(SECTION NAME) AND SENIOR CHEMISTS

ACS Senior Chemists Committee (SCC)
(Presenter’s Name)
(Date)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Have you looked recently at your section’s demographics?
If not, you may be surprised!
Society-wide, senior chemists (age 50 and over) represent almost one third of ACS membership.
Based on our SCC experience, that’s true for this section too!

LOCAL SENIOR CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

• Do you have a senior chemists committee in your section?
• Currently, 65 local sections report having a senior chemists committee/group.
• It’s a great way to connect and support senior chemists within your section.
• The ACS Senior Chemists Committee is available to help you with resources.
• We have experience with what often works (and what doesn’t!)
• Of course, YOU know your section best.
• Together, we can help you PLAN FOR SUCCESS

EVENTS FOR SENIOR CHEMISTS

• 50, 60, and new 70 Years of ACS service/membership recognition
• Quarterly or monthly breakfasts or lunches
• Visits to local museums, landmarks, and themed attractions in the area
• Networking event with senior chemists and students and Science Events
• Celebratory events – e.g., section anniversaries, special acknowledgement of contributions to chemistry

These suggestions are meant to augment, not replace, your section’s other activities.
**SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

- Seniors are still chemists at heart
- They can be sharper than you expect
- Sometimes they march to a different drummer
- They have earned the right to say “no” (and sometimes will!)
- You need to know what works best for them

Let’s look at an example or two…

**A 50, 60, & 70 SERVICE YEAR EVENT**

Here are some ideas for planning member service recognition programs:

- List is sent from ACS Membership Affairs to every section each spring
- Contact may have changed (not updated, there’s second home)
- Probably best handled with a luncheon event (driving in darkness is a turn-off)
- Urge attendees to speak for five minutes about their career paths (condensing a lifetime of work into a 5 minute speech is tough! You may need to use a hook, if someone really gets going!)
- Section members really do enjoy the talks
- Student invitees can learn a lot

**A 50, 60, & 70 SERVICE YEAR EVENT**

- Combine others (with non speaking role) with the students for networking
- Section may need to offer to provide transportation in some cases
- Sons, daughters, neighbors may be the transporters
- Buffet (so every individual can find something appealing) is best (and cheaper) than sit-down service with waiters
- Invite previously honored attendees to attend recognition events (at no charge) to encourage and increase attendance
- Describe other section events and invite honorees to attend those as well

**QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING**

- Convenience is the key for success
- Restaurant convenient to freeways, parkways, main streets
- Free parking is a must
- Shopping centers are good
- Avoid rush hour traffic
- Everyone pays their own check and tip (avoids light eaters getting socked by big eater’s bills – important!)
- Spouses/significant others are welcome
- Bad weather means postponement
- Group decides purpose: social, short talk, today’s news
LOCAL ATTRACTION OUTING & TOURS

- People travel away from home to see attractions elsewhere.
- Somehow, we rarely find time to visit local attractions (maybe next week, they will be there upcoming anytime, I'll wait until it’s sunnier or warmer).
- It’s more pleasant to visit with others than to go alone.
- “I don’t like driving alone.”
- You do a service by lowering the activation barrier.
- Museums, water purification plants, zoos, botanical gardens, sports events, local pubs, wineries, academic department facilities all are possibilities.

SCC RESOURCES

- ChemLuminary Awards – one is given annually for the outstanding single senior’s event; another is given annually for the most outstanding continuing annual series of events (self-nominate in FORMS).
- Mini-Grants – generally up to $500 to do something involving seniors in your section.
- THE SENIOR CHEMISTS NEWSLETTER published three times annually and sent to more than 40,000 ACS members over age 50; has a 30% opening rate.
- Senior Chemists on the Move! ACS Network (a chat group).
- Senior Chemists Website at www.seniorchemists@acs.org.

STARTING A LOCAL SECTION SENIOR CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

- It's just like starting and maintaining a YCC, WCC, or any other subcommittee.
- Personally approach a potential leader for a short discussion with a pledge to follow up.
- Advertising in your newsletter probably won’t work.
- Tossing out the need at an ExecCom probably won’t work either.
- Use your section’s membership list to find initiators.
- Share the work load – non-seniors are welcome to join in.
- Remember, if you aren’t a senior now, sooner or later you will be.

QUESTIONS
Please send them to the SCC Mailbox at seniorchemists@acs.org.