

# *the Catalyst*



June 2026  
Volume 111, No. 6



**Celebrating our 50-, 60- and 70-Year Members**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2026**  
**Science History Institute**

## HIGHLIGHTS

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**ACS Philadelphia Section**

**Founded April 15, 1899**

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**September- YCC Poster Session**  
**TBD**

**See details in the September issue of *the Catalyst***  
**and at [PhillyACS.org](http://PhillyACS.org).**

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*Proof Editors:* Anthony Addison  
Georgia Arbuckle-Keil  
Alan Warren

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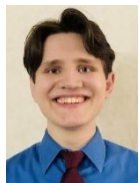
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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

**Comments  
From  
the  
Chair**



Dear Fellow Members,

Spring has brought with it an extraordinary stretch of programming, and I am delighted to share just how much our Section and the broader Philadelphia chemistry community have accomplished over these past weeks. From student competitions to landmark lectures and milestone symposia, it has been a season to remember.

Our annual Philadelphia Area Chemistry Competition brought together 35 students from colleges and universities across the region for a lively day of 5 science-themed activities that tested creativity, teamwork, and chemical knowledge. The energy and enthusiasm on display were a wonderful reminder of the talent coming through our local institutions. Congratulations to Drexel University, this year's grand winner and we look forward to welcoming everyone to Drexel's campus when they host next year's competition!

The Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Lecture was a tremendous success this year, drawing outstanding attendance and delivering one of the most memorable evenings in recent memory. We were honored to welcome Dr. Roald Hoffmann, whose talk entitled *Pebbles/Kamushki: The Commonalities and Divergencies of Art and Science* was nothing short of moving and inspiring. Dr. Hoffmann wove together themes and ideas that exist across both chemistry and art, making a compelling case that both disciplines demand the same dual capacity: an analytical mind and an artistic one. It was a reminder of the depth and breadth that chemistry, at its finest, can offer. Thank you to our partners at the University of Pennsylvania for their continued support of this historic lecture series.

The Philadelphia Organic Chemistry Colloquium celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Philadelphia ACS Section was proud to be a sponsor of this special occasion. The symposium featured three distinguished speakers: Prof. Chi Tang of Brandeis University, Dr. Eric Voight of AbbVie, and Prof. Eric Jacobsen of Harvard University, whose collective expertise spanned synthesis, methodology, and industrial chemistry at the highest level.

Adding to the excitement, Catherine Mudd of the University of Delaware (Don Watson Group) presented her research as the POCC Travel Award winner. Her talk, *Mechanistic Investigations of Cobalt Phthalocyanine in the Nickel-Catalyzed Atroposelective Reductive Synthesis of 2,2'-Bisphosphobiarenes*, was a compelling showcase of cutting-edge mechanistic chemistry. Congratulations to Catherine and to the entire POCC community on 80 years of fostering excellence in organic chemistry.

Events like these do not happen without an extraordinary amount of effort from volunteers, organizers, institutional partners, and sponsors. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Our Section is stronger because of your dedication, and I am proud to serve alongside each of you.

As always, I encourage you to stay connected through *the Catalyst*, our website, and our social media channels for upcoming events as we move through the remainder of the year. There is much more to come.

With warm regards,

Andrew Devany

Chair, ACS Philadelphia Section

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## NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

### Deaths

**Donald Nellis Robinson**, retired research chemist May 15, 2025 at 91. He served DuPont as a research chemist 1959-1964 and as a development chemist 1964-1967. From 1967 to 1969 Robinson was an assistant professor of chemistry and acting department chairman at Kentucky Southern College. He joined Pennwalt (later Elf Atochem and then Arkema) in 1969 as senior research chemist and staff chemist, retiring in 1996. He held ten patents in thermoplastics and elastic polymers, especially related to the polyvinylidene fluoride product Kynar. He was a 60+ year member of ACS.

**Note:** News Atoms seeks to report new hires, significant promotions, honors and awards, and those who have recently passed away from the field of chemistry in the greater Philadelphia area. If you have a news item for this column, send it by email to [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com) or by mail to the Philadelphia Section.

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## WCC Celebrates 100 Years!

The ACS Women Chemists Committee will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027!

As part of the festivities, the Women Chemists Committee is going to share stories of how WCC programs (awards, networking, technical programming, etc.) have impacted scientists. Share your story (no more than 300 words) at <https://lnkd.in/gXWYwG5e>.



ACS Local Section  
Philadelphia

**ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Via Teleconference

CODE OF CONDUCT

As members of the Philadelphia Section of the ACS, we shall abide by the Chemists' Code of Conduct which states in part that "Chemical professionals should seek to advance chemical science while striving for the highest standards of scientific integrity. Chemical professionals should treat others with respect and will not engage in discrimination, harassment, bullying, dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, coercive manipulation, censorship, or other misconduct. Such actions apply to all professional, research, and learning environments."

AGENDA

(Meeting will convene at 7:00 PM and end promptly at 8:00 PM.)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- III. Officers' Reports:
  - a. Chair – Andrew Devany - Update
  - b. Immediate Past Chair – Wei Gao - Update
  - c. Chair-Elect – Greglynn Gibbs - Update
  - d. Secretary – Matt Irwin
  - e. Treasurer – Ivona Sasimovich Macor
  - f. Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook
- IV. Committee/Affiliate group Reports
- V. Other Business

Those interested in being added to the agenda are kindly asked to send a request by **Wednesday, June 10, 2026** for inclusion in the agenda. All Officers will be included on the agenda to verbally report by default.

**Please Note:** If a written report or notice of a verbal report is not submitted to by the specified deadline, then all such reports will be relegated for discussion as "Other Business." Please note sufficient time for discussion in these cases cannot be guaranteed.

**For those participating by teleconference:** All Officers and Directors should have received a Google Calendar invitation with a Zoom Link. For those who have not received this information as well as for your convenience, please use the following information to access the teleconference:

**By Internet:** register by following this link:

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/meeting/register/GLgCGwh5QTO1B1FqpPrBYQ>

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 6871 0252

Password: 305155

**By Phone:**

Phone Number: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Access Code: 870 6871 0252

Password: 305155

Andrew Devany  
Chair  
[andrewpdevany@gmail.com](mailto:andrewpdevany@gmail.com)

Matt Irwin  
Secretary  
[mtirwin.acs@gmail.com](mailto:mtirwin.acs@gmail.com)

Section Office  
[PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com)

Cc: Officers & Directors  
Councilors & Alternate Councilors  
Committee & Group Chairs

**American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section**  
231 South 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Office – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323  
[phillyacs.org](http://phillyacs.org)

General Business



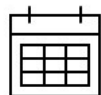
**ACS** Local Section  
Philadelphia

## 50-, 60-, 70- Year Member Appreciation Luncheon

Join us at the Science History Institute in the Dan Adams to celebrate our long-standing members. It's a special occasion to honor those who have dedicated decades to the American Chemical Society. Let's come together for a memorable luncheon filled with camaraderie and appreciation. We look forward to seeing you there!



Science History Institute  
315 Chestnut St,  
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Thursday June 11, 2026



12 – 3 PM



[Link to Register](#)

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[www.phillyacs.org](http://www.phillyacs.org)



**2026 CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest  
Into the Woods with Chemistry**

Congratulations to the winners of the Philadelphia Local Section 2026 Chemists Celebrate Earth Week Illustrated Poem Contest!

As part of CCEW 2026, students in grades K–12 were invited to creatively express this year’s theme, “Into the Woods with Chemistry,” through illustrated poems. Winners of the Philadelphia Local Section’s Illustrated Poem Contest will receive a prize and advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win additional prizes!

The Philadelphia Section would like to congratulate the following winners of this year’s contest.

- Bridget Dalton, Grade 2, Pennell Elementary School, Delaware County, PA
- Daisy DeSoto, Grade 4, Pennell Elementary School, Delaware County, PA
- Adela Cutillo, Grade 8, Pottsgrove Middle School, Montgomery County, PA

Thank you for your wonderful, creative entries. We wish you the best of luck as you move forward to the national contest!

Greglynn Gibbs  
CCEW Outreach Coordinator  
Philadelphia Local Section



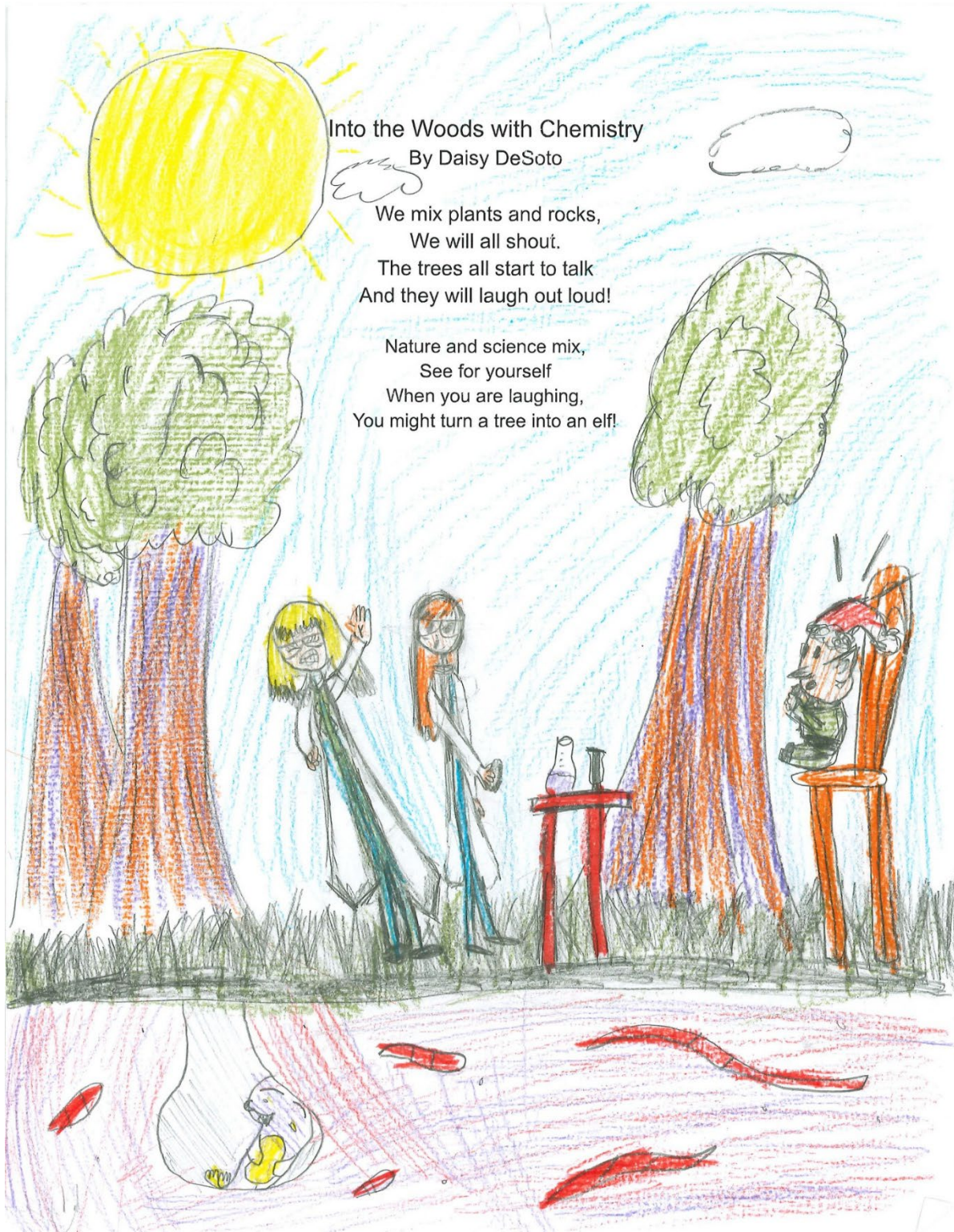
Bridget Dalton, Grade 2, Pennell Elementary School,  
Delaware County, PA

Into the Woods  
Bridget Dalton

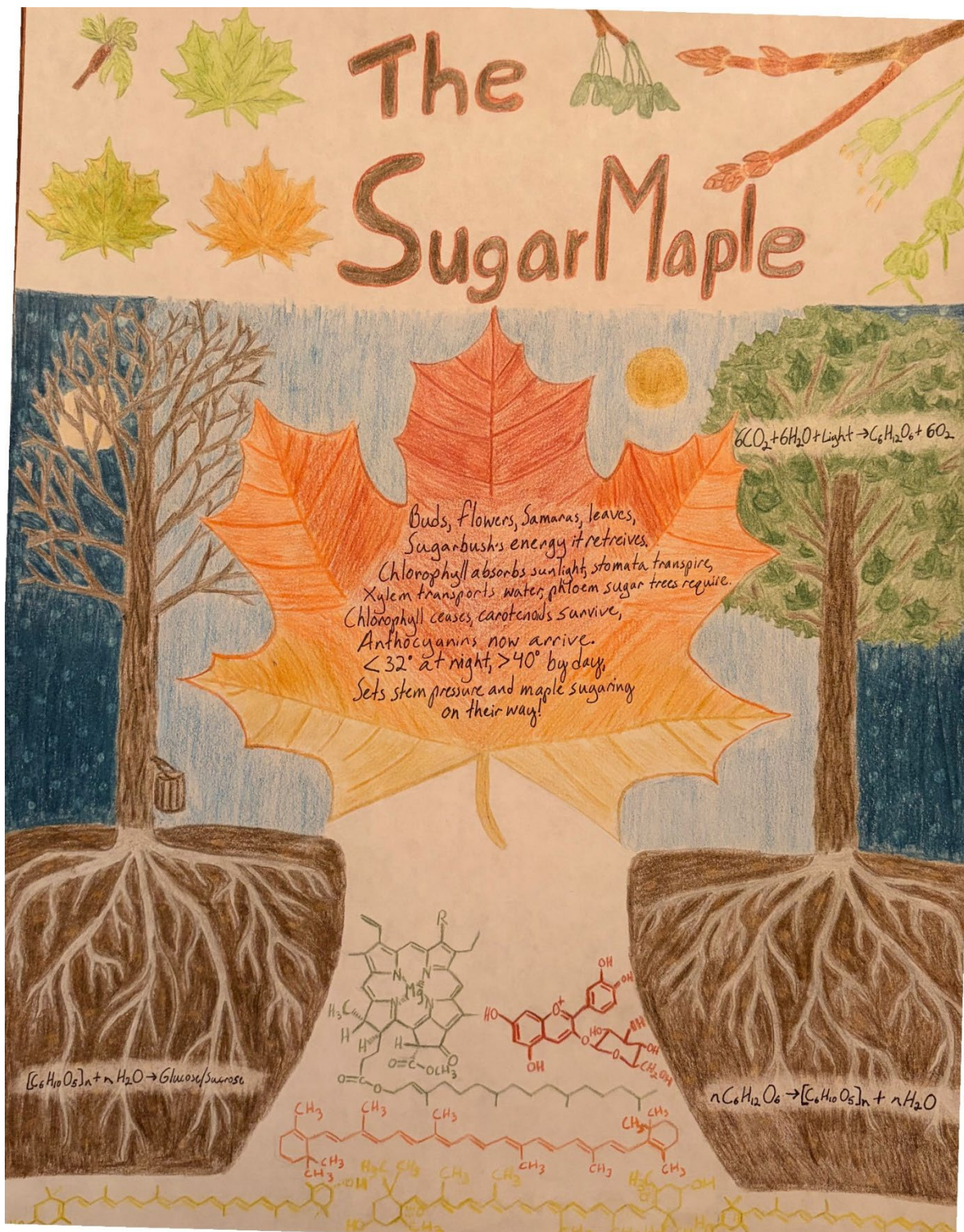
The trees in the woods give us oxygen.  
We need oxygen so we can survive.  
You need it too.  
All of us do.  
O-x-y-g-e-n .



Daisy DeSoto, Grade 4, Pennell Elementary School,  
Delaware County, PA



Adela Cutillo, Grade 8, Pottsgrove Middle School,  
Montgomery County, PA





**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2026 ACS PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AWARD**

Notice is hereby given that the ACS Philadelphia Section invites its members, as well as Regional and Topical Groups, to nominate candidates for the 2026 ACS Philadelphia Section Award.

This Award shall be presented “to one member of the Section, or in exceptional circumstances to two members of the Section jointly, who by conspicuous scientific achievement has made important contributions to the field of chemistry and thereby aided the public appreciate of the profession.” (ACS Philadelphia Section Bylaw X, §1.)

Any member of the ACS Philadelphia Section may be nominated. Recent awardees include Spiridoula Matsika (Temple University), Ron Levy (Temple University), Rick Ewing (Rapafusyn Pharmaceuticals), Anthony W. Addison (Drexel University), and Marsha I. Lester (University of Pennsylvania). A full list can be found here: <https://phillyacs.org/philadelphia-section-award/>

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A NOMINATION**

- 1) Nominators should provide a CV of the nominee showing education; employment and/or academic history; a list of publications, presentations, and patents; and a record of other accomplishments pertinent to consideration for this award.
- 2) One or two seconding letters (at least one of which should be from a person in an organization other than that of the nominee) should be requested in support of the nomination.
- 3) Nominators and seconders should be identified with addresses, e-mail and telephone numbers so that they can be contacted, if necessary, for additional information.
- 4) Unsuccessful nominees from previous years may be renominated. In fairness to the nominee, however, renominations must be accompanied by an updating of the nominee's biographical data and a list of accomplishments to make the nomination competitive. Unsuccessful nominees who have been considered three years in a row should not be renominated for the fourth year in succession without prior consultation by the nominator with the Chair of the Awards Committee.

The completed packet of nomination materials should be e-mailed to [PhilaACS@gmail.com](mailto:PhilaACS@gmail.com) or mailed by **August 1, 2026** to the Chair of the Awards Committee at:

ACS Philadelphia Section  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323

## HONORING OUR 50-, 60- and 70-YEAR MEMBERS

At our June Section meeting, we will honor our 50-, 60- and 70-year members, presenting them with a certificate and luncheon in recognition of their long and faithful service to the Society. Those being honored are the following:

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### SECTION MEMBERS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### Dr. Rodney A. Bednar



Dr. Rodney A. Bednar is honored to celebrate 50 years of ACS membership. He began his chemistry journey at the Juniata College Chemistry Department, graduating summa cum laude. He earned his PhD from the University of Delaware Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry under Professor Roberta F. Colman, followed by an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship with Professor William P. Jencks at Brandeis University.

Rodney's academic career commenced with a joint faculty appointment at Stony Brook University in the Departments of Pharmacological Sciences and Chemistry. Subsequently recruited to Merck Research Laboratories, he made significant scientific contributions to the discovery and advancement of over a dozen drugs into clinical trials. He founded the Facility for Automation and Screening Technology (FAST) at Merck, fundamentally accelerating lead optimization workflows.

During his distinguished industry tenure, Rodney earned 10 First-In-Man Awards and co-authored over 50 publications. He currently serves as Chair of the Laboratory Robotics Interest Group (LRIG) Philadelphia. Today, he continues his scientific engagement as Vice President and Professor of Biochemistry at the Pennsylvania Drug Discovery Institute.

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#### Mr. David Schonecker



David R. Schoneker (MS Chemistry from Villanova) is currently the President/Owner of Black Diamond Regulatory Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in providing regulatory and quality consulting for the pharmaceutical, dietary supplement, food and related industries. The firm provides expert advice for difficult problems and training on excipient and food additive regulatory, quality and supply chain concerns.

With over 48 years of experience working in these areas, Dave has developed strong networks with trade associations, regulatory agencies and pharmacopeias around the world. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Temple University's

School of Pharmacy in their RA/QA Master's Program teaching courses in Global Excipient Regulations and the Regulation of Dietary Supplements.

Prior to August 2019, David R. Schoneker was the Global Regulatory Director – Strategic Relationships at Colorcon, Inc. His responsibilities included global coordination of Colorcon's worldwide regulatory activities. He was at Colorcon from 1977 until 2019.

Mr. Schoneker was the Chairman of IPEC-Americas during the period 2007-2009 and is currently a member of the Executive Committee, the Chair of the QbD/Composition Committee and is actively involved with the development of Regulatory, Safety, GMP and Supplier Qualification related guidelines to improve Excipient and Food Additive Quality and Safety.

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### **Dr. Richard Charles Simpson**



Dr. Simpson earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Mansfield State College, followed by a master's degree from Bucknell University and a doctoral degree from the University of Rhode Island. He subsequently completed postdoctoral work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and at the Middle Atlantic Mass Spectrometry Facility at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. Simpson began his industrial career in the Department of Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics at SmithKline Beecham (now GlaxoSmithKline) and later joined Merck Research Laboratories.

His research focused on the development, validation, and implementation of bioanalytical methods for the quantitative analysis of discovery- and development-phase drug candidates in biological matrices, supporting both preclinical and clinical studies.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Simpson served as Science Director at the Quest Diagnostics forensic toxicology laboratory. In this role, he provided scientific and technical leadership, expanded the laboratory's analytical capabilities (from 2 to 29 LCMS-MS units), and evaluated—and where appropriate, introduced—new and improved drug-testing methodologies. He has over 30 technical publications in peer reviewed journals and has made over 50 presentations at national and international conferences, technical meetings and Universities.

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### **SECTION MEMBERS ALSO CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

Mr. Jerry Adams, Mr. Robert Dicosimo, Mr. Harry DiGiacomo, Mr. Lewis Hendricks, Mr. Robert Horn, Mr. Gregory Martin, Mr. John Morton, Mr. Steven Pitzenberger, Dr. Marilyn Schneider, Dr. Mark Schure, Mr. Joseph Silbermann, Mr. Taylor Spangler, Mr. Bruce Tingley, Dr. Areta Wowk, Mr. Max Yaffe, Dr. Kathryn Yocom.

## HONORING OUR 60-YEAR MEMBERS

### Dr. Marilyn Arnott



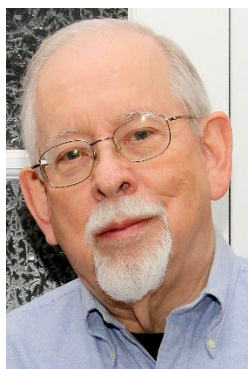
BS in Chemistry; The University of Texas in Austin. As the Outstanding Senior in Chemistry, I was awarded a book, that I don't remember, and membership in the American Chemical Society, which I have treasured to this day. I still read *C&EN* almost every week! MS and PhD in Biomedical Sciences, emphasis in Biochemistry; The UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston. Graduate and early career interests were in protein structure, and then at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, shifted into carcinogen metabolism. In 1982, I left academia and Texas and moved to PA. I started a scientific software development company, LogiChem, to develop an expert system, OncoLogic, that predicts carcinogenic potential of chemicals. With funding from the EPA, and access to their carcinogenesis experts, we developed software that modeled their decision-making processes based on structure-activity relationships.

I closed out my career by working for CHOP in Information Services. As a Strategic Consultant, I supported the IS needs of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Pharmacy, and Research. I also led the effort to get CHOP outpatient services to HIMSS Level 7, the highest level of electronic medical records adoption.

I retired in 2020 and am now an active volunteer in my retirement community.

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### Haven S. (Jack) Kesling



Haven S. (Jack) Kesling has a BS from Drake University (1966), MS (1968) and a PhD (1975) in organic chemistry from the University of Iowa. Thesis work under Professor Donald J. Burton involved generation, characterization and synthetic use of the difluoro-carbene intermediate. Dr. Kesling served for six years as a captain in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era. He worked with Atlantic Richfield/ARCO Chemical/Lyondell Chemical from 1975 to retirement in 2000. R&D roles include Bench Chemist and Senior Research Advisor on the technical ladder. Management positions included Oxygenated Derivative Research, Chemical Research, Chemical & Co-Product Research and Market & Technology Planning. Core product work included exploratory research, process development, product application development, and cooperative/partnering R&D with other companies. Over 75 patents, publications and presentations were generated in the areas of epoxidation, oxidation, hydroformylation, polyurethane chemistry, fuels technology and applications for core products including propylene oxide, styrene, MTBE/ETBE, allyl alcohol and butanediol. He retired from Lyondell in 2000 and formed KT Consultants. The two main clients included Lyondell Chemical and the Bayer Polyurethane Division. Full retirement occurred in

2025. Dr. Kesling married his wife Rosemary in 1970. He has two: children Matt and Andrea with five grandchildren.

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### **Dr. Terry Newirth**

Terry Newirth Hirshorn got her AB at Bryn Mawr College in 1967, doing her senior research with Frank Mallory, and her PhD in Organic Chemistry from MIT, working with George Whitesides, in 1971. She had two Post Docs in the Philadelphia area in biochemistry areas; one with Roland Kallen at Penn Medical School, and one with Renato Baserga at Temple Medical School. She started teaching at Haverford College in the fall of 1975 and taught there for 37 years, retiring as a full Professor. At Haverford she mainly taught organic chemistry, but also general chemistry, and advanced courses in biochemistry. During her time at Haverford she chaired many committees, was Chair of the Department and was even clerk of the faculty for a term. While she had a small research program, her forte was teaching.

In retirement, she has used her organizational skills for the last 25 years to schedule volunteers every night from November through April to cook and serve at a small homeless shelter near her home. (She also cooks for the shelter.) She volunteers in several capacities with Bryn Mawr College and she also enjoys two book clubs.

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### **Dr. Ernest Gordon Muller**



Dr. Muller retired in 2002 after 30 years R&D at Colgate-Palmolive Global Technology. He received his BS with Honor in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin – Superior. He earned his PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison in Inorganic/Physical Chemistry under Professor L.F. Dahl. His doctoral research included synthesis of organometallic compounds and structural characterization with X-Ray Crystallography.

Following graduation from the U. of Wisconsin in 1971, he assumed a post-doctoral position at Cornell University with Professor R.C. Fay in organometallic chemistry. Dr. Muller was elected a member of the Cornell Chapter of Sigma Xi.

In 1972, he joined Colgate-Palmolive R&D in Piscataway, NJ. His 30-year career as a scientist and executive included various assignments in Basic Research, Product Development, and Management. Dr. Muller has been a recognized contributor and awardee starting with the ACS Chemistry Merit Award in 1966. His academic and industrial research led to many publications and patents. He received two prestigious President's Awards at Colgate-Palmolive.

Dr. Muller taught chemistry at Rutgers as a Co-Adjutant Assistant Professor in the 1970s. Following retirement in 2002, he taught high school AP Chemistry and Physics. As an entrepreneur, he owned and operated a Tutoring Club franchise in Langhorne, PA. Dr. Muller and his wife Norma now reside in Bucks County, PA. They are active in politics, travel and enjoy sports, camping and the out-of-doors. And, of course, they are actively involved personally with their family.

## SECTION MEMBERS ALSO CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Dr. Thomas Banford, Dr. Ronald Beckley, Mr. Edward Chu, Dr. Edward Cutler, Dr. Michael DeRosa, Mr. James Devine, Ms. Anne Egan, Mr. Robert Haluska, Dr. Clark Hoffman, Mr. Michael Intenzo, Dr. Howard Jaffe, Dr. Daniel Kochavi, Dr. Mary McCoy, Dr. Richard Nappawer, Dr. Kayson Nyi, Dr. Michael Phillips, Mr. Bruce Schaeffer, Dr. Dale Snyder, Dr. Donald Thayer, Mr. William Thomas.

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## HONORING OUR 70-YEAR MEMBERS

### Dr. David R. Dalton



Education and Employment: [Northwestern University](#), Evanston, IL, BA (with Honors), 1957; [University of California](#), Los Angeles, CA, PhD, 1962; Research Chemist, Monsanto Research Corporation Dayton Laboratories 1962-1964; Instructor and [National Institutes of Health](#), Postdoctoral Fellow, [The Ohio State University](#), Columbus, OH 1964-1965; [Temple University](#), Philadelphia, PA 1965 – present.

Visiting Appointments: 1972-1973 [Israel Institute of Technology](#) (Technion), Haifa, Israel; 1976-1977 [Yale University](#), New Haven, CT; 1988-1989 [Bryn Mawr College](#), Bryn Mawr, PA; 1992; Visiting Master Teacher in Residence, [Clemson University](#), Clemson, SC.

Awards: The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, [Temple University](#), 1975; The College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, [Temple University](#), 1986; [American Institute of Chemists](#), Philadelphia Area, Scroll Awardee, May, 1989; The Great Teacher Award, [Temple University](#), 1997; [The Philadelphia Section ACS Award](#) (Sponsored by [Merck](#), Inc.) for “Excellence in Teaching Undergraduate Chemical Science,” 2003; Honors Professor of the Year, 2005. Voted by the students of the [Temple University Honors Program](#).

Over the many years of hands-on laboratory work, Dalton has followed two disparate lines: alka-  
loids and reactions in the gas phase. For books and papers he and collaborators have published  
on these and related subjects, see <https://sites.temple.edu/daltongroup/curriculum-vitae/>.

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## SECTION MEMBERS ALSO CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

### Dr. Gilbert Witschard



## Undergraduate Students' Tour at the Science History Institute

### Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Location:** Science History Institute, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

### Hosted By:

- ACS Philadelphia Local Section Senior Chemists, Younger Chemists, and Career Chemists Committees
- In partnership with Jefferson Chemistry Students and Faculty

### Program Schedule:

- 11:00 AM - Arrival at the Science History Institute
  - 11:15 AM - Breakout into Small Groups
  - 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM - Museum Tour
  - 1:00 PM - Walk to Lunch (Location TBA)
  - 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM - Lunch and Small Group Discussions
  - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM - Walking Tour of Philadelphia (Optional)
- Registration \$ 10.00 matched with \$ 10.00 from the senior chemists

There is no fee for the museum visit. Lunch is pay-as-you-go.

### Why Attend?

- **Engage with Senior Chemists:** Gain insights from professionals who have witnessed the evolution of the field.
- **Career Guidance:** Receive resume feedback and discuss your future with members of the ACS Philadelphia Section.
- **Network:** Meet fellow chemistry students from various institutions.
- **Learn About ACS Membership:** Discover the benefits of becoming an ACS student member.

If your school or students are interested, please email Prof. Michael Castaldi at [castaldimj@gmail.com](mailto:castaldimj@gmail.com).

## News from National (new and updated items at top)

### New ACS Podcast: Chain Reaction

Did you know that ACS has a new podcast? Dive into **Chain Reaction** – a show that links chemistry’s past, present, and future through stories of discovery, impact, and...the unexpected. From alchemy to clean energy, and from health care breakthroughs to environmental challenges, Chain Reaction brings together chemists, engineers, historians, and other experts to uncover the moments that shaped chemistry as we know it today — and the innovations that will shape the next era of chemistry.

So subscribe now wherever you get your podcasts and check out the **ACS podcast Instagram** to stay up to date on all our audio offerings!

### ACS Events Hub

**ACS Events** is the one-stop shop for all ACS events happening globally, online, in-person and on-demand. Filter by location and connect to events happening near you. Search conferences, workshops, volunteer opportunities, social gatherings and more!

### ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership Newsletter

Register Today for the ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership! Elevate your career and make a bigger impact with the ACS Online Certificate in Scientific Leadership! You will learn how to:

- Communicate with influence to move science forward
- Lead with agility to impact science’s future
- Develop empathetic conflict resolution that delivers results.

The best part? It’s flexible and self-paced, to fit your schedule. You’ll walk away with practical, proven strategies and transformative leadership skills! Enhance your leadership skills and drive results! ACS members get an exclusive discount—don’t miss out.

### Committee on Ethics Celebrates 20 Years

The ACS Committee on Ethics is proud to celebrate 20 years of service. Visit **our website** to learn about and join us for special programming, events, and activities honoring this milestone throughout the year and our continued commitment to Empowering Trust, Honesty, and Integrity for Chemistry and Society (ETHICS).

### Nominations for ACS Fellows

Nominations are now open for the ACS Fellows Program, a prestigious honor recognizing ACS members for exceptional achievements in the chemical sciences and exemplary service to the Society. As officers of Local Sections, Divisions, and International Chemical Sciences Chapters, you play a key role in identifying and advancing members whose leadership and sustained volunteer impact have strengthened your communities.

Each chapter and division has the opportunity to put forward outstanding candidates who reflect the best of ACS service and professional excellence. We encourage you to consider potential nominees and initiate your chapter’s nomination process or share this opportunity with members who should be recognized. **Nominate here.**

### Support Chemistry Educators Through BCCE 2026

The **Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE 2026)**—ACS’s premier conference for chemistry educators—will be held July 26–30, 2026, in Madison, WI, with a focus on reflecting on past progress while shaping the future of chemistry education.

## Apply Now for the 2026 ACS LEADS Conference in Washington DC

This conference convenes leading chemists, scientists, industry professionals, and Nobel Laureates for an immersive experience designed to foster career development, mentorship, networking, and in-depth technical discussions. Eligible applicants include current undergraduate juniors and seniors, as well as individuals pursuing a master's, Ph.D., postdoctoral research, or those in the early stages of their chemistry careers. Travel and lodging expenses will be covered by ACS. The event is tentatively scheduled for November 12th–14th, 2026, in Washington, DC. [Apply Now!](#)

## Volunteers at Your ACS Youth Events Must Have Up-to-Date Background Checks

All volunteers at ACS Youth Events must [complete a background check](#). ACS Background checks are updated each month and are valid for 12 months. Volunteers who completed their backgrounds check last year may need to renew their background checks in advance of youth events that our section is planning. Please review the [ACS Youth Protection Policy](#) and complete your background check today.

## FREE Lab Safety Resources!

The [Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students e-Textbook](#) is designed for incorporation into a four-year undergraduate chemistry curriculum, containing eight chapters and quizzes at the end of all 73 sections.

[Foundations of Chemical Safety and Risk Management](#) is a 17-unit course designed for undergraduate students with general and organic chemistry laboratory experience based in the RAMP Risk Management Framework.

[Foundations for Storing, Organizing, and Disposing of Chemicals in Educational Settings](#) is a six-unit course for secondary school educators and graduate students who manage chemical storerooms. A Certificate documenting ten hours of Professional Development is available upon completion.

Contact [safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org) with questions.

## ACS Is Enhancing Your Account Security: Here's What's Changing

To enhance account security, ACS will be updating its username and password requirements starting in Q425. As part of this update, users who haven't changed their password in the past 365 days will be prompted to do so upon login. New password guidelines including length and special character requirements will be clearly displayed via on-screen instructions on Account Creation screen to help guide users through the process.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

*Younger Chemists Committee Program and Event Planning Volunteers:* The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) is a committee of the Philadelphia Local Section focusing on the needs of undergraduate, graduate, post doc, and early career chemists under 35 years old. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with program planning this year! This is an excellent opportunity for students and early career chemists to assume leadership roles and network with like-minded scientists within the ACS community. The estimated time commitment would be less than 1 hour per week.

All interested individuals can reach out to Kunyu Wang [Kunyuwang95@gmail.com](mailto:Kunyuwang95@gmail.com); Andres Vazquez [a.vazquez1120@gmail.com](mailto:a.vazquez1120@gmail.com)

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The Committee on Minority Affairs is seeking members. If you would like to join, please contact [cma.philaacs@gmail.com](mailto:cma.philaacs@gmail.com) to learn more.

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The Communications Committee is seeking proof editors for *the Catalyst*. It is published nine times annually. If you would like to join, please contact the Editor, Robin Davis at [robin.davis1@verizon.net](mailto:robin.davis1@verizon.net).

### ACS CAREER CONSULTANTS

*Would you like to speak to a local ACS Career Consultant? The Philadelphia Section career consultants can provide one-on-one career advice, resume reviews, or mock interviews. Please send an email request to [acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com](mailto:acsphillycareerservices@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.*

ABSTRACTS OPEN- Close March 27<sup>th</sup>.



[Colloids2026.org](http://Colloids2026.org)

**ACS-CSSS 2026**  
**100<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the  
**American Chemical Society's Colloid and Surface Science Symposium**  
**University of Delaware**  
**JUNE 21-24, 2026**



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Highlight: CSS in Art Conservation

**779th ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, April 9, 2026 – Teleconference Meeting**

**Call to Order and Code of Conduct**

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Devany, who initiated recording for transcription purposes. A quorum was confirmed. The ACS Chemists' Code of Conduct was read aloud.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted verbally by Matthew Irwin.

Present: Andrew Devany; Matthew Irwin; David Cichowicz; Jim Murray; Victor Tortorelli; Christie McInnis; Deborah Cook; Sharon Haynie; Melissa Cichowicz; Amy Brown; Catherine Bentzley; Greglynn Gibbs; Robert Dyer; Isabella Goodenough; Wei Gao; Andres Vazquez-Lopez.

Excused: Anne Valentine; Lee Hoffman; Ivona Macor.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The March 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Several corrections had been submitted by email prior to the meeting and incorporated.

- Motion: Matthew Irwin | Second: Andrew Devany | Vote: Approved | Abstentions: Matthew Irwin, Sharon Haynie, David Cichowicz, Isabella Goodenough

The March minutes were approved as presented.

**Officer Updates**

**Chair – Andrew Devany**

Andrew provided the following updates:

- Bylaws Vote: A section-wide vote on the revised bylaws will be distributed via SurveyMonkey within the next one to two weeks. This is the version previously reviewed with ACS National and addresses the indemnification clause.
- D&O Insurance: The Directors & Officers insurance process is nearly complete. Andrew has been working through final details and attempted to obtain prior coverage date information from Wei Wang to establish a retroactive remittance date, without success. Full coverage will be in place once finalized.
- In-Person Section Meeting: The member polling has yielded 17 responses. June has emerged as the most preferred month, as it avoids conflicts with the academic calendar. Andrew is in discussions to host the event at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia.
- 50/60/70-Year Member Luncheon: All honorees have been identified. Andrew will begin outreach shortly and is exploring holding the event at the William Penn Inn, as has been done in the past.
- Scam Emails: Andrew alerted the board to phishing emails circulating that impersonate section leadership. Members are advised to be vigilant about emails with vague language soliciting unusual transactions or administrative requests, and to verify sender email addresses carefully.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of combining the 50/60/70-year luncheon with the in-person board meeting in June:

- Deborah Cook suggested combining the two events could reduce scheduling burden for attendees who might wish to attend both.

- David Cichowicz noted that the Section has previously held the luncheon at 12:00 or 12:30 PM followed by a board meeting at 2:00 PM, allowing honorees to depart before the board convenes.
- Victor Tortorelli suggested holding the luncheon at the William Penn Inn and finding a separate nearby venue (e.g., Temple Ambler) for the afternoon board meeting, noting that William Penn Inn may not accommodate an extended room reservation at no cost.
- Deborah Cook raised the Science History Institute as a possible alternative venue for both events.
- Sharon Haynie noted that the audience for an in-person section event at the Science History Institute may differ from the honorees at the 50/60/70 luncheon, and encouraged consideration of the Institute's 2026 sesquicentennial programming as a broader draw for the section.

Andrew acknowledged all input and will continue planning.

## Past Chair – Wei Gao

Wei provided updates on collaborative outreach with regional chemistry organizations:

- Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum (DVCF): The DVCF monthly webinar series is ongoing. Their annual symposium takes place next week. ACS Philadelphia has been cross-posting promotional materials to the Section's LinkedIn page, which was appreciated by the organization.
- SAPA-GP (Society of Asian-Pacific-American Professional Scientists, Greater Philadelphia): Wei attended the SAPA-GP annual conference in King of Prussia and engaged with field leaders interested in ACS collaboration. The conference is industry-heavy with strong career programming. Wei is exploring potential ACS member discounts for students and board members. A second SAPA-GP conference focused on cell and gene therapy (with a CMC track) is scheduled for May 8–9 in Philadelphia. Wei has been invited to serve on the career panel at that event and will use the opportunity to promote ACS Philadelphia Section programming.
- ACS National Meeting (Atlanta): Wei attended as part of the Natural Polymers Division. The Division discussed strategies to improve student engagement with ACS. Wei identified potential collaborative opportunities with the University of Pennsylvania's Materials Science program.

## Chair-Elect / Programming – Greglynn Gibbs

Greglynn provided updates on recent and upcoming programming.

Recent Events:

- Women in Bio / WCC Networking Event (March 25): The collaborative event with Women in Bio, the Women Chemists Committee, and B Plus Labs drew approximately 100 attendees. A debrief is scheduled for Friday; Greglynn will compile a summary report and post it to the shared Google Drive.
- 12 Plus Career Day (Philadelphia High School): Greglynn participated in a career day organized by Life Science Cares Philadelphia, 12 Plus, and Heights Philadelphia. She encouraged board members to volunteer at similar events, noting that students benefit from exposure to science professionals.
- Delaware Valley Science Fair (Expo Center, Oaks): The event was well-attended. Greglynn encouraged board members to watch for future volunteer opportunities at regional science fairs.

Upcoming Events:

- Academic Awards Banquet – April 21, Arcadia University: Award notifications have been sent; the event is approximately half full. A photographer has been arranged and special photo backdrops are planned. Board members who have already registered were thanked.
- Chemistry Poetry Contest: Now live. Board members were encouraged to promote the contest among students and teachers in their networks.

- CCEW Outreach Event – April 25, 11:00 AM, Pottstown Public Library: Scheduled in lieu of the Saturday Speaker Series, fulfilling Greglynn’s goal of holding at least one community outreach event tied to an ACS special observance (Chemists Celebrate Earth Week).
- Edgar Fahs Smith Lecture – May 8: The event remains on track. Andrew and Greglynn are scheduled to meet with Anna Boffice at the University of Pennsylvania to coordinate final arrangements.

## **Secretary – Matthew Irwin**

No additional report.

## **Treasurer – Ivona Macor**

Ivona Macor was excused from the meeting. The March Treasurer’s Report was presented for board approval in her absence.

- Motion: Andrew Devany | Second: Greglynn Gibbs | Vote: Approved | Abstentions: Christie McInnis (had not reviewed the report)

The March Treasurer’s Report was approved.

## **Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook**

Deborah reported on the ACS National Council Meeting held on March 25th in Atlanta (hybrid format, with many members participating via Zoom and the Lumi platform). She noted it was one of the shortest council meetings she had attended, concluding just after 10:30 PM. Key action items:

- President-Elect Nominees: Council voted to select two finalists from four nominees to appear on the membership ballot in the fall election. The two finalists selected are Lisa McElwee-White and Laura Sremaniak.
- District 3 Councillor: Bonnie Lawlor was re-elected as District 3 Councillor.
- Budget and Finance Committee Restructuring: Council approved splitting the Budget and Finance Committee into two bodies: a Committee on Financial Affairs (general organizational oversight) and a new committee reporting directly to the ACS Board with primary fiscal planning responsibility. This restructuring reflects the growth of ACS into a large international organization whose financial complexity benefits from dedicated professional-level fiduciary governance.
- International Chapter – Sri Lanka: A new international chapter in Sri Lanka was chartered.
- National Committee Volunteer Applications: ACS is accepting applications for national committee service (open to councilors and non-councilors alike). Members may apply for up to four committees. The deadline is approximately July 1st.

Discussion: Sharon Haynie asked about the continued practice of alternating academic and industry backgrounds for ACS President-Elect nominees. Deborah confirmed the tradition continues: the current ACS president is from academia; the incoming president in January is from industry. The two newly selected president-elect nominees are both from academia, consistent with the pattern for a two-year succession cycle. She noted that a petition write-in candidate, if any, may not follow the convention.

## **LSAC National Committee Report – Christie McInnis**

Christie provided updates from the ACS Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC).

## ACS Rebranding:

- ACS is rolling out a new logo. Beginning August 4th, local sections may request a brand kit that will include ACS Philadelphia Section–branded materials: tablecloths, banners, podium banners, giveaways, stickers, notepads, tote bags, and pens.
- The updated brand system features an expanded 6-color palette (colors named after chemical elements and compounds, e.g., cobalt blue, sulfur yellow), replacing the current 2-color palette.
- The historical diamond insignia will be retained for official awards, banquets, and plaques but retired for general use.
- ACS will provide digital brand assets including social media templates (LinkedIn, Instagram), flyer and newsletter templates, and logo files in various formats.

## Group Management / Component Support System:

- ACS is developing a centralized platform for local section administration. The pilot will launch in the second half of 2026, initially covering roster management and email list functionality.
- Full rollout is planned for 2027 and will encompass event management and registration (potentially replacing Eventbrite), email distribution (potentially replacing the current Catalyst/newsletter workflow), website hosting, and financial management tools.
- Event tracking will auto-populate annual report data, reducing administrative burden for section volunteers.

## Section Health Metrics (from LSAC annual report review):

- LDI (Leadership Development Institute) participation is a recognized indicator of section health.
- Member election participation rate is monitored; rates below 10–15% are considered a concern. Christie noted the Philadelphia Section’s participation may be near this threshold and encouraged the board to prioritize voter outreach.
- Breadth of programming beyond student outreach is valued; Christie noted the Section performs well in this area.

## CCA Training Resources:

- ACS offers event planning and outreach training through the Committee on Community Activities (CCA), culminating in a certificate. Greglynn Gibbs endorsed the training based on her own experience, and also noted the ACS Sparkle communications training (previously available). Both provide credentials suitable for inclusion on LinkedIn profiles.
- Andrew and Christie agreed that encouraging chair-elects and program planning committee volunteers to pursue this training could support committee effectiveness.

## **Bylaws Update – Matthew Irwin**

Matthew confirmed that the bylaws vote is nearly ready to distribute. He has been coordinating with Steve Fleming to verify the member e-roster is in place. The vote will be sent via SurveyMonkey (rather than MailChimp) to follow standard process. The Section can expect to receive the ballot within the next one to two weeks. This amendment addresses the D&O insurance indemnification language and aligns the bylaws with ACS National requirements. Future revisions, if needed, may be undertaken in subsequent cycles.

## **Adjournment**

- Motion: Andrew Devany | Second: Victor Tortorelli | Vote: Approved unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

## CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

**JUNE 10, 2026**

### **SUMMER PICNIC & OPEN FORUM**

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday June 10, 2026, 5:00 PM

[Click here to register](#)

**Location:** Ridley Creek State Park, Pavilion 17

Dear CCN Members,

You and your family are invited to the Chemical Consultants Network Annual Picnic. Please join us at Ridley Creek State Park, Pavilion No. 17, at [39.9437°N 75.4357°W](#), on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 5:00 pm until sundown.

Prospective members are welcome to talk to CCN members for your questions concerning consulting.

Food provided will include:

- BBQ hamburgers, BBQ hot dogs, BBQ steak,
- Salad & Assorted fruits, Vegetarian options
- Soft drinks

CCN will not be providing alcoholic beverages but feel free to BYOB.

Please bring a football, volleyball net, frisbee, softball, drone, horseshoes, lawn darts, archery set or whatever picnic games you wish to play.

Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to bring your own favorite dish to share. \$20 per member, \$30 per couple or \$40 per family.

**New members who join CCN during the event, the event fee applies toward their first-year membership.**

Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 9 by registering.

Reservation: Use the register button to register for this Event.

Location: Ridley Creek State Park, Pavilion No. 17, at [39.9437°N 75.4357°W](#)

Click [here](#) to register to attend the event.

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PLEASE VISIT <http://www.chemconsultants.org/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/chemical-consultants-network/>

Are You Getting the Benefits of CCN Membership or Event Participation?

**THE CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK PROVIDES VALUABLE TOOLS FOR MEMBERS BEYOND THE MEETINGS AND NETWORKING. CHECK OUT OUR:**

- [Valuable past presentations](#) – [Consultants' Directory](#) – [Blogs](#) – [Resources](#)
- [Join!](#) Most valuable – post your consulting practice information – and have greater visibility!
- If you'd like to speak with one of our members, come to a CCN meeting

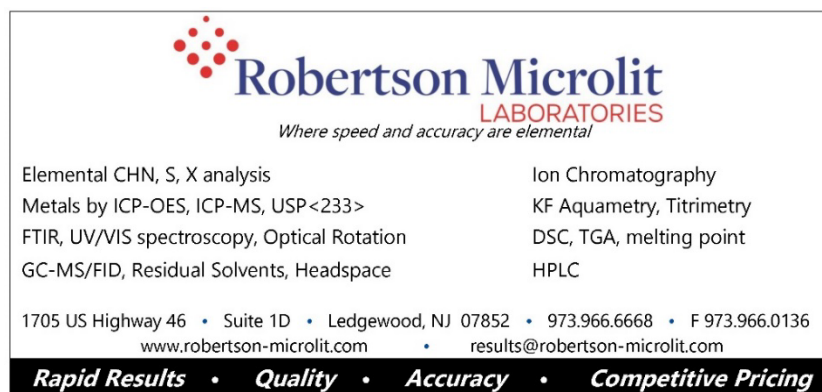
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## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Being a part of one of our teams can help you develop organizational and meeting skills as well as help you to network with people from the largest area companies. Public Relations, such as sending out meeting notices and press releases, can help you to develop a network and help you get noticed!

All committees are looking for new members and several are looking for "take charge" chairs. Some, like the Teller's Committee, involve minimal work—one night per year and pizza provided. Others, like positions on Communications or Social Committees, involve one or two hours per month.

Comittee details can be found at:

[www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia](http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia)

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