

Richland Section Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, 03/10/2021, 6:02 PM, Microsoft Teams Meeting

03/10/2021  
Start: 6:02 pm

Attendance: Shirmir Branch, Anna Cavinato, Colby Heideman, Sandra (Sandy) Fiskum, David (Dave) Heldebrant, Deepika Malhotra, Mariefel Olarte, Cristina Padilla-Cintron, Steve Krogsrud, Tamas Varga

1. February 2021 meeting minutes – Shirmir introduces the February 2021 executive committee meeting minutes. Comments were received electronically. Steve moves to approve the February 2021 executive committee meeting minutes as amended. Cristina seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Shirmir will submit the final draft of the minutes to Matt Monroe for upload to the Richland Local Section (LS) website.
2. March 2021 treasurer’s report – Deepika introduces the March 2021 (01 – 28 February 2021) treasurer’s report. Starting balance is \$45,048.90 in savings and \$23,399.05 in checking. Activities are reported in the attached treasurer’s report. Ending balance is \$45,048.90 in savings and \$23,399.05 in checking. Minor revisions were incorporated as comments were provided. Deepika will send revised copy for inclusion in the minutes below. Sandy moves to approve the March 2021 treasurer’s report as amended. Dave seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business

3. Budget – The CY21 budget has been approved by the LS membership. There were 22 responses. 95.5% voted “Yes”; 4.5% abstained. Two comments received. One comment highlighted difficulty in locating the budget justification prior to voting. The second comment was in regard to the large deficit. Discussion indicates that this is due to the LS not spending all of the allotted funds from the previous year, so it reflects on the budget for the subsequent year. Discussion on these comments included attaching the budget justification and explanation to the Google voting form so that the voter has access to this information at the time of voting.
4. Mid-Columbia Science Fair (MCFS) – The first round of online judging began on Tuesday, 10 March 2021. Dave is preparing information that includes a list of the chemistry related science projects for the LS volunteers to vote on. He will send information to Anna for distribution to the membership.
5. Chemistry Olympiad – Four Tri-Cities students have registered for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. Mariefel noted that a student reached out to her with interest in participating; however, the registration deadline had already passed. Discussion indicated including an announcement in the fall newsletter so that the membership and local high school students could be aware of the deadlines well enough in advance to register.
6. COVID-19 activity (Diversity & Inclusion Grant) – Cristina, Anna, and Deepika met with the Isaac Stevens Middle School principal and teacher regarding the COVID-19 outreach activity. This event will be spread over two days due to the school’s hybrid program. Most of the event program will be pre-recorded and the teachers will lead the event. Cristina will soon order the material to go into the activity kits. Anna noted that goggles should be included as well for safety. There will be 353

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students participating in this event. Sandy suggested putting out a call to the membership to volunteer for this event. Discussion indicated that due to COVID-19 restrictions, preparation of recorded activities would need to be recorded by the volunteer and then sent to Cristina. Further discussion on how to distribute materials to volunteers to assemble the kits will take place offline.

7. Website development (METT Grant) – Steve has been reaching out to website developers with inquiries about building the LS website. Once he has received enough responses, he will bring that information to the executive committee.

New business

8. ACS Fellows nomination – Sandy had recommended Dave for the LS ACS Fellows nomination. However, Janet is already working with the Division of Energy & Fuels to nominate Dave. That leaves a space available to nominate someone from the LS. Sandy feels that it is too late to find another individual and assemble a nominations packet by the 01 April 2021 deadline. Although people can self-nominate, the nomination is much stronger when it comes from the LS. Anna has a template that organizes all of the necessary information when someone is nominated. This is best filled out by the person to be nominated. The person must be an accomplished researcher and have given service to the ACS (e.g., serving on a national committee, participating in a regional meeting, etc.). Dave suggested nominating Larry Chick, a retired laboratory fellow at PNNL, either this year or next year. Larry has been very active with MCFS. Mariefel suggesting placing an article in the fall newsletter containing information on how to become an ACS Fellow. Anna has taken the action to write this article. Sandy suggested not putting forward a nomination this year and instead focusing on the 2022 nomination: executive committee agrees.
9. 2021 Senior Chemists Committee Mini Grant – The ACS has put out a call for applications for a grant from the ACS Senior Chemists Committee. This grant is to develop an event/program that would encourage involvement from the LS senior members. Discussion indicates that there might not be an interest for an event targeted to senior members. Mariefel recommended sending a poll to the membership to gauge interest. The deadline for the grant is 31 May 2021. Given the time constraint for the application deadline, the executive committee will likely not apply to the mini-grant this year. However, a Google Form survey will still be sent to the membership to determine interest.
10. Family night activity – Cristina was approached by a member proposing a family night activity. The activities for this event will be related to chromatography. Another member has also volunteered to lead a periodic table bingo activity. The event is tentatively set for Friday, 16 April 2021 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The event will be hosted via Zoom; a link to RSVP will be emailed to the membership. Anna suggested giving out Earth Week themed tokens as prizes for the bingo.
11. WCC Women’s History Month Activity – The LS WCC is working with the Portland Section WCC to raise awareness of Women’s History Month (WHM) and International Women’s Day (IWD). This will include a series of flyers highlighting the history of WHM and IWD, recognizing the accomplishments of local women, as well as a virtual happy hour at the end of the month.

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Other business

12. Puget Sound webinar – The Diversity, Inclusion and Respect Committee of the Puget Sound LS will be hosting a webinar featuring Professor Munira Khalil from the University of Washington. This webinar will take place on 01 April 2021. Anna will send information regarding this event to the LS membership.

Committee reports

13. Programs – Cristina has asked for nominations for speakers for the Annual Social. Gabriel (Gabe) Hall is planning virtual beer tasting and education event. He is currently looking for a speaker to talk on the chemistry of beer. Cristina has asked that if someone has any recommendations, please contact either her or Gabe directly.
14. Membership – Tamas is developing a welcome email to be sent out to new members to the membership. Anna noted that the member roster website includes an activity roster which includes new members to the LS. Anna recommended hosting a virtual social event every six months to communicate with new members.
15. Nominations – Updates reported above.
16. Awards – Sandy has asked for nominations for the LS Volunteer of the Year. If anyone has any recommendations, please contact Sandy directly.
17. Public Relations – The newsletter editor is unable to continue editing the newsletter for the foreseeable future, so Steve has taken on the duties for this position for the time being.
18. Education – The Eastern Oregon University chemistry club had a joint meeting with the Columbia Basin College on Monday 08 March 2021. There were 44 attendees at this meeting. Cristina gave a technical presentation titled “Sol-Gel Synthesis of Lithium Aluminate” and also spoke about life as a chemist.
19. Diversity and Inclusion – Updates reported above.
20. Government Affairs – No updates to report.
21. Women Chemists (WCC) – Updates reported above.

Dave moves to adjourn the March 2021 executive committee meeting. Anna seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Adjourn at 7:14 pm



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**ACS Richland Section  
Treasurer's Report**

02/01/2021-02/28/2021

**Activities**

Issued a check #1350 of \$540.00 to Visual Verve Design &  
Print for ACS Feb 2021 Newsletter

**Starting Balance**

Savings	\$45,048.90
Checking	\$23,399.05

**Receipts**

From	Amount	Budget Category	Date	Directed to:
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Total receipts this period	\$0.00
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**Expenses**

To	Amount	Budget Category	Date Paid	Description; check number
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Total spent this period	\$0.00
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**Ending Balance**

Savings	\$45,048.90
Checking	\$23,399.05