ACS Division of Environmental Chemistry -- Business Office Report

April 2013

ENVR Executive Committee,
The last few months have presented many opportunities to improve outreach and member involvement, and they couldn't have come at a better time. Involving ENVR members in division activities will be critical in the near future, as everyone copes with economic restraints that may reduce participation in national ACS meetings. I hope the business office will inspire and facilitate creative ways to meet our members' needs, beginning with these developments:

Member Communications

I extend a warm welcome to Jillian Goldfarb (Publicity Committee chair) and Ashi Savara (Webmaster). Thank you both for so eagerly and competently improving communication with our members! Jillian has published two issues of *envirofACS* and Ashi has swiftly transformed the division website. Their help has freed up much of my time to concentrate on matters more directly related to the business office.

Jillian has established a LinkedIn network for members, and we have received several requests for access. We plan to use LinkedIn as another communication tool.

The division continues to use ACS resources for sending mass emails to ENVR members. However, ACS may be phasing out this service to divisions, so I am working with ACS staff and Jillian to explore alternatives.

Hong Kong Outreach

In February, I visited Hong Kong and met with several ENVR members who are professors and students at Hong Kong University and City University of Hong Kong. I enjoyed explaining my role in the division and finding out how the business office can better serve our non-USA members. Their first request was for assistance in building their networking with each other and other Asian members. Carol S.K. Lin (City University) has volunteered to serve as a contact person, and we will discuss plans at the New Orleans meeting.

Social Events

The ENVR Organizers' Lunch in Philadelphia was a success! Our program chairs, Dion Dionysiou and Souhail Al-Abed, hosted the lunch that was attended by 40 Philadelphia and New Orleans organizers, executive committee members, and me. We received overwhelmingly positive comments from organizers about the opportunity to meet each other and discuss future programming ideas. The lunch was paid for with money allocated by the Executive Committee ($1500; August 28, 2011 meeting) and cost less than the budgeted amount ($1200). I hope the division will consider similar events at future meetings.

The Spring Reception in New Orleans will be held at a restaurant in the French Quarter, accessible by trolley and ACS shuttle. Using an off-site venue will lower the cost of the reception while providing a more enjoyable networking experience for ENVR members. *ES&T* editors will be attending.

A site has not been chosen for the ENVR dinner in Indianapolis.

Archives

At the Philadelphia meeting, Tracy Williamson, Allan Ford and I met with Patrick Shea, Senior Archivist at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and toured the ENVR archives on file. Patrick explained the purpose and goals of the Foundation's archives, and provided guidelines for sending future records to record the history of our division.

Elections

ENVR Bylaws were revised to allow for electronic balloting. I will be attending the April 30 ACS webinar, "Best Practices for Election Procedures in ACS Local Sections and Divisions." We will need to implement a hybrid (electronic and paper) election because approximately 120 division members either do not provide an email address or have opted to not receive email from the division. I will work with Ashi Savara (Secretary) on the June 2013 ENVR election using an electronic vendor approved by the Executive Committee.

Operations Manual

I will be working closely with Tracy Williamson and Ashi Savara to update the division's operations manual with the intent of bringing it in line with current business office practices and ACS procedures.

This is turning out to be a very exciting year for the division! Thank you for the chance to be a part of it.

Peney Patton
Business Office Manager
ACS Division of Environmental Chemistry
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