of an Advisory Council to work with me in making sure the ACS Board of Directors know what our members need and want.
- I will use the position as District I Director to help strengthen the support our local members receive from the Committee on Local Section Activities as well as the Committee on Meetings & Expositions, where ample support and guidance is needed for the organizing and running of Regional Meetings.
- I will work with the Board to acknowledge what the Society as a whole needs to do in order to meet the needs of our Local Sections impacted by the pandemic. I have put forth to the Board of Directors the suggestion for a Covid Relief Fund that would be used to refund local Regional Meeting Organizing Committees any penalties they incurred by postponing or canceling a meeting.
- I will lead in an effort to “simplify” a Society which was built on a great 145 year-old foundation but has since been added onto, making membership in the ACS more complicated than it has to be. It is time, not for a Strategic Planning Retreat, but for a Simplification Planning Retreat by ACS governance.

I am not running for a “seat” on the Board – that seat is not mine alone. That seat belongs to you each individual member within District I.

I am running for District I Director to offer new ideas, simplify Society governance and to bridge the gap between governance and membership. My pledges and promises are backed by a record of fighting for what I think is right, “coming through” with my pledges and matching my deeds to my words, all built on a solid foundation of good two-way communications. I have always felt that while success gives one confidence, having to fight for success gives one courage.

I am running to stand up for the needs and ideas of the members.

For more information on my ideas, positions and proposals as a Member of the Board, please visit my website at www.cobbfordistrict1director.com

I hope you will join me by voting to make 2022 the first step on a new path forward for the ACS.

Give me a need ...Give me a problem ...Give me a challenge ...Give me a chance!