

## **COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE**

### **2025 SPRING NATIONAL MEETING** By Jan Kolakowski

The ACS Spring 2025 national meeting was held from March 23-27, 2025, in San Diego, California. The Council meeting was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. As of March 26, there were 15,332 registrations (14,251 in-person and 1,081 online). The ACS Fall 2025 meeting will be held in Washington, DC, from August 17-21, 2025.

**MD Section Councilors:** Kelly Elkins (in-person), Robert von Tersch, Alternate Councilor (in person), Stephanie Watson (virtual), and Jan Kolakowski (virtual).

#### **Actions of the Council:**

Candidates for President-Elect, 2026

By electronic ballot, the Council selected Christina Bodurow and Dawn Mason as candidates for 2026 President-Elect. These two candidates will join any additional candidates selected via petitions to stand for election in the fall 2025 national election.

#### **Candidates for Directors for Districts II and IV**

By electronic ballot, the Councilors from these Districts selected Kimberly Agnew-Heard and Mary Engelman as District II candidates and Lisa Houston and Milagros (Milly) Delgado as District IV candidates. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District II and District IV in the fall for election of a Director from each District. (Note: The Maryland Section is in District III.)

#### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large**

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Director-at-Large for the 2026-2028 term: Anna Cavinato, Donna Friedman, Malika Jeffries-EL, and Will Lynch. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council in the fall.

#### **Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Council Actions:**

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), Council voted [Yes 405 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to continue the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals and subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Budget & Finance, Education, International Activities, and Patents and Related Matters.

On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council voted [Yes 403 (99.26%) / No 3 (0.74%)] to amend the duties of the Committee on Patents and Related Matters (CPRM) and change its name to the Committee on Intellectual Property (CIP), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This change reflects the committee's mission and vision statements, which refer to "intellectual property" generally, rather than elevating patents above other forms of intellectual property.

ConC announced that the opening of the committee preference form to all ACS members began on March 3 and will run through July 3. Members interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2026 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](https://cmte.acs.org) to complete their preferences.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), and with the concurrence of the CPC, Council voted [Yes 374 (95.90%) / No 16 (4.10%)] in favor of increasing the number of Councilors on N&E to 19, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. These additional committee members will support the increased workload from the addition of six Zone Councilor slates to N&E's duties.

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of new International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Ghana [Yes 383 (96.96%) / No 12 (3.04%)], Ecuador [Yes 389 (97.98%) / No 8 (2.02%)], and Northeast China [Yes 357 (89.70%) / No 41 (10.30%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 372 (97.13%) / No 11 (2.87%)] to dissolve the Penn/Ohio Border Local Section. This takes effect on January 1, 2026, and members are being contacted about joining neighboring sections.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), Council voted [Yes 359 (95.48%) / No 17 (4.52%)] to approve the 2026 Schedule of Dues and Benefits, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of 21 unit bylaws since the fall 2024 meeting. They include 14 Local Sections: Akron, California, Connecticut Valley, East Alabama / West Georgia, Joliet, Kalamazoo, Lehigh Valley, Mississippi, Ole Miss, Orlando, San Geronio, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada and South Carolina; three Divisions: Cellulose and Renewable Materials (CELL), Chemistry and the Law (CHAL), and Medicinal Chemistry (MEDI); and four International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Australia, Bangladesh, East and Northeast India, and West India.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) reported on the state of the evolving employment landscape for the chemistry enterprise. ACS Careers programs have seen continued growth and remain a valuable resource for members experiencing career transitions. The updated Professional Employment Guidelines will be up for action at the fall Council meeting.

The Committee on Education (SOCED) reported on their continued efforts to advance chemistry education for all. The ACS Policy Statement on Science Education is currently under revision and the revised ACS Guidelines and Recommendations for Teaching Middle and High School Chemistry will be available soon for the upcoming academic year.

### **Resolutions Passed**

In memory of deceased Past President Attila Pavlath | In memory of deceased Councilors |

In sincere appreciation of the San Diego Section, host Local Section for the ACS Spring 2025 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Kolakowski, Councilor