

Richland Section Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, 03/09/2022, 6:00 PM, Microsoft Teams Meeting

03/09/2022

Call to order: 6:00 pm

Attendance: Shirmir Branch, Anna Cavinato, Ram Devanathan, Sandra (Sandy) Fiskum, Padmaja Gunda, David (Dave) Heldebrant, Katherine Koh, Jotheeswari Kothandaram, Steve Krogrud, Deepika Malhotra, Mariefel Olarte, Cristina Padilla Cintron, Mowei Zhou

1. Previous meeting minutes – The February 2022 executive committee (EC) meeting minutes were sent to the EC via email. Anna moves to approve the February 2022 EC meeting minutes as presented. Sandy seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Shirmir has the action to upload the final draft of the minutes to the Local Section (LS) website.
2. Approve treasurer report – Katherine presents the February 2022 (01 – 28 February 2022) treasurer’s report. Starting balance in savings is \$45,064.22. There is no activity to report. Ending balance in savings is \$45,064.22. Starting balance in checking is \$33,546.43. There is no activity to report. Ending balance is \$33,546.43. Sandy moves to approve the February 2022 treasurer’s report as presented. Mariefel seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously. The final draft of the February 2022 treasurer’s report is attached to the minutes below.
3. Mid-Columbia Science Fair (MCFS) – The judging process for the MCSF begins 10 March 2022. A “Best in Show in Chemistry” category is created for Middle and High School students. Those that signed up through ACS to judge should judge as directed on the website and recommend any outstanding chemistry presentations to Dave. The award for winning students will consist of a \$50 check. Sandy recommended increasing the award to \$100 for the winning students given the available funds in the LS accounts. The LS has donated \$350 to the MCSF organizers. \$500 was allocated in the budget for the MCFS. Two awards are typically given out: 1 to a middle school student and 1 to a high school student. Anna recommends considering expanding to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards for the future. Deepika moves to increase the Chemistry awards from \$100 to \$200 for the 2022 MCFS. Sandy seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Dave reminded Cristina that the LS Chair typically presents the awards to the winning students on behalf of the LS. Given the virtual platform, a pre-recorded speech may be requested. Sandy recommended including information about the winners in the upcoming newsletter.
4. NOR Board update – NORM 2022 has been cancelled given the rise in COVID cases in Montana. The Montana LS will instead host NORM 2023 at Montana State University. The Richland LS has submitted the nomination packet for Dave Heldebrant as ACS Fellow.
5. 2021 LS annual report – The 2021 LS annual report was successfully submitted by Mariefel, Anna, and Cristina. The report included a total of 19 activities. The LS self-nominated for three ChemLuminary Awards: Most Innovative New Activity or Program (Explore COVID-19 with Stevens Middle School); Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs (Multiple events hosted throughout 2021); and Best Overall Medium Sized Local Section.

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6. METT Grant final report – Steve submitted the final report for the Members Engaging Through Technology (METT) grant. The grant was awarded to support the redesign of the LS website. Members on the EC can maintain and modify the website.
7. ACS History event – The Richland LS collaborated with the Puerto Rico LS, New York LS, and International Chemical Sciences Chapter of the United Arab Emirates to host a seminar on the history of the ACS. The event, titled “The Past as Prologue: Essential Elements of ACS History” was hosted on Saturday, 26 February 2022 at 11:00 am EST. The event was well received. Comments included the early start time for the Pacific time zone.
8. Chemistry Olympiad – There are 13 local students registered to participate in the ACS National Chemistry Olympiad Exam: 9 from Hanford High School, 3 from Richland High School, and 1 from Moses Lake High School. Padmaja has reached out to a few students who have expressed interested but have yet to register. The LS exam is scheduled for Sunday, 27 March 2022 at 2:00 – 3:30 pm on Zoom. Padmaja will need 4 volunteers to proctor the exam. The students will be split into breakout rooms and be required to screen share during the exam, which the proctors will monitor. If anyone is interested in volunteering as a proctor, please email Padmaja.
9. WCC event – The Women’s History Month event was hosted on Thursday, 03 March 2022 at 4:00 pm. Judy Giordan, ACS President-Elect, spoke on “The Power of Diversity,” emphasizing how diversity of thought impacted science communication. She then hosted an open forum to discuss how to build a better communication platform throughout ACS Local Sections as well as the communities that the Sections represent. The event was well received. Judy plans to run this type of event on a larger scale at the Fall 2022 ACS meeting. Any additional feedback regarding this event can be sent to Shirmir.
10. Committee reports
  - a. Women Chemists (Chair: Shirmir) – Updates reported above.
  - b. Government Affairs (Chair: Kristin) – No updates to report.
  - c. Membership (Chair: Sandy) – It was brought to the EC’s attention that some members get their ACS membership dues covered by their places of employment. However, the places of employment will not cover the \$5 fee for adding a LS to their registration, which needs to be done at the same time as overall ACS member registration. As a result, some ACS members in the Richland LS are not considered LS members and do not receive notifications from the LS. Cristina and Sandy have the action to discuss this more offline. As of February 2022; there are 2 new student members, 2 reinstated members; 1 new regular member; 17 terminated memberships; 0 transfers; and 0 deaths. A welcome letter was sent to the new members to the LS.
  - d. Public Relations (Chair: Steve) – The next newsletter is to be sent out before the start of summer. Any content should be sent to Steve. Cristina noted that the newsletter should be sent with

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enough time to call for volunteers for the upcoming Química Bajo El Sol event being held in June 2022. Steve recommended revisiting the goals that were set during the 2019 Strategic Planning Retreat at the next EC meeting.

- e. Programs (Chair: Deepika) – The next event will be a lecture trivia event hosted in April 2022. This event will relate to the upcoming Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) theme. This year's theme is "The Buzz About Bugs - Insect Chemistry." Further inquiries can be sent to Cristina and Deepika.
- f. Environment improvement (Chair: Uriah) – No updates to report.
- g. Safety (Chair: Johnny) – No updates to report.
- h. Awards (Chair: Mariefel) – No updates to report.
- i. Diversity and Inclusion (Chair: Anna) – Updates reported above.
- j. Education (Chair: Colby) – The Eastern Oregon University chemistry club will be traveling to the ACS 2022 Spring Meeting from 18 – 22 March 2022. With the mask mandate ending, the EOU chem club will resume hosting in person events. The first event will focus on this year's CCEW theme. If anyone is interested in ordering CCEW materials, please contact Anna. Deepika has the action to ask Sonia Alcantar Anguiano if she requires any supplies for the Química Bajo El Sol event.

Anna moves to adjourn the March 2022 executive committee meeting, Mariefel seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Cristina adjourns the March 2022 executive committee meeting at 7:04 pm.



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**ACS Richland Section  
Treasurer's Report**

02/01/2022--02/28/2022

**Activities**

**Starting Balance**

Savings	\$45,064.22
Checking	\$33,546.43

**Receipts**

From	Amount	Budget Category	Date	Directed to:

Total receipts this period	\$0.00
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**Expenses**

To	Amount	Budget Category	Date Paid	Description; check number

Total spent this period	\$0.00
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**Ending Balance**

Savings	\$45,064.22
Checking	\$33,546.43