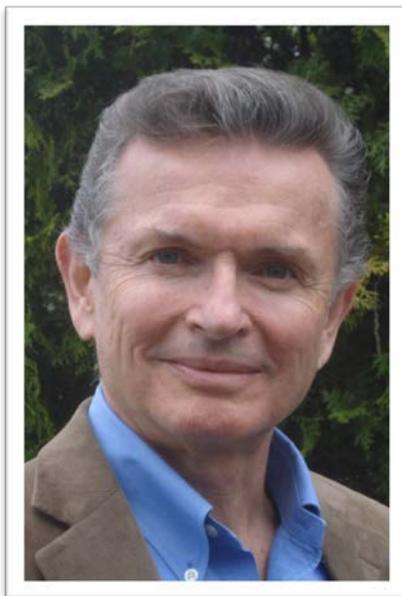




FOR PRESIDENT- ELECT 2017



THOMAS R. GILBERT

Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts

GILBERT, THOMAS R. *Northeastern Section.* Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Academic Record: Clarkson College of Technology, B.S., 1968; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., 1971.

Honors: ACS Fellow, 2011; Henry A. Hill Memorial Award, 2010; Outstanding Teacher of First Year Students Award, College of Engineering, Northeastern University, 2010, 2013, 2015; Excellence in Teaching Award, Northeastern University, 1999; Sigma Xi; Gamma Sigma Epsilon.

Professional Positions (for past 10 years): Northeastern University, Acting Chair, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, 2015–16; Acting Dean, School of Education, 2004-06; Academic Director, Professional Science Masters Programs in Biotechnology, 2009-11, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Education, 1999-2006.

Service in ACS National Offices: Board of Directors, Director, District I, 2013-15; Councilor ex officio, 2013-15; Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations, 2014-15; Committee on Professional and Member Relations, 2013-15; Subcommittee on Web Strategy and Innovation, 2013-15; Council Policy Committee (Voting), 2007-12, Vice-Chair, 2008-10; Long-Range

Planning Subcommittee, Chair, 2008-12; Committee on Nominations and Elections, 2001-06, Vice-Chair, 2004-06; Committee on Meetings and Expositions, 1995-2000, Chair, 2000; Board of Directors Planning Committee, 2008-10; Task Force on Web-Based Resources for Volunteers, Chair, 2015 to date; ACS Network Task Force, Chair, 2014; Task Force on Election Procedures, Chair, 2003-05.

Service in ACS Offices: Member ACS since 1968. *Northeastern Section:* Councilor, 1990-2013; Chair, 1988; Chair-Elect, 1987; Alternate Councilor, 1987-89; Centennial Celebration Program Chair, 1998; Analytical Group Chair, 1983-86; Nominations Committee Chair, 1989; Long-Range Planning Committee Chair, 1989. *Northeast Regional Meeting:* General Chair, 1993. *Division of Analytical Chemistry: 46th Annual Summer Symposium on Analytical Chemistry,* Co-Chair Organizing Committee, 1993.

Member: *ACS Divisions:* Analytical Chemistry and Chemical Education.

Related Activities: ACS, Education Division, Examinations Institute, 2000; Analytical Chemistry Examination Committee, 1998-2000; International Symposia on High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis, Vice-Chair Organizing Committees, 1993-96, 1998, and 1999; New England Aquarium, Associate Director, Research, 1977-81; Published 45 journal articles and two general chemistry textbooks (in their 4th and 1st editions), holds three patents.

STATEMENT

The statements of the candidates represent their opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACS.

I welcome this opportunity to touch briefly on what I would strive to accomplish if elected President of the American Chemical Society. For more details, please go to <https://sites.google.com/site/thomasgilbertacs/>

Connecting with our members/growing our membership. Through my years of service in ACS I have gained a deep appreciation for the many things that ACS does and does well. However, I'm also convinced that there are some things we just need to do better, starting with how we connect with our members, how we engage with them through member benefit programs and volunteer activities and - through that engagement - find more value in being ACS members. I believe these efforts are essential if we are to reverse recent declines in membership and get ACS growing again.

My growth plans start with our youngest members. If elected I will work with the Council's Membership Affairs and Younger Chemists Committees to launch a program whose goal will be to recruit as student members and retain as full members a majority of the more than 50,000 students currently enrolled in ACS-approved baccalaureate programs. I will host focus groups of students presenting posters at national and regional ACS meetings to assess their interest in (and access to) student chapter activities such as those supporting professional skill building, career planning, public outreach, and other activities that show how ACS can enhance their growth as chemistry professionals.

For mid-career chemists, my focus will be on the growing number of them who work in industries that require knowledge and skills that cross the boundaries that once separated chemistry from biology and the health sciences on the one hand and physics and materials science on the other. It is essential that ACS, through its expanding list of journals and programming at its meetings, be

seen as a principal source of information and ideas in these evolving research areas. Only then will scientists working in these areas (and their supervisors) recognize the value of ACS membership. Therefore, if elected, I will organize presidential symposia for the 2018 national meetings featuring advances in “chemistry at the boundaries” that will be organized by the industries the research supports.

Education

The interdisciplinary nature of many of the new jobs in the chemical sciences needs to be reflected in how chemists are educated. This education has to start early – in K-12 classrooms. ACS took a major step in support of pre-college teachers in 2013 when it launched the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). I supported the AACT proposal and, if elected, look forward to expanding my work with elementary and middle school science teachers and high school chemistry teachers to include teachers from across the country as they create learning activities that are both content-rich and that share the sense of investigation and discovery that we chemists find so rewarding.

I would also work with the Committee on Professional Training, the Society Committee on Education, and federal funding agencies to put into practice the recommendations of our Presidential Commission on Graduate Education in the Chemical Sciences. This country can no longer afford to have colleges and universities preparing graduate students for jobs that no longer exist, forcing them to continue their preparation for the job market through years and years of postdoctoral research. These perpetual postdocs are victims of a system that is inefficient and unfair to them. I believe ACS should take the lead in developing guidelines for PhD programs in chemistry that align students’ graduate experiences with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today’s chemical enterprise and, indeed, to serve as future leaders of the American Chemical Society.