

## 2012 ACS National Fall Meeting Report Summary

by

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The following is a summary of discussions from meetings I attended at the ACS Fall National Meeting. The points presented here are ones that are most relevant to activities at the St. Joseph Valley section.

### LSCA/CCA Open Meeting Notes

I attended the Local Section Activities/CCA (Community Activities) joint open meeting 21Aug2012. The main topics discussed were reports from the LSAC and CCA executive sessions, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of National Chemistry Week activities and an update on the local section allotment formula.

There is a new award called the "Local Section Outreach Volunteer Award." The intent of this award is to reward local sections that become more involved with community outreach activities. The focus will be on activities designed to expose young students to chemistry as a career option, i.e. increase young chemist ACS membership enrollment.

In preparation for National Chemistry Week and Earth Day in 2013, the themes will be "Energy Now and Forever" and "Best of Our Earth Handle with Care," respectively. Brochures are now available for NCW and we were reminded to request these and they will be sent to the local section.

There was a reminder to the local sections that there are \$400 speaker reimbursement fee grants and \$400 dollar grants to sponsor Science Café events available and approval for these grants is routine. The Science Café events have resulted in dramatic increases of member participation/renewal and this activity is strongly encouraged by the CCA.

The local section allotment formula was reviewed. The "bottom line" from the discussion, it is the bottom line that is being affected. The new allotment formula is based on ACS revenue overall and the membership enrollment of each section. The CPI escalator has been removed for the 2013 calculation and the new formula includes the 2012 base amount (\$4790) plus the per member value (\$6.20 for SJV section). The report from the LSAC stressed that it is a membership retention critical allotment formula. Hence all outreach activities are/will be designed at attracting new members and retaining current members.

### Councilor Meeting Notes

The most time sensitive agenda presented that affects the SJV section is the use of electronic ballots for election activities. The SJV section bylaws contain the wording "mail and envelope" and if we wish to utilize electronic ballots then we have to change our bylaws and submit the changes by December 19, 2012 to [bylaws@acs.org](mailto:bylaws@acs.org).

International members presented a motion to allow them to participate in the travel grant program. The councilors voted 2 to 1 against the motion. If the domestic section funds are being decreased why dilute the resources even more!

Outgoing President Shakhashiri called for an open discussion on what ACS could do to alleviate access to pure water globally. The overall discussion was enlightening and lively. Local sections are encouraged to focus their activities for NCW and Earth on the molecule, H<sub>2</sub>O. These activities will receive a high profile when it comes to the local section awards process and requests for grants to support outreach activities for next year.