the Catalyst

November 2026
Volume 111, No. 9



HIGHLIGHTS

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ACS Philadelphia Section

Founded April 15, 1899

Ullyot 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/

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Advertising: Victor Tortorelli, vtortorelli@ursinus.edu

Comments From the Chair



Dear Fellow Members,

October is a special month for chemistry outreach, and the Section kicked off National Chemistry Week with a hands-on event. On October 18th, the first day of NCW, Rob Dyer, Isabella Goodenough, and I hosted a table at FrightNite at the Franklin Institute. Our demonstration reflected this year's NCW theme, *Chemistry Under Construction*.

We combined sodium alginate with natural dyes and tested whether the dyes fluoresced under UV light. Sodium alginate is best known in the culinary industry as a food stabilizer and thickener, but it also has a wide range of uses across many other industries. It was a fun way to show visitors that the materials we build with, and the chemistry that holds them together, are not always where you expect to find them.

It was a pleasure to talk with so many attendees and explain the chemistry behind what they were seeing. One moment stood out: several grade school science teachers stopped by and asked how they could bring the experiment into their own classrooms. Inspiring educators, who in turn reach many students, is exactly what our outreach efforts are about. Thank you to Rob and Isabella for volunteering their time and expertise.

As my year as Chair comes to a close, I look forward to this year's election results, and I thank everyone who took part in shaping the direction of the Section. I am also delighted that our Chair-Elect, Greglynn Gibbs, will soon take the helm. I have full confidence in her abilities and her dedication to the ACS, and I know she will lead the Section effectively. Through many conversations and meetings, she has shared her passion for science outreach and for advancing the Section.

There is still some time left in my term, and I plan to serve it to the best of my abilities. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Ullyot Lecture and the Philadelphia Section Award Lecture.

Warm regards,

Andrew Devany
Chair, ACS Philadelphia Section

NEWS ATOMS—*Alan Warren*

Deaths

Guy Dominic Diana, retired medicinal chemist, February 15, 2026 at 90. From 1970 to 1996 he worked for Sterling Drug, Inc., Sterling Research Group, and Sterling Winthrop, Inc., then briefly with Sanofi S.A., and from 1999 to 2001 with Viropharma.

Robert L. Albright, retired polymer chemist, March 2nd at 95. He served as senior research scientist and senior research fellow at Rohm and Haas for 36 years. He then started his own consulting business in 1994 in the fields of separation science and polymer design and maintained a research laboratory at Lehigh University.

ACS Creates Six New Policy Fellowships

ACS is expanding its Public Policy Fellowships Program with six new fellowship positions, creating additional opportunities for scientists to engage in federal policymaking. Applications open on Monday, November 16.

Make science matter where decisions are made. Become a fellow to share your scientific expertise with lawmakers, inform US science policy, and address today's most critical challenges.

Application Window: November 16, 2026 – January 5, 2027

An Increased Investment in Scientific Leadership

To ensure scientific voices are heard when decisions are made, ACS is significantly expanding its Public Policy Fellowships program. Through new partner organizations, two new program tracks, and an increased cohort size, we are creating critical career and fellowship opportunities for scientists at a time when science policy expertise is needed more than ever.

Become a Member

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.

ACS Local Section
Philadelphia

ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting

November 12, 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, November 11, 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

ACS | Philadelphia Local Section

2026 Ullyot 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-ullyot-public-affairs-lecture-and-award-ben-feringa-registration-1981955545389

www.phillyacs.org



2026-2027 POCC Lecture Series

The Women in Chemistry Lecture:

Nov 19, 2026, 7:30 PM

Prof. Vy Dong

UC Irvine

Choose Your Own Adventure in Metal-Hydride Catalysis

IN PERSON @:

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall

Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania

6:30 Reception in the Nobel Hall

Food and drinks to be provided!

The Philadelphia Organic Chemist's Club

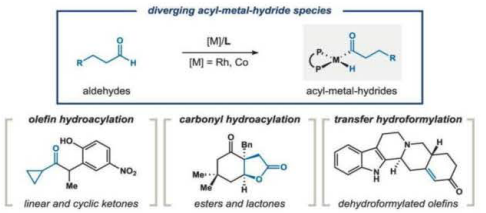
POCClub.org

@POCC_Chem

@POCCChem

Sponsored By: Incyte & Prelude Therapeutics

Abstract: Metal hydrides promote a wide range of organic transformations involving both C–C bond formation and cleavage. This lecture will highlight our development of Rh- and Co-catalyzed hydrofunctionalizations, including hydroacylation, hydroamination, hydrothiolation, hydrogenation, and transfer hydroformylation, with an emphasis on mechanistic control of selectivity. Additional adventures may include our recent Cu-catalyzed site-selective functionalization of pyrazoles and strategies for stereochemical control at phosphorus, including stereodefined P(V) motifs relevant to glycans and medicinal chemistry.



Bio: Vy was born in Big Spring, Texas, and grew up in Anaheim, California. She earned her chemistry degree with high honors at UC Irvine, completing a thesis project with Larry Overman on the Biginelli condensation. She then pursued graduate studies at UC Berkeley with David MacMillan (2021 Nobel Laureate) as one of his first graduate students; she later moved with the MacMillan Group to Caltech, where she completed her Ph.D. Her doctoral research focused on zwitterionic-Claisen rearrangements and the total synthesis of erythronolide B. As an NIH postdoctoral fellow, Vy trained in organometallic and supramolecular chemistry with Robert Bergman and Kenneth Raymond at Berkeley. She began her independent career at the University of Toronto, where she was promoted with tenure and named the Adrian Brook Professor. After six winters in Canada, she and her research team relocated to UC Irvine, whereshe is now a Chancellor's Professor. Vy's research has been recognized with national awards including the ACS EJ Corey Award, ACS Cope Scholar Award, and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship. She teaches organic chemistry and advanced synthesis labs. Vy serves as an associate editor for Organic Syntheses and RSC's Chemical Society Reviews and a consultant for Merck & Co. At UCI, she teaches lower and upper division laboratory courses (Chem51LD and Chem160), freshman seminar (the O-Chem Edge, and sophomore organic chemistry(Chem51C). Outside-the-lab, Vy's hobbies include trying orchids, piano, and working on a 7.5 inch gauge railroad with her son, Liam.

The Philadelphia Organic Chemists' Club • Great chemistry for more than seventy years!

Bringing Chemists Together: Students, Mentors & Opportunities

On Saturday, October 3, 2026, chemistry students from Thomas Jefferson University and Saint Peter's University spent the day in Philadelphia visiting the Science History Institute and talking with faculty and ACS members about graduate school and careers in chemistry. The program ran from 11:00 AM to approximately 4:30 PM.

Funding for the program came from a grant from the National ACS Senior Chemists Committee, with support from the Philadelphia Section, the Senior Chemists, ACS Career Consultants, and the chemistry faculty from Thomas Jefferson University.

The program was recognized nationally by the American Chemical Society with an ACS Chem-Luminary Award in 2023. The ChemLuminary Awards recognize outstanding work by ACS local sections, technical divisions, and other ACS groups and committees. Receiving the award brought national recognition to the Philadelphia Section and to this program for its work bringing students, younger chemists, senior chemists, faculty, and ACS members together.

The program was hosted by Dr. John Milligan and Prof. Michael Castaldi of Thomas Jefferson University, Dr. James Murray, and Mr. Joseph Martino of Immaculata University as well as Dr. Wei Gao from Merk. Prof. Castaldi, Dr. Murray and Mr. Martino are all members of both the local and national career consultants.

Students from Saint Peter's University were a targeted group as Saint Peter's is an urban university with many first-generation college students. One of the goals of the program was to give these students an opportunity to meet faculty and practicing chemists and ask questions about graduate school and possible careers.

The students arrived at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia between 11:00 and 11:30 AM and were then given a tour hosted by the faculty. The Institute is devoted to preserving and explaining the history of chemistry and the chemical sciences. Its exhibits include scientific instruments, laboratory equipment, photographs, documents, and other objects that show how chemistry has developed and how discoveries in chemistry have affected everyday life.

For chemistry students, the museum provided an opportunity to see some of the instruments and techniques they learn about in the classroom in a historical setting. The tour also showed how laboratory equipment has changed over time and how advances in instrumentation have changed the way chemists work. Students were able to connect what they are studying today with the work of earlier generations of scientists.

At 1:00 PM, the group walked to the Thomas Jefferson University Alumni Center. Pizza and soda were provided, and from 1:30 to 3:00 PM the students talked in small groups with faculty, senior chemists, and career consultants. Much of the discussion centered on graduate school, applying to graduate programs, and career choices. The day was concluded with a walking tour of the old city.

The comments we received from Saint Peter's students showed that these discussions were especially useful. One student who hopes to pursue a PhD in chemistry wrote "The museum tour was very interesting, and I learned a lot about the history of chemistry and how the field has evolved over time." The student also said that Dr. Murray's discussion of graduate school and the application process gave them "a better idea of what to expect and how to plan for my future."

Another student enjoyed seeing how instruments used in chemistry and biology have changed over time but said that meeting and talking with the professors was one of the best parts of the trip. The student described talking with a graduate school advisor as a "steppingstone" that helped in thinking about what to do in the future.

Some of the group then left for a walking tour of historic Philadelphia, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The tour ended at about 4:30 PM. One student said it was "a fun way to learn more about Philadelphia's history while spending time with other chemistry students."

The program also provided another way for the smaller committees and groups within the local ACS Section to work together. It brought younger chemists and senior chemists together in an informal setting, giving younger members and students a chance to learn from the experience of senior chemists while giving senior members an opportunity to stay involved with the next generation. Programs like this can help strengthen connections among the different groups within a local section.

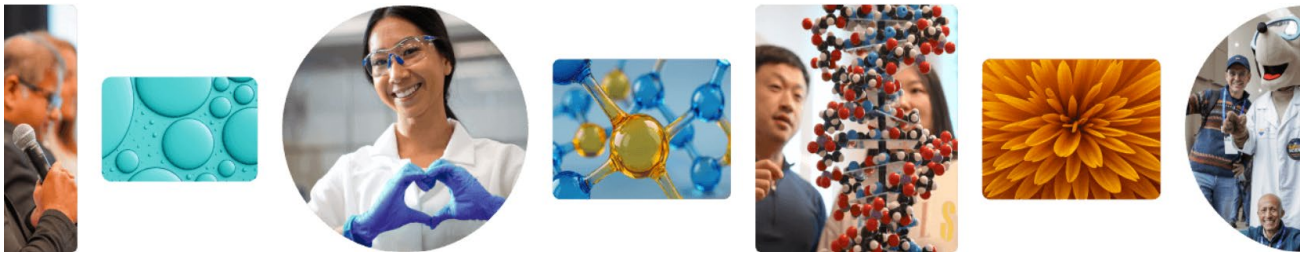
The day gave the students a chance to learn about the history of chemistry, see how the tools of chemistry have developed, meet students from another university, and talk directly with people who could answer their questions about graduate school and careers. We thank the National ACS Senior Chemists Committee and everyone who participated for making the program possible. We are planning for the same trip again in the fall or 2027.

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 8–10. 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.



Renew 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.



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

News from National (new and updated items at top)

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**.
V**isit 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

ACS Local Section
Philadelphia
Committee on Minority Affairs

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.

782nd ACS Philadelphia Section Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2026
In-Person Meeting at Grey Towers Castle, Arcadia University

Call to Order and Code of Conduct
The meeting was called to order by Andrew Devany at 7:04 PM. A quorum was confirmed. The ACS Chemists' Code of Conduct was read aloud.

Roll Call
Present: David J. Cichowicz; Deborah H. Cook; Greglynn Gibbs; Victor Tortorelli; Sharon Haynie; Andres Vazquez-Lopez; Wei Gao; Andrew Devany; Michael Castaldi; David Salas de la Cruz; Sherry Zhang; Ivona Macor; Judith Currano; Daniel Miller; Robert Dyer; Isabella Goodenough; Shrirang Sabde; Ella Davis; Amy Brown; Brisa Hurlocker; Kseniia Karnaukh; Ann Valentine; Linda Mascavage.

Excused: Catherine Bentzley; Melissa Cichowicz; Matthew Irwin; Christine McInnis; Steve Flemming.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
The June 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval.
Motion: Deborah Cook; Second: Greglynn Gibbs; Vote: Approved; Abstentions: None
The June 2026 minutes were approved as presented.

Officer Updates
Chair – Andrew Devany
Andrew began by thanking Prof. Linda Mascavage and Arcadia University for hosting this in-person board meeting. He then provided the following updates:

- *Upcoming Events Calendar*: Andrew reviewed the fall and winter schedule:
  Thursday, September 17 – Joint event with the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE)
  Friday, September 25 – YCC Annual Poster Session
  Saturday, October 3 – Undergraduate Student Tour
  Thursday, October 8 – WCC Networking at Love City Brewing, Manayunk
  Friday, October 16 – Science After Hours at the Franklin Institute
  Mid-to-late October – Philadelphia Section Annual Award
  Saturday, November 7 – PAGES
  Friday, November 13 – Ullyot Lecture (note: held on a Friday this year, not the customary Thursday)
  Mid-December – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- *Board Elections:* Section elections are coming up in November. Wei Gao is working on the election slate, which must be approved by the board before the end of October.
- *Section's Strategic Plan:* Andrew recapped the strategies developed at the 2021 Strategic Plan retreat and reviewed progress against them. He then outlined several of the section's ongoing communication challenges — particularly reaching members with information about section programming.
- *Component Group Management Pilot Program:* Andrew suggested that participation in the ACS National component group management pilot program could improve local distribution of information and support the strategies in the master plan. The program is a vendor-supported, centralized platform intended to improve consistency, reduce administrative burden, and provide better tools for volunteer leaders, including centralized roster management, targeted email and outreach tools, secure document management,

and event registration and management. Kickoff activities and training begin in September and October, with system launch and onboarding in Q4; participants receive regular updates and can share feedback through check-ins and surveys during Phase 1.

Immediate Past Chair – Wei Gao

- *Volunteer Recruitment:* Wei encouraged members to reach out to her to volunteer for a variety of Local Section roles and activities.
- *YCC Poster Session:* She specifically encouraged members to volunteer for the YCC poster session this fall, led by Kunyu and Andres Vazquez-Lopez.
- *ChemLuminary Award:* The Philadelphia Local Section won a ChemLuminary Award of Local Section Partnership Award/Marinda Li Wu Award for building a dynamic partnership with the Chinese American Chemical Society and the ACS Transformative Natural Polymer Convergent Chemist Community at the Fall 2026 National Meeting.

Chair-Elect – Greglynn Gibbs

- *Committee Planning*: Greglynn asked committee chairs to reach out to her about their plans for next year.
- *Goals for 2027:* Greglynn's goal for the coming year is to develop a collaborative spirit within the Section, and she encouraged open communication with her by email.

Secretary – Matthew Irwin

No report; Matthew Irwin was excused.

Treasurer – Ivona Macor

The Treasurer's report was presented for board approval with one correction: line 1800 should state -$3,581.77.

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

The Treasurer's report was approved as corrected.

- *Reimbursements*: Ivona reminded Councilors to submit their requests for reimbursement for the Fall NationalMeeting.
- *Grant Funds:* Anyone within the Local Section receiving a grant should notify the Treasurer so that funds can be allocated properly. Unidentified funds currently default to line item 560 in the Treasurer's report.

Chair of Council Affairs – Deborah Cook

There were only three items on the councilors' agenda at the fall national meeting, which is unusual. Deborah reported the following notable items from Council:

- *Attendance*: Approximately 13,000 attendees at the Fall National Meeting.
- *Finances*: ACS finances are strong, with most revenue coming from publications. ACS Publications remain strong, and CAS registered its 300 millionth compound.
- *Membership*: ACS and the GDCh (German Chemical Society) have a reciprocal membership agreement carrying a 30% discount. ACS is also piloting a lifetime membership category priced at approximately $2,000.
- *Policy Fellowships*: ACS will increase the Policy Fellowships from two to six, plus four summer internships.
- *Committee Leadership*: Committee chairs for 2027 were announced. Ivona Macor will serve as Chair of the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols.

- *National Elections*: ACS voting for President-Elect and Board members opens September 14 and closes October 9.
- *Council Committee Elections*: Results were announced for the Committee on Committees (ConC), the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and the Council Policy Committee (CPC).

Committee Reports

Young Chemists Committee (YCC) – Andres Vazquez-Lopez

The YCC Annual Poster Session will be held September 25. There is still time to sign up, and additional volunteers and presenters are welcome.

MARM 2029 Update – David Salas de la Cruz

David has been working to bring the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) to Philadelphia in 2029. Three institutions have been contacted; none can currently accommodate the meeting, and a venue is not yet secured:

- *Rutgers–Camden (home institution)*: The campus does not have facilities that can accommodate the event.
- *Saint Joseph's University (Peter Graham, Professor of Chemistry)*: The university does not have suitable facilities for the event.
- *Villanova University (Dan Kraut, Professor and Chair of Chemistry):* Villanova does not have the resources, personnel, or facilities needed to host.
- *Next lead*: Houston Hall at the University of Pennsylvania, which previously hosted a NATAS conference. The next step is to contact Penn and determine whether the venue could accommodate MARM 2029.

David asked the board for financial support from the Section, for ideas on potential venues, and for contacts at Penn and Drexel — including the possibility of splitting the meeting across a couple of locations.

Additional Business

- *Project SEED Scholarship*: A Project SEED scholarship was established in Kathy Shaginaw's name.
- *Recognition*: Ella Davis was recognized for serving 15 years on the Council.

Adjournment

Motion: Andrew Devany; Second: Deborah Cook; Vote: Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.

CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2026

THE ART OF NETWORKING AND CURRENT TRENDS IN THE LUBRICANT MARKET

Neil Canter, PhD, President, Chemical Solutions

DATE & TIME: Wednesday November 11, 2026, 6:30 PM ET
Click here to register

Location: Online via Zoom! (Registration required)

Abstract: Consultants working in the chemical industry need to develop a network of contacts they can turn to for assistance in working on existing projects for clients and finding new opportunities. This talk will provide a personal perspective on networking that the speaker has discovered in traversing through the chemical industry over the past 40+ years. Included will be discussions on what is networking, why network, how to build a network, and guidance for those new to consulting. The second segment of the talk will briefly discuss key trends in the lubricant market where this individual has spent most of his time consulting.

Biography: Neil Canter received his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Michigan in 1983 and his BS in Chemistry from Brown University in 1978. He has been working in the chemical and lubricant industries for over 40 years. Neil previously worked for Stepan Company and Mayco. Presently, Neil runs his own consulting company called Chemical Solutions. He specializes in commercial development, marketing, product development and regulatory support for the lubricant industry. Neil is a member of the American Chemical Society, SAE and STLE. He is also a long-standing member of the Chemical Consultants Network.

Click here to register to attend the event. This session is **FREE.**

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