

the Catalyst



*October 2026
Volume 111, No. 8*



Ulliyot Lecture and Award: Ben Feringa

Friday, November 13, 2026

6 PM-8 PM EST

Science History Institute

315 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia PA 19106

Registration link - <https://www.sciencehistory.org/visit/events/ullyot-lecture-and-award-ben-feringa/>

HIGHLIGHTS

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ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

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Published monthly except July, August and December by the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. All views expressed are those of the editors and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society. Editorial matters should be sent to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief c/o the Philadelphia Section ACS, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, 231 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323 or PhilaACS@gmail.com.

Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments From the Chair



Dear Fellow Members,

It's been a busy and rewarding start to the fall, and I'm excited to share some highlights from the past month.

We held our first in-person Section meeting in over six years at Arcadia University, with about 20 members joining us. It was wonderful to reconnect face-to-face, and the energy in the room reminded me just how much value there is in gathering in person. At the meeting, we had the pleasure of presenting Immediate Past Chair Wei Gao with the ChemLuminary Local Section Partnership Award/Marinda Li Wu Award, recognizing her outstanding work building a dynamic partnership with the Chinese American Chemical Society and the ACS Transformative Natural Polymer Convergent Chemist Community. Congratulations, Wei! This recognition is well deserved!

We also co-hosted a joint event with the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE), drawing another strong turnout of about 20 attendees, members and non-members alike. James Brooks, Treasurer of STLE, gave a fascinating talk on copper wire manufacturing and the engineering behind the lubricants used in the process. Our own Chair-Elect, Greglynn Gibbs, shared insights from her career in biotechnology. Events like this are exactly what science is about: the free flow of ideas in an open, inclusive setting where people from different disciplines and organizations can connect and learn from one another.

Our Younger Chemists Committee also hosted its annual Poster Session at the University of Pennsylvania, with 40 undergraduate and graduate students presenting their research. Dr. Chris Kelly of Johnson & Johnson, and previous Chair of the Philadelphia Organic Chemistry Club, joined Dr. Marvin Parasram, Associate Professor at New York University, to share insightful talks about their career journeys in industry and academia. It was a fantastic opportunity for our student members to hear firsthand what paths in chemistry can look like.

Looking ahead, we have many more events planned for the rest of fall and into winter, and I hope to see you at one of them soon.

October 3: Undergrad Student Tour @ The Science History Museum

Please email Prof. Michael Castaldi at castaldimj@gmail.com.

Time 11:00 AM –2:00 PM.

October 17: Science After Hours @ The Franklin Institute

Ticket information will be released soon.

Time: TBD More details on each of these will be shared via email and posted on the Section website as they're finalized. I hope to see many of you there.

November 7 – PAGES™ at Villanova University

November 13 – Ulliyot Lecture at the Science History Institute

Here's to a great fall ahead.

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

Deaths

Manuel A. Lopez, retired chemical engineer, July 31 at 90. He was born, raised, and educated in Cuba where he worked for the government. He and his wife fled the country in 1962, and he continued graduate education at Villanova University. He was employed by PQ Corporation where he held several positions. After working in research and development he joined the firm's international division, traveling to the company's affiliates and customers in Europe, South America, and Asia, providing technical expertise.

WCC Celebrates 100 Years!

The ACS Women Chemists Committee will celebrate its 100th 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>.

Update: ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meetings

The 2027 meeting will be a "mini-MARM", on May 22nd, hosted by the South Jersey Section, venue TBA. There will be an awards event, and an undergrad student poster session is planned. The Chair is Prof. G. Caputo: caputo@rowan.edu

The 2028 MARM will be hosted by Howard University, in DC: June 8th–10th. The meeting Chair is Prof. W. Farrell: wfarrell@usna.edu

Our Philadelphia Section is seeking volunteers and a location for the 2029 MARM. If you can assist, please contact Prof. D. Salas-de la Cruz: david.salas@rutgers.edu



ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

October 8th, 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
 - b. Immediate Past Chair – Wei Gao
 - c. Chair-Elect – Greglynn Gibbs
 - 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, October 7, 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/GLqCGwh5QTO1B1FqpPrBYQ>

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

Matt Irwin
Secretary
mtirwin.acs@gmail.com

Section Office
PhilaACS@gmail.com

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

American Chemical Society – Philadelphia Section
231 South 34th Street, Office – 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6323
phillyacs.org

General Business



Lights. Camera. Screams.

Friday, October 16, 2026 / 7:30 PM – 11:30 PM

Looking for a 21+ Halloween event in Philadelphia? Science After Hours: Fright Nite brings together scary movie science, after-hours museum access, themed entertainment, food and drink, and rooftop stargazing for an unforgettable night out at The Franklin Institute.

For one night only, Science After Hours: Fright Nite transforms The Franklin Institute into an adults-only Halloween experience exploring the science, technology, and movie magic behind cinema's most iconic monsters, creatures, and scary effects.

Come in costume as your favorite horror movie character and enjoy a night of science, scares, exhibits, stargazing, and Halloween-themed science programming designed for adults 21 and older.

Your Science After Hours: Fright Nite ticket includes Halloween-themed science activities, live entertainment, hands-on experiences, and special partner programming throughout the museum.

- An exclusive “FrightNite” limited edition lapel pin.
- Stargazing from the rooftop, with spectacular views and facilitated stargazing (weather permitting).
- Food and drinks by [Seravezza Events](#) are available for purchase at bars across the museum.

Tickets: \$35 Franklin Institute Members / \$40 Non-members of Franklin Institute

<https://fi.edu/en/events-calendar/20261016/science-after-hours-fright-nite>



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.



THUR
OCT
8

WOMENS CHEMIST COMMITTEE FALL HAPPY HOUR

Join us post-work with fellow Philly-area chemists! Take a break, grab a drink, meet and network with folks from around the region.

**5:30–7:30
PM**



*Love City, 4323 Main St,
Philadelphia, PA 19127*



National Organization for the Professional Advancement
of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers

REGISTER



NATIONAL AWARDEE SEMINAR **Chemistry in the Language of Beauty**



**SPEAKER
DR. LEYTE
WINFIELD**

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15TH
3PM EST
VIRTUAL**

Sponsored by



Philadelphia
Local Section

NATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Registration link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/VZw5qYHZQq6KPrD5J83RYQ>



2026 NCW Illustrated Poem Contest "Chemistry Under Construction"

The Philadelphia Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Contest Deadline: Sunday, October 25, 2026, 11:59 PM ET

Prizes: \$50 for the winning poem in each category: (grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, & 9-12)

Contact: Greglynn Gibbs (PhilaACS@gmail.com)

e-Submission: Make sure the student's name appears in the name of the file. Upload the entry here at: <https://forms.gle/1zxrxQy6pSqPnHvP8> along with the required entry form, available on e-submission page. Winners of the Philadelphia Local Section's Illustrated Poem Contest will advance to the National Illustrated Poem Contest for a chance to be featured on the ACS website and to win prizes! [See the Philadelphia CCEW winner!](#)

Write and illustrate a poem using the NCW theme, "Chemistry Under Construction"

Your poem must be no more than 40 words and in the following styles to be considered:

HAIKU - LIMERICK - ODE - ABC POEM - FREE VERSE - END RHYME - BLANK VERSE

Possible topics related to the theme include:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| • Chemical reaction | • Concrete |
| • Molecules | • Cement |
| • Copper | • Insulation |
| • Rust | • Metal |
| • Adhesive | • Polymers |

Entries will be judged based upon:

- Artistic Merit - use of color, quality of drawing, design, and layout
- Poem Message - fun, motivational, inspiring about yearly theme
- Originality Creativity - unique, clever and/or creative design
- Neatness - free of spelling and grammatical errors

Contest rules:

- All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, and Blank verse.
- Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the yearly topic (the 2026 topic is Construction), the word choice and the imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.
- All entries must be original works without aid from others. Physical drawings may be scanned or captured via camera and submitted digitally. Illustrations may be created using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers.
- The illustration may also be electronically created by using a digital painting and drawing app on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. If the illustration is created using a digital painting or drawing app, the name of the program must be included on the entry form.
- Use of AI in any form (i.e. written or pictorial) is strictly prohibited.
- The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be typed before the hand-drawn or digital illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper, which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.
- No clipart or unoriginal images can be used.
- Only one entry per student will be accepted (without assistance from others).
- Students must be sponsored by a school or another sponsoring community group (e.g., Homeschool Association, Boys and Girls Club, Scout Troop, 4-H, etc.).
- Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners' names, likenesses, and entries for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes.
- Students must have parental/guardian permission and signature to enter the contest.
- No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Sponsored by the American Chemical Society. All rights reserved. All information provided herein pertains to the Illustrated Poem Content. This information may be updated or changed for future contests.





Re-
new
your

ACS Membership. Save 20% and Get Involved!

The Philadelphia Local Section is participating in a membership recruitment campaign that runs from September 9, 2026, through December 11, 2026. We are pleased to partner with ACS to offer you a **20% discount** on your upcoming ACS Membership renewal. This discount may be applied to the [Standard or Premium package](#) and must be used by December 11, 2026.

Here is how to redeem your discount:

1. Visit <https://membership.join.acs.org>
2. You will be prompted to log in using your ACS ID (username/password). If you don't have one or forget your login, click the appropriate link on the login page
3. On the Review step of the application, enter the following code to apply the discount to your ACS dues:
CGW20

We hope you will take advantage of this discounted membership offer and hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings and networking events. For more information about upcoming activities our Local Section is hosting, review our website <https://phillyacs.org/>. Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to get involved in our Local Section.



Pictured left to right: Rigoberto Hernandez (ACS President), Judith Currano (Councilor, Philadelphia Section), and Georgia Arbuckle-Keil (Councilor, Philadelphia Section) after the council meeting at the ACS Fall 2026 National Meeting in Chicago.



INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS!

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

PAGES mission is to increase girls' interest in STEM by providing hands-on learning opportunities and to meet women working in science fields.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Mentor curious young minds
- Lead or support hands-on STEM experiment
- Share your college or career journey
- Build leadership, outreach, and networking experience

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Social media/outreach
- Day-of logistical help:
 - Greet guests and help with check-in
 - Set up lunch and beverage station
 - Guide students to/from lab experiences
 - Help with clean up
 - Photography
- Day-of science workshops

SIGN UP HERE



WWW.PAGESPROGRAM.ORG



@PHILLYPAGES



ACS

Philadelphia
Local Section

2026 Ulliot Public Affairs Lecture and Award: Ben Feringa

In this presentation, Ben Feringa will focus on his journey in the world of molecular nanoscience, designing molecular machines, which are one billionth of a meter in size. Science or science fiction? How did he pave the way to Stockholm? In particular, he will discuss the synthesis and functioning of molecular switches and motors, as well as applications such as smart medicines and responsive materials and artificial muscles. The process of discovery, the art of building small, and the adventure to control motion at the molecular level will also be presented. Feringa will address how fundamental questions, serendipity, and molecular beauty have guided him on this journey.

Date: November 13, 2026.

Location: Science History Institute,
315 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Agenda:

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Lecture and Award Presentation

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Reception

Link to reserve your spot: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-ulliot-public-affairs-lecture-and-award-ben-feringa-registration-1981955545389>

www.phillyacs.org

News from National (new and updated items at top)

Celebrate National Chemistry Week

Get ready to celebrate [National Chemistry Week](#) on October 21, 2026, at 7:00 PM ET with [ACS Program-in-a-Box](#) ! Registration is open for this exciting, interactive event centered on this year's theme, "Chemistry Under Construction."

New Scholarship Honors Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw's Legacy

A Project SEED Scholarship has been established in memory of 46-year ACS member [Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw](#) by her husband, Richard Shaginaw. Kathleen, who passed away in 2025, was a **Councilor for the Philadelphia Section** and served on the Local Section Activities and Public Relations and Communications Committees. This scholarship will help Project SEED alumni excel while advancing Kathleen's legacy. To contribute or establish a scholarship, contact Lara Kadylak at l_kadylak@acs.org

ACS Graduate School Readiness Boot Camp

The [ACS Bridge Graduate School Readiness Boot Camp](#) provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to gain clarity about their academic and professional future while exploring graduate education in a supportive and engaging environment. Through guided reflection, mentorship, and meaningful conversations with peers and professionals, participants are encouraged to examine their strengths, interests, and aspirations as they consider the next step in their scientific journey. Students will leave the experience with a stronger understanding of the graduate school landscape, greater confidence in their potential, and practical tools to help them navigate the application process.

Funding Opportunity: Herman Frasch Foundation Grants in Agricultural Chemistry

The American Chemical Society is accepting applications for the 2027 Herman Frasch Foundation Grants, which support innovative research in agricultural chemistry with the potential to benefit the agricultural development of the United States. Early-career tenured or tenure-track faculty within the first seven years of their first academic appointment are encouraged to apply. Grants provide up to \$50,000 annually for five years (up to \$250,000 total) to support research and student training activities. Applications are due November 5, 2026. For questions, contact fraschinfo@acs.org

Nominations for National Awards Now Open

Nominations for the 2028 ACS National Awards are being accepted from August 1 to December 1, 2026. Designed to recognize chemistry in all its branches, from groundbreaking research and commercialization to public service and doctoral work, the National Awards are the perfect opportunity to recognize an inspiring chemist in your community. Visit the [National Awards website](#) for more information.

Join the ACS Membership Drive

Exclusive Member Savings

To help make recruitment even easier, ACS is offering a 20% discount on membership until December 1st. Members simply enter the **code CGW20** when joining or renewing to unlock their savings and enjoy all the benefits of ACS membership. Learn more and join today: <https://www.acs.org/membership.html>

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' 150th Anniversary

On April 6, 2026, ACS reached it's 150th Anniversary milestone mark and is celebrating throughout the year!

Visit the webpage at www.acs.org/ACS150

View the 150th Anniversary [video](#).

Visit [this link](#) and answer the question, What does "Chemistry is Everything" mean to you?

Promote Your Events on the 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! Use the hub to broaden your reach by [submitting your events today!](#)

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).

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 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.

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; Andres Vazquez a.vazquez1120@gmail.com



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.

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

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 to set up an appointment.

**781st ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026 – Teleconference Meeting**

Call to Order and Code of Conduct

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Devany at 7:02 PM, 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; Wei Gao; Jim Murray; Melissa Cichowicz; Victor Tortorelli; Amy Brown; Ann Valentine; Christy McInnis; Deborah Cook; Isabella Goodenough; Ivona Macor; Robert Dyer; Sharon Haynie; Greglynn Gibbs (joined late).

Excused: David Cichowicz; Judith Currano.

Note: Andres Vazquez-Lopez indicated he might arrive late; Andrew Devany advised the board to watch for his joining.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The May 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Wei Gao noted one correction: the name of the attendee who accompanied her to the SAPA-GP conference should read Sherry Zhang (a new section director), not as previously transcribed.

- Motion: Matthew Irwin; Second: Andrew Devany; Vote: Approved | Abstentions: Victor Tortorelli (not present at May meeting)

The May minutes were approved as corrected.

Officer Updates

Chair – Andrew Devany

Andrew provided the following updates:

- 50/60/70-Year Member Luncheon Recap: The luncheon took place earlier that afternoon at the Science History Institute. The event was well attended and well received. Jesse Smith of the Science History Institute delivered a talk on the current exhibition, "Boom Bang" (fireworks history), which was noted as insightful and engaging. Andrew also presented custom-made postcards at the event — inspired by the Science History Institute's own exhibit takeaways — featuring polymers such as Nylon-66, PTFE, and Kevlar, as a model for providing guests with memorable take-home items at future section events.
- Bylaws Vote Certification: The bylaws vote closed May 31, 2026. Final results: 235 yes, 4 no. The board voted to formally certify the result, which will be submitted to ACS National for incorporation. See motion below.
- Board Elections: Section board elections are scheduled for November. Board members were encouraged to begin identifying and gauging interest among potential candidates now.
- Upcoming Events Calendar: Andrew shared the following tentative schedule for the remainder of 2026 (some dates and details still being confirmed):
 - September 10 – In-person Board of Directors Meeting (hybrid format; tentative venue: Arcadia University)
 - September 17 – Joint event with STLE (Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers) at Conshohocken Brewing Company; full program details to follow in July
 - September 25 – YCC Annual Poster Session (undergraduate and student presenters; registration not yet open)

- October 3 – Undergraduate Tour at the Science History Institute (organized by Jim Murray and Mike Castaldi; confirmed)
- October 17 – Science After Hours at the Franklin Institute (adults 21+; free venue for ACS; NCW theme: Chemistry of Construction; approximately 3 volunteers needed; Isabella Goodenough and Wei Gao expressed interest in volunteering)
- Mid-to-late October – Philadelphia Section Annual Award (programming led by Chair-Elect)
- November 13 – Ulliot Lecture (Friday)
- Mid-November – Food Drive (in development; planned as university collaboration)
- Mid-December – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (venue under consideration: Yards Brewing)

Bylaws Vote Certification – Formal Vote:

- Motion: Matthew Irwin; Second: Andrew Devany; Vote: Approved; Abstentions: Matthew Irwin (recused as organizer of the vote process)

The bylaws revision was formally certified. Results will be submitted to ACS National for incorporation into the section's official bylaws.

Discussion – Franklin Institute Science After Hours / National Chemistry Week:

- Deborah Cook suggested framing the October 17 Franklin Institute event as a National Chemistry Week (NCW) activity, as it falls just before NCW (which coincides with Mole Day, October 23). This positioning could benefit the section's annual report and increase public outreach.
- Andrew noted the 2026 NCW theme is "Chemistry of Construction" and is planning interactive materials-science experiments aligned with that theme.
- Deborah recalled that ACS Philadelphia previously ran popular events at the Franklin Institute for NCW, which were eventually discontinued due to cost. The current arrangement offers a free venue, making renewed collaboration feasible. She encouraged Andrew to mention the NCW connection to the Franklin Institute's event coordinator for additional promotional benefit.
- Christy McInnis suggested requesting ACS National Chemistry Week booklet/activity packets (free, available in packs of 50; include coloring books and simple kitchen demonstrations) to distribute to attendees. She also recommended having one or two volunteers stationed to engage attendees waiting in line, based on prior experience with high crowd turnout at these events.
- Greglynn Gibbs confirmed she is the section's NCW/CCEW coordinator and has ordered these packets before; she previously distributed them at local libraries. She noted she served on the ACS Committee on Community Activities (CCA), which produces the booklets.

Discussion – Catalyst Monthly Email / Upcoming Events Listing:

- Christy McInnis suggested including a concise upcoming events list directly in the body of the monthly Catalyst email, rather than burying details in the newsletter, to improve member visibility of section programming.
- Matthew Irwin (who assembles the monthly email) agreed to implement this, including hyperlinks to event pages where available. Format would include event name, date, and brief description with a link for more information.

Past Chair – Wei Gao

Wei attended the CACS (Chinese American Chemical Society) Eastern Chapter Conference the previous Saturday at Rutgers University (Busch campus). The conference had its highest attendance to date. Highlights included a keynote address by a senior VP from IFF on sustainability, and a career panel discussion. Organizers expressed interest in future collaboration with ACS Philadelphia. Wei noted the event is a strong opportunity for students interested in networking and industry careers.

Chair-Elect / Programming – Greglynn Gibbs

Greglynn arrived late due to a meeting with interns (she serves as intern coordinator at her institution this summer) and provided the following update:

- CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest – National Winner: The Philadelphia Section's 6th–8th grade winner of the Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) Illustrated Poem Contest also won the national prize — the first time in at least a year the section has entered and won at the national level. The winning poem featured a maple leaf motif with chemical equations woven into the background design, focusing on themes of sugar, trees, and oxygen. The winner received \$50 from the local section and \$500 from ACS National, and will be featured on the ACS National website.
- Outreach: Greglynn sent formal announcements (flyer and letter on CCEW letterhead) to the student's teacher, parents, and school. ACS National staff also sent a congratulatory letter to the school. Teachers shared the announcement at their school district meetings. The board discussed whether to pursue additional press; Vic Tortorelli and Deborah Cook recommended leaving public communications to the schools and ACS National, given privacy considerations for minors. Greglynn also shared her school district contact list with Louise Lauder (Princeton Section) and the MARM Communion Contest coordinator to help recruit local student teams for future MARM contests.

Secretary – Matthew Irwin

No additional report.

Treasurer – Ivona Macor

The May 2026 Treasurer's Report was presented for board approval.

- Motion: Ivona Macor; Second: Andrew Devany; Vote: Approved; Abstentions: Ivona Macor

The May 2026 Treasurer's Report was approved.

Ivona reminded the board that reimbursement requests should be submitted by July 15, 2026. She will be out of office for a period after that date but expects to return before the ACS National Fall Meeting in Chicago.

Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook

No formal report at this time. Deborah noted that once the agenda for the ACS National Meeting in Chicago (August 2026) is distributed, she will contact all councilors and alternates to determine attendance and will coordinate the section's usual pre-conference meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion: Vic Tortorelli; Second: Jim Murray; Vote: Approved unanimously

The meeting adjourned.

CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2026

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Greglynn Walton-Gibbs, Chair Elect ACS Philadelphia Section

DATE & TIME: Wednesday October 14, 2026, 6:30 PM ET

[Click here to register](#)

Location: Online via Zoom! (Registration required)



Biography: Greglynn Gibbs, a graduate of Penn State Berks, is a Lead Research Associate at Roche Innovation Center Philadelphia, where she supports neuroscience gene therapy research. She previously served for more than three years as CNS Platform Lab Manager in R&D at Spark Therapeutics.

With professional experience spanning academia, government, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical research, Greglynn brings a broad perspective to scientific communication and professional leadership.

She is also active in the American Chemical Society (ACS), serving as Chair-Elect and Minority Affairs Chair of the Philadelphia Section and as an ACS

National Career Consultant.

Abstract: Greglynn will present *Publicity and Public Communication*, a practical training topic formerly offered by ACS National to its volunteer leaders and officials. Her presentation will provide valuable insights into communicating science, promoting professional activities, and effectively engaging with the public.

Click [here](#) to register to attend the event. This session is **FREE**.

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CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

OCTOBER 28, 2026

STARTING A BUSINESS IN PENNSYLVANIA: LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SCIENTISTS, CONSULTANTS, AND ENTREPRENEURS

David Caro, Esq. of Grim, Biehn and Thatcher

DATE & TIME: Wednesday October 28, 2026, 6:30 PM ET

[Click here to register](#)

Location: Online via Zoom! (Registration required)



Abstract: Starting a consulting practice or other small business involves more than simply finding clients and providing services. The decisions made at the outset can have important legal, financial, and practical consequences as the business grows.

This presentation will provide a practical overview of the principal legal considerations involved in starting and operating a business in Pennsylvania, with particular attention to professionals and consultants transitioning from employment or independent work into their own business. Topics will include selecting and forming an appropriate business entity; understanding the differences among sole proprietorships, limited liability companies, and corporations; ownership and governance considerations; contracts and client engagements; protecting personal assets and managing potential liability; insurance considerations; intellectual property and confidentiality; the use of employees and independent contractors; and basic compliance and recordkeeping requirements.

The presentation will also address common mistakes made by new business owners and practical steps that can be taken at the outset to reduce risk and establish a sound legal foundation. The goal is not to turn entrepreneurs into lawyers, but to help them recognize the legal issues they are likely to encounter, understand which matters they can reasonably handle themselves, and identify when professional legal or other advice may be appropriate.

Biography: David Caro is highly valued by business clients for his many years' experience in business transactions and taxation law as well as his expertise as a certified public accountant. His meticulous attention to detail serves his many business and personal clients well. Dave's clients benefit from his extensive history of assistance and legal guidance to select the appropriate form of business organization for start-ups. This experience and background allow Dave to provide excellent insight to clients with whom he works closely and diligently to establish a solid legal foundation for their future business success. Dave has also served as an instructor in business and tax laws at Bucks County Community College. <https://grimlaw.com/attorney-profiles/david-p-caro/>

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www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia

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