



# American Chemical Society

Richland Section Board Meeting  
Wednesday, 10/10/2018, 6:03 PM at BSEL 202 WSU Tri City Campus

10/10/18

Start: 6:03 pm

Attendance: Ram Devanathan, Kristin Omberg (online), Sandy Fiskum, Dave Heldebrant (online), Deepika Malhotra, Mariefel Olarte (online), Shirmir Branch, Steve Krogsrud, Anna Cavinato (online)

1. Treasurer's report for September, Sandy – Sandy gave an update on our budget (specifics not captured because Mariefel arrived after the discussion). Treasurer's report attached to the minutes. Ram commented that the section can go from \$30k to ~\$50k in the bank when Kristin takes over as section chair and the NORM2018 books are closed. The financial report was approved as presented.
2. Minutes of September meetings, Mariefel – Minutes with subsequent editorial comments from Sandy was approved.
3. Update for the GeezerFest, Sandy and Dave – Dave reached out to several insurers for local quotes for liquor liability which allows for \$1M coverage for unforeseen events. The City of Richland is a named insured on the liability police. We received two quotes in total. The one given to Dave was more expensive than the one Sandy got so we went ahead with the lower one (\$152 from Tenant Users Liability Insurance Policy, or TULIP). Considering that the wines were already paid for, the cost of the insurance was a cheap way to ensure that we have spirits during GeezerFest within our budget. Ram thanked Sandy and Dave for their efforts. Ram also noted that we have a speaker already, Dr. John LaFemina, who is an interesting speaker. He is a veteran, a PNNL leader and a champion of diversity. He doesn't have a topic yet but Ram expects it to be an interesting talk. Sandy noted that we are not done yet with getting the venue as we still need to finalize forms as well as pay a non-refundable \$75 administrative fee to secure the place. Dave thinks the majority of the correct paperwork is in place and the City of Richland will approve the request as the required signatures went into the system.
4. NORM2018 Update, Dave – Janet is on leave pending her retirement from PNNL. Janet was at ACS Headquarters that day doing PR for the NORM and the various awards for the NOR Board. Dave reported that according to Janet, we only have two things to closeout for NORM2018: the financials and the reports. We are on-time and on schedule for both of those and we have what we need to close-out NORM2018.
5. Update on National Chemistry Week and Girls in Science, Anna – We spent about \$412 to buy all kinds of supply for National Chemistry Week, including little periodic tables, moles, pencils, balloons, etc. We will use them in part for Girls in Science and other outreach activities that will be beyond the National Chemistry Week. With those supplies, we probably have enough to last us up to next fall. EOU signed up for Program-In-A-Box, scheduled for Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Girls in Science is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> in October. All things were already in place and plans were proceeding well. Sandy wrote a check to NEOAHEC, a partner organization that helps EOU with the logistics and registration. We have 114 girls registered, which is beyond the 100 capacity but should be good because other participants might not make it. The theme this year is about environmental catastrophe connected to fish die-off. The cool thing is that we will be able to incorporate some other activities, such as the use of the box from NISE (National Informal STEM Education Network) that contain 10 different activities which can handle 100 participants each. The box was procured through a grant award from the NSF. We will use a couple of

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them for Girls in Science: one is What's in the Water and the other one is Cleaning Oil Spills with Chemistry since they go very well with the environmental theme of Girls In Science. There are other kits such as how to make batteries, chemistry makes scents, rocket reactions and more. Anna is happy to share these to the local section. They have already opened the box and found that the package contains everything that will be needed for an activity – from trays to waste containers. Materials such as salts and oils were all designed to be very safe for the young audience. Anna also ordered the National Chemistry Week Celebrate Chemistry booklets. We have 5 boxes which can be used for other activities such as outreach in museums or in the malls. The materials are for elementary to middle school, too simplistic for high school students – maybe 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Sandy and Shirmir suggested that these may work for Expanding your Horizons, which is for middle school age kids. Anna will resend the link where all the experiments are described so we can look them up, and decide which ones are more appropriate for the event. The kits have the instructions, the leader sheets and the sheets/materials for the participants. There is no excuse not to do these activities because they were well-designed. Ram noted that our coordinator for these activities, Sneha, is now in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Ram made an updated headcount at this point and noted that we have enough for quorum.

6. Update on Election and Candidates for Office, Ram – Ram listed the current candidates for office: Co-Chair: Sandy and Mariefel; Secretary: Shirmir; Treasurer: Deepika. Sandy followed up on the e-mail blast by Anna soliciting nominations. Mariefel noted that we only got one inquiry regarding the extension and whether the reason was because we do not have any candidates. We do have candidates but we are soliciting other nominees. The inquirer thinks that she doesn't have the bandwidth to participate this time. As such, we do not have other nominees.

7. Newsletter, Steve – Steve noted that we had an initial e-mail blast with a deadline on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> for the nominations. However, he noted that from the by-laws, the deadline for nominees from the membership-at-large should be Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, hence, we had the extension to be in compliance. The by-laws further noted that the ballots need to be out to the membership by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. The week after Oct 15<sup>th</sup> is when the next newsletter with the bios and pictures will be sent out. Steve noted that Shirmir sent out an Expanding your Horizons article. Anna will send pictures for the Chem Club and write about their 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row standing as an outstanding club. They were notified just last Wednesday, with very flattering reviews. The Club's good work paid off. Steve will use some of the words in the notification in the article. Other articles that will be featured in the newsletter include NORM2018 and GeezerFest.

Ram asked about the status of the ballots. They will be sent out at the same time as the newsletter. Matt will send out the electronic ballot link and Steve will take care of the paper ballots. We need to also get the right roster for the election. Anna noted that for the election-only roster, the secretary will have to request that. Mariefel should request it sooner than later because sometimes it takes HQ a couple of weeks to deliver the information. Anna will work with Mariefel to obtain the roster. Anna further noted that we cannot use the same roster we use for the newsletter as that contained contact information for individuals who are not eligible to vote. Steve issued a last call for articles, with a deadline in the coming week.

Steve also noted that Program-In-A-Box is something that others can be interested in. He went to the Big Bend Community College website and looked at their staff directory. He found a contact who was interested and receptive. The local section can sponsor the event with them. Anna noted that to participate, one needed to sign-up earlier. Shirmir started to register us but we were not able to identify a location. It also turned out that we needed to apply as early as March to be able to participate live. Now, we can only have access to the recording. They can e-mail Shirmir the unedited version the next day or



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the cleaned-up version a few days after. We can organize an event to watch this version. Shirmir looked for potential venues. The Richland Public Library is booked in November. She noted that we and Big Bend Community can still register for the livestream but there will not be a physical location. Anna noted that the next one will be in February so as soon as she received the invitation for February event, she will forward the information. Then we can register both in La Grande as well as here. Anna thinks there are different options when one registers. She mentioned that OSU usually registers as the student chapter and she acknowledges that she is part of the Richland Section in another box. Shirmir noted that one doesn't need to be ACS-affiliated, just need to be registered.

8. Update on IP grant, Ram – Ram contacted Vanda on her plan to conduct a workshop on presentation skills under the approved IP Grant. We need to have that done and submit a report so we can apply for the next IP Grant which can potentially be \$3500, for government affairs, etc. Vanda said that she was currently at a reception with post-docs where she gave them questionnaires and plan to communicate the data with us on what their needs are. She was also coordinating with her management at PNNL to see if they would contribute some money towards the project. She wanted to know if the section will pitch in as well (\$200-350) but she doesn't know the complete cost yet. Ram will continue to talk with Vanda so this can be put to bed this year and Kristin will have a clean slate next year.

9. Government Affairs Committee Update, Kristin – Kristin noted that the WCC made an 8-slide presentation. She will give us similar slides for the Gov't Affairs Committee through e-mail.

Kristin also mentioned that we were selected for a strategic planning retreat grant. We accepted. HQ will pay a substantial amount (\$7k) to pay for the retreat. The total cost is typically \$7750. This is a good opportunity for the local section. Cassandra Evans and Kareem Redmond at ACS will get back to us on scoping and the next steps. Ram suggested that we should include a line item in next year's budget for this so we can make it official and we can vote on it together with the budget. Kristin asked about previous experience. Anna noted that she had done strategic planning with the Division of Analytical Chemistry but not at the local section level. The ACS has a program where they facilitate strategic planning. It will be an excellent opportunity for the local section to evaluate where we are and where we want to go, and how we can grow into anything else. Probably there will be some logistical things to figure out, such as the location of the place, who will be involved, how many will be invited but ACS will be the ones who will lead the discussion. Dave also mentioned that he participated in the Energy and Fuels Division retreat two years ago and that he found it helpful to see the 5-year plan and to see where things are going. Dave highly recommended the event and agreed with Ram to put it on the dock and see if people will vote on it. Ram noted that we have a lot of early-career to mid-career people who bring a lot of their energy and enthusiasm and they should be part of the event. That it should be focused on the younger generation who will bring forward the torch rather than older folks. Shirmir shared her experience of being invited to a similar event and it reminded her what ACS stands for and its impact on her career. Anna noted that it might be beneficial to invite some post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students to bring a younger perspective. Mariefel noted that if the goal is to plan for the local section, it would be good to have everyone in the local board to be part of it. Anna concurred and noted that strategic planning should indeed be open to everyone in the board and outside. She also suggested that the ACS contact person may also guide us on who we might bring to the table for their perspective and discussion. For example, the Div. of Analytical Chemistry is planning a strategic meeting for 30 participants. They do have a bigger base and can involve as many as they want. The main objective is to bring to the table different perspectives. We might also involve universities (WSU, CBC, and other



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in the Yakima Valley). Kristin noted that we can include a note in the newsletter to seek interest in participation in the strategy meeting as well as leadership at ACS.

Kristin also gave an update about catching up with Bonnie Carpenter. Bonnie has an interesting perspective that she is not necessarily starting a new set of objectives. Rather, there are objectives that she would rather see through to maturity, including advocacy. She would be building on some things that Allison did, such as the advocacy workshop that we had at NORM. It is an exciting time to work with her.

10. WCC Update, Shirmir – WCC is planning for next year. 2019 Expanding Your Horizon Conference, in collaboration with WIN (Women in Nuclear) and the Local MESA, which is currently at PNNL. We have put a call out in the newsletter. The tentative date is on February 9, 2019 at the CBC. It will likely be different from the previous years. WCC talked to Liz Stephens, who is the MESA coordinator here at PNNL, who gave us feedback from students and teachers about shortening the day to just a morning event, rather than the previous whole day event. There will be 3 45-minute programs with a very short keynote speaker during lunch period. We are looking for volunteer presenters, which was noted in the newsletter article. We are also looking to use the \$500 committed to EYH from last year since it was cancelled because there was not enough volunteers.

The other topic that WCC is working on is a series event: Women of Hanford: Hanford History Talks. This idea started when WCC reached out to Cal Delegard for him to give his Hanford history talk at NORM at a Science Cafe. He said he'll do it along with Michele Gerber and Michele Gerber is committed to give the talk. Michele also directed them to other women of Hanford. Megan was able to get in touch with Anna King, who is a local public broadcasting correspondent and she was able to involve other women speakers. They had given similar talks before and had an established format, including a panel discussion. It will be 45 minutes per speaker. Combining that with the others speakers, WCC decided to divide the activity into two events. The first one is Hanford History, with Cal and Michele, hoping to get this done in January or early February. The second event is the Women of Hanford, a talk on the perspectives of underrepresented women regarding the Hanford site. WCC plans to have this in March in conjunction with Women's History month. Anna (King) mentioned the women who would be speaking are traditionally provided an honorarium. WCC is hoping to team with SPARK on this event. It has not been decided yet whether this will be on PNNL campus or somewhere else.

Ram suggested to introduce line items for EYH, Hanford History and Women of Hanford, instead of voting on them individually. We need estimates on how much they would cost. With the funding once the NORM event closeout is finished, he expects that we should be able to host these events very easily. Shirmir will work with Sandy, to include these as line items in the budget. Sandy suggested that we note them as a single item, e.g. WCC Advance, rather than as specific events. Ram noted that this is a good idea as well. However, from previous experience, someone may ask why a specific cost is allocated, so it might be better to break the budget down into individual components.

11. Other items – Dave brought up the solicitation for the Science on Wheels for White Bluffs Elementary School. He identified that his wife works there so he is recusing himself from voting as there might be a conflict of interest. The project is for a STEM education truck that brings science-related things to science events and things that kids can experience on-hand in specific schools. Only three board members commented back so Dave was asking if a discussion was needed. Sandy looked at the budget for STEM education for grade school and high school stuff. In our ledger, we still have the \$150 for K-12 outreach still open. We also did not spend the funds for other STEM events.



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The school requests \$500 from us. The total cost for the school is \$4300 and they are requesting donations from other organizations in the Columbia Basin. Considering our section's giving history to STEM education programs, Dave brought up this proposal. He noted that the money was planned to be used this academic year. However, the truck will not be brought out until it was booked and the school has funding. Dave noted that the truck will come from the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. Ram asked if this should come out in our current year or next year's budget. Dave thinks that if they do not have this out by spring, it will have to come out in our next year's budget. Ram suggested that two things can happen: we vote on allocating \$500 for this STEM education project out of this year's budget and if it doesn't get spent this year, it can be added as a line item in next year's budget. Ram proposed that we allocate \$500 for the Pacific Science Center-related activity, which was completely consistent with our STEM education sponsorship goals. The move was seconded and approved. As a recap, if the amount was not spent in calendar year 2018, we request that the Treasurer add this as a line item in next year's budget.

Marieffel noted that we got an e-mail from Cheryl Vockins regarding the need to update information for our local section councilors. She will be in contact with Dave and Anna to confirm information, which needs to be submitted no later than December 1st.

Steve requested more info regarding our GeezerFest speaker. Ram will give him information this weekend.

Meeting adjourned: 6:52 PM.

**ACS Richland Section  
Treasurer's Report**

October 10, 2018

**Activities**

**Starting Balance**

Savings	\$18,895.92
Checking	\$13,453.48

**Receipts**

From	Amount	Budget Category	Date	Directed to:
Travel grant for councilor to the Nat'l mee	\$1,222.30	4	9/12/2018	Checking
LS Dues January - June 2018	\$632.00	7	10/3/2018	Checking
Banner Bank/interes	\$3.81	8	9/30/2018	Savings
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Total receipts this period	\$1,858.11			

**Expenses**

To (date billed)	Amount	Budget Category	Date Paid	Description; check number
ACS (9/14/18)	\$425.00	20	9/15/2018	LS-LC delegate training (Jan 2018); 127C
Liquor Control Board	\$10.00	17c	9/29/2018	Liquor permit from WA state for Annual Social; debi
Anna Cavinato (10/1/18)	\$412.25	21c	10/1/2018	NCW supplies; 1271
NEOAHEC (10/4/18)	\$500.00	21g	10/4/2018	Girls in Science grant; 1272
TULIP (Tenet User Liability Insurance)	\$152.00	17c	10/5/2018	Liability insurance that also covers City of Richland; debi
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Total spent this period	\$1,499.25			

**Ending Balance**

Savings	\$18,899.73
Checking	\$13,808.53