



THE CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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NUMBER 8

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING OF 28, AUGUST 1991

In a four hour and forty minute meeting marked by an unusual amount of parliamentary maneuvering, the Council dealt with topics ranging from resolutions recognizing Frederick Bailey and Marjorie Gardner, who had died since the last meeting, to acrimonious debates about some of the petitions for amending the governance documents of the Society.

Elections for the three standing committees of the Council (Committee on Committees, Nominations and Elections and Council Policy Committee) were held. The Council approved the establishment of a provisional Division of Chemical Technicians. The Council changed the formula for distributing the income from national meetings, created a new local section, realigned the boundaries of a section, and reduced the registration fee for the 1992 Spring meeting from \$150 to \$145!!

A petition to place an arbitrary *Limit on the Terms of Councilors*, developed by the Joliet section, failed after considerable discussion. The issues seemed to lie between dictating to local sections as to their representation and moving "old grey beards" out of leadership positions. A petition to establish *International Chapters of the Society* was amended on the floor to duplicate the requirement for open meetings of the chapters. The amendment and the petition passed. The petition to change the *Economic Status Committee* from a Joint Committee to a Council Committee has a very large accumulation of hidden agendas attached. (As an example, Past President Gassman required the senior staff in Washington to develop a plan to completely reorganize the governance structure. A meeting with interested parties on Monday evening, 26 August, demolished the report to the point of having to start from scratch if any change is to be made.) After a number of impassioned speeches which really failed to show why the change was substantive, the Council defeated the petition. Two petitions to change the way the *Dues Escalator* is handled were considered. In both cases, the vote required to accept anything except the cost-of-living raise would have been changed from majority to two thirds. Much discussion led to defeat of both petitions.

All members of the Maryland delegation were present and voting. Merle Eiss was also busy handling votes as a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

Merle Eiss
Don Jones

David Roswell
Charles Rowell

Your Editor has, in the past, written kind words about the ACS insurance program. We were pleased by the group plans for professional liability, umbrella liability and super medical insurance. We saw these as providing valuable coverages which most individuals could obtain privately only with some difficulty and probably with high premiums. We purchased all three, as well as the term life insurance and the disability income insurance.

Now professional liability coverage has been dropped (for lack of interest - members either don't feel professional or don't believe they could be liable), umbrella liability quietly faded away and medical coverage now features a dollars-per-day hospitalization plan (probably the least satisfactory kind of medical plan).

A newer offering is an annuity program; but one of our neighborhood savings institutions sells annuities for the same insurance company, offering rates and terms which appear to us to be more favorable than the ACS terms.

The most recent offering from ACS is a long term care policy. A careful reading of the offering reveals such a bewildering array of disclaimers, loopholes and exceptions that we can't be sure what is actually covered. This ACS plan emphasizes home care above nursing home care. Most current policies of this type are seriously deficient, and Congress is threatening some strong action in this area. Regulatory bills have been filed in both houses (startling, since Congress rarely attempts to touch the insurance industry).

ACS appears to have become a mere agent for the insurance industry, offering to us members just those policies which the insurance companies most desire to sell. Such policies are readily available in the open market. If there be no special benefits associated with participation in the ACS group, perhaps ACS should fade out of the insurance business.

(Opinions from other members are welcome).

PLANAR CHROMATOGRAPHY/TLC DISCUSSION GROUP

Scientists interested in joining the Planar Chromatography/Thin Layer Chromatography Discussion Group of Hunt Valley are encouraged to contact Dr. Subhash C. Dhanesar of Becton Dickinson Advanced Diagnostics (301) 356-8925 or Mr. Mike Zapf of McCormick & Company (301) 771-7471. The group expects to meet every four to six weeks to discuss problems and solutions in the separation of complex mixtures by thin layer chromatography.

WOMEN CHEMISTS COMMITTEE

Several years ago we developed plans for encouraging young women to enter science careers by visiting schools to talk about science and careers. The Maryland Section has a very active outreach program to local schools, and we decided our best approach would be to become actively involved with young women via Section activities. Several opportunities now present themselves. Join in the celebration of National Chemistry Week by being part of a demonstration team to bring chemistry to a classroom or two, and attend the other Section activities that week. Add a high school student to your research group through Project Seed or SANDALS. Help develop a team for the Chemistry Olympiad. Volunteer by calling Mike Zapf at 771-7471.

Linda M. Sweeting



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MOCK INTERVIEW SESSIONS AND MORE

Sweaty palms? Tongue tied? Bad answers? Wish you could have practiced the interview first? Now you can. The Office of Professional Services, on behalf of the ACS Committee on Professional Relations is sponsoring a new career development program at the national meetings. **MOCK INTERVIEW SESSIONS** are designed for chemists who are looking for a job or making a career change. The purpose of the sessions is to help the chemist to improve interview skills. Each chemist, who signs up on site, will have the opportunity to videotape a "mock interview". An ACS personnel staff member will then review the interview with the chemist and provide feedback on how to improve the interview. The sessions are on an individual basis and take approximately one hour. Watch for the meeting issue of C&EN for location, date, and time.

The ACS sponsors two other career development programs at the national meetings: Resume Forum and Career Tutorial. The Resume Forum is offered Monday - Wednesday at the NECH. The Forum is coordinated by the ACS career consultants who are available to review resumes and discuss other job search concerns. The Career Tutorial is presented several times at the national meeting. The purpose of the Tutorial is to help chemists to explore career values, to identify marketable skills, and to refine job search skills. Detailed information on these programs will also be in the C&EN meeting issue.

NATIONAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Call for Nominations

The National Technician of the Year Award will be presented to a chemical technician who has demonstrated an extremely high degree of professionalism as a chemical technician. The award will consist of a trip to the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, California for the winner and spouse. A plaque commemorating the award will be presented at the CTA/NCCTA National Technician of the Year Awards Banquet in San Francisco on April 6, 1992.

The ACS defines a chemical technician as a person whose training includes successful completion of a two-year post-high school chemistry curriculum leading to an Associate Degree, or the equivalent course work in a Baccalaureate Program, or the equivalent knowledge gained by experience. The primary work of a chemical technician is conducting experimentation and/or correlating information to help solve chemical problems and/or discover new chemical knowledge.

Letters of nomination should be mailed to Debra McCombs, ICI Americas, Concord Pike and Murphy Road, Wilmington, DE 19897. Nominations, of no more than five typewritten pages, should be received by November 15, 1991. Seconding letters are encouraged.

A chemical technician need not be a Technician Affiliate Group or ACS member to be eligible for this award. This award is sponsored by the Council on Technician Activities (CTA) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and administered by the National Conference of Chemical Technician Affiliates (NCCTA).

For more information, contact Debra McCombs (302) 886-3028 FAX (302) 886-5345.

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE JOURNAL

The *Journal of High School Science Research* is soliciting papers for future editions. The first issue of this journal appeared in February 1990 and currently two issues are published each year.

The publication is edited by high school science teacher Mike Farmer, who also owns the company which publishes it. Information for subscriptions or for submitting papers for publication can be obtained by writing to Applied Educational Technology, P.O. Box 193 Tigerville, SC 29688.

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE AND PLACE:

Wednesday, November 20, 1991
Officers' Club
Aberdeen Area
Aberdeen Proving Ground
(NOT the Edgewood Area)

Dinner reservations should be made by mailing checks, payable to Maryland Section of ACS, to

Dr. Stephen M. Gregory
College of Notre Dame
4701 North Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21210

SCHEDULE:

6:00 Social Hour
(Cash Bar)

by November 13. Late reservations may be made by calling

(301) 532-5714

7:00 Dinner

by November 15; answering machine is available at this number.

8:30 ROGER CANAFF
JULIE TOWN
Mid-Atlantic Laboratory
Drug Enforcement Administration
"Analytical Procedures
for Illicit Drugs"

Dinner price is \$15.00 per person, but spouses and retired chemists may attend for \$13.00; students may attend for \$7.50.

It is not necessary to be a member of the American Chemical Society to attend. You may attend the lecture without attending the dinner.

Directions: From I-95 north take Exit 85 (2 miles north of the Maryland House Restaurant). Follow signs for Aberdeen Proving Ground and Route 22 east (this will be a right turn off Exit 85, but not the immediate first right). Route 22 east leads directly to the APG gate (about 4 miles); past the post gate house, it becomes Harford Boulevard. At the third light after the gate house, turn right (a sign indicates Main Post to the right); this road is Maryland Boulevard. At the next traffic light make a left turn onto Aberdeen Boulevard; follow this for 1.6 miles to a fork in the road (fire house location). Take the left fork in front of the fire house. The road will pass the Civilian Personnel Building on the right and come to a small traffic circle. Turn left at the circle onto Plumb Point Loop East. The Officers' Club is 0.5 mile down the road. The Officers' Club has a parking lot in front of the building.

When did YOU last attend
a Maryland Section meeting?

NOVEMBER SPEAKERS

This month's speakers are Roger Canaff, deputy lab chief, and Julie Town, forensic chemist, of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's mid-Atlantic laboratory.

They will discuss analytical procedures used for illicit drugs.

The Johns Hopkins University

1991 Fall Chemistry Colloquium Schedule

Remsen 221, Tuesdays, 4:15 p.m.
For more information contact Rosalie Elder (301)338-7432

November 12	Peter Privalov The Johns Hopkins University Biology Department	Microcalorimetry in Studying Biological Macromolecules
November 19	Michael Coplan University of Maryland	(e, 2e) Spectroscopy
November 26	Tadgh Begley Cornell University	Mechanistic Studies on Life Dependent Enzymes: DNA Photolyase and Protochlorophyllide Reductase

SPECIAL SEMINARS - 1991

November 5, 1991 - Remsen 221

Professor Kurt Wüthrich
Institut für Molekularbiologie and Biophysik
(ETH, Zürich)

Title: "Proteins in Solution Studied by NMR"

ACS SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The ACS will award a fellowship to an ACS member to spend a year at ACS headquarters working on science policy issues.

The ACS will provide an annual salary in the mid-\$30,000 range for the fellowship term beginning in September, 1992, and will also provide a relocation allowance. ACS members at any point in their careers may apply.

A successful candidate will have demonstrated interest in public-oriented programs, competence in some areas of science or science policy and knowledge of many matters in nonscientific areas. He/she will be articulate, literate and able to work effectively with a wide range of people.

Application deadline is December 2. More complete information can be obtained from ACS, Office of Science Policy Analysis, Department of Government Relations and Science Policy, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; telephone (202) 452-2127.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

It is not necessary to notify *The Chesapeake Chemist* of address changes. We get our mailing labels each month from the ACS, so if you inform the ACS of your address change, we will automatically receive the correct label.

CAREER CONSULTANTS ADVISE JOB HUNTERS

James is a Ph.D. analytical chemist. His wife has just been offered a job in North Carolina, and he now needs to find a job there too. He has worked for the same company since finishing his Ph.D. and is not at all sure how to go about finding a new job in a new location.

Kathleen is searching for a lab job where she can apply her expertise in spectrometry. She has had many job interviews over the last 10 months but no offers. She does not understand why.

Mohammed has been teaching analytical chemistry for several years and now wants to give industry a shot. He is not sure how to market himself to the industrial community.

While the names have been changed, these are real job search situations. They are fairly typical of the kind of calls received by the ACS Office of Professional Services.

The ACS Committee on Professional Relations, via the Office of Professional Services, provides numerous services to assist ACS members who are looking for a job or who want to make a career change. One such program is the Career Consultant Program. The ACS career consultants are volunteers and experienced chemists with proven track records in their fields of expertise. The consultants can advise you on career values clarification, starting a career, seeking advancement, making a career change, general professional problems, resume preparation, interviewing skills, and job search strategies.

Let's take a look at how the consultants helped our three chemists. First, the consultants gave them some basic information:

1. Approximately 50% of all jobs are found through networking. Let everyone you know learn that you are looking for a job. Attend local section, regional and national meetings and mingle and collect business cards for future contacts.

2. Register for the employment clearing-house at the national and regional meetings.

3. Subscribe to CHEMJOBS USA - an abstracting service listing job openings posted in approximately 20 publications around the country.

4. Register for the Professional Data Bank - an ACS service that matches employers with chemists that meet specific job requirements.

5. If you go to the national meetings, take advantage of the Career Tutorial, Mock Interview Sessions, and the Resume Forum. Specific information on these programs is listed in the national meeting preliminary program issue of C&EN. The Sessions will soon be offered at regional meetings.

After this general information was given, the consultant and the chemist talked about specifics of the given situation. For example, James and his consultant talked about how to identify companies in North Carolina that employ his kind of expertise and how to update his resume. Kathleen and her consultant discussed the kinds of questions she was being asked in the interview and how she could improve her answers. Mohammed's consultant helped him to identify skills that were transferable to industry and to identify what kind of industrial job he would enjoy.

Job searching is a skill that we all have to use at some point(s) in our lives. It is also a skill that is not taught in our general education. The ACS programs help fill that educational gap. To learn more about the Career Consultant Program or the other programs mentioned, call 1 (800) ACS-5558, Press 4, or 1 (202) 872-4436.

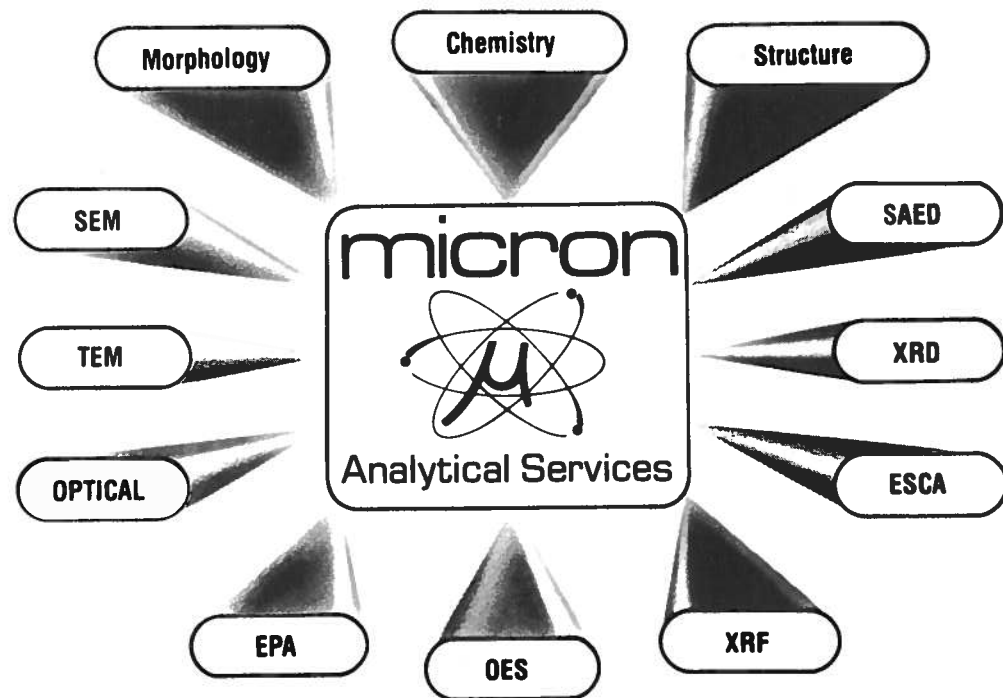
SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

The 43rd Southeastern Regional Meeting of the ACS (SERMACS-91) will be held in Richmond, Virginia November 13-15. For registration information contact Dr. Sarah C. Rutan at (804) 367-1298.

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