



# American Chemical Society

Richland Section Board Meeting  
Wednesday, 9/12/2018, 6:03 PM at BSEL 202 WSU Tri City Campus

9/12/18

Start: 6:03 pm

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

1. Minutes of July and August meetings, Mariefel – Mariefel discussed items from the minutes. The minutes for the August and the July meetings were approved and pdf copies, with the Treasurer's report, will be sent to the webmaster.
2. Treasurer's report for August, Sandy – We received a \$500 check from Project SEED and a \$500 check was promptly written to America Sevilla. The check was already negotiated. Anna also received reimbursement for attending the Council meeting in Boston and the check was also already negotiated. There was an item for buying stamps from Yoke's as well as one for spending \$108.5 as payment for the GeezerFest venue. This was on top of the required damage deposit that we paid previously. We have \$18,895.92 in savings and \$13,453.48 in checking. This does not include NORM. The Treasurer's report was approved.

A background on America Sevilla. She worked with Ram over the summer on data analytics as part of Project SEED. She is currently attends Kennewick High School and will be going to Washington State University. She is the first in her family to go to college and was previously a migrant worker. She decided to pursue a Chemistry major and will apply for support from Project SEED. Anna noted that the deadline for that is coming up soon. Ram mentioned that she has her forms already.

3. Geezer Fest location and plans, Sandy – The venue was already reserved for Friday, November 16 at the Richland Community Center for a 5:30 – 6:00 pm set-up. We have the room from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. As caterer, we will use Pacific Pasta & Grill because of their previous job at NORM. They have a bartender that meets the requirement of the Richland Community Center regarding serving alcohol. Richland Community Center requires a \$10 Washington state license to serve alcoholic drinks. We also need to have an insurance policy for \$1M to serve alcohol, naming the City of Richland as beneficiary. Sandy found a link for a company that will provide insurance for one day and will investigate further. Susan mentioned that in a similar activity, the insurance was less than \$200. We also need to revise the initial contract with the City of Richland that stated that we will not serve alcohol. That contract will be reviewed by their legal department. Also, since we will have underage people, we need to find a way to identify those who cannot drink. This will likely be done through carding/checking ID and providing a wristband for identification. We then need to procure wristbands. A question was raised whether the bartender can card drinkers so no need for a wristband. However, this can potentially slow down the service. Kristin suggested that we contact a PNNL employee, Michele Jensen, who volunteers for the boat race and has wristbands. Mariefel to contact Michele regarding this.

Dave was asked if he want to pursue what it will take to get the insurance and he said yes. There is a concern that it might be too much money for what it is worth. Ram asked if we want to change the venue to something that will be more permissive. It might be a challenge to find an alternative location that is centrally located, open and cheap to use. Consider that the Richland Center has been used for other occasions that served alcohol so it should be doable. Ram pointed another consideration that the liquor is



## Richland Section Board Meeting

Wednesday, 9/12/2018, 6:03 PM at BSEL 202 WSU Tri City Campus

free and we have a nice quantity of it from NORM. A couple hundred of dollars for the insurance seems worth it. Our budget will allow it. Dave will follow up with the insurance. He will pass the information to the board before the next meeting to make a decision and we can vote on it. Contract will be shaken out early October to satisfy time constraint. Ram proposed that if the insurance cost is less than \$200, then Dave can proceed, if not, then the decision goes back to the committee. It was seconded and approved. Dave is thus authorized to proceed securing the insurance.

Steve mentioned that the ACS member who passed away has a son in town and he can be contacted regarding GeezerFest. Steve found out about him when the hard copy newsletter was sent to his father and he received a reply letter that Mr. Soldat already passed away. Ram will contact the son.

4. ACS Council Meeting, Anna – Ram noted that Anna attended the meeting in Boston as councilor and our section got 3 nominations for the Chem Luminary Award. Anna identified them as: Best Over-all Minority Affair Committee, Best On-going National Chemistry Week Event and Best National Chemistry Week Event Organized by a Student Group. Girl in Science event was nominated. We didn't get any award in the end but it was still an honor to be nominated 3 times. Anna prepared and displayed the poster and interacted with others from other sections. It was fun event. The Richland Section was mentioned in the big screen even if we did not get to go up the stage. Janet was honored with two awards connected to the Division of Small Chemical Businesses and the Division of Professional Relations.

Anna noted that the elections for the ACS President will take place in October. The deadline to vote is October 31<sup>st</sup>. The candidates are Luis Echegoyen, from the University of Texas and Thomas Gilbert from Northeastern University in Boston. Ram asked Anna to send an e-mail to Mariefel with a summary of the Council meeting. (The report summary is an attachment to the minutes.)

The ACS national meeting was well-attended, with 14,235 attendees by the Wednesday when the ACS Council Meeting was held. One topic was the changing of the by-laws to allow the international chapters to accrue dues from their members and use them at their discretion. There is follow on and that is the allocation of money to the international sections and that is controversial. There is a lot of mixed feelings regarding this among the councilors. Looking at the membership profile, the international market is growing. ACS is also targeting growth in those markets. President Dorhout also hosted a special meeting on issues of sexual harassment within ACS and beyond/work place. There were survey questions such as whether the participants have experienced sexual harassment during ACS meetings. About 77% said no but it was pointed out that 23% said yes. A question on whether the participant witnessed sexual harassment in the workplace was raised. 77% of the women and 57% of men said yes. President Dorhout is encouraging the dialogue on sexual harassment across the board at ACS, especially during meetings. 73% of the local representatives said that there was no previous discussions regarding this issue at the local section level. Anna will send the summary, including the statistics, to the whole membership. Ram noted that this info is important to him because he and Kristin are members of the PNNL Lab-level Diversity Council and certainly an issue to be discussed. The statistics is horrifying. Another issue is regarding hostility where, a woman presenting a topic will get more hostile questions or dismissive attitudes compared to a man presenting the same topic, who might get easier questions. Awareness of these issues and putting things in place to address these issues are needed. There is an on-going movement, such as with AAAS, where individuals who were found to be guilty of committing sexual harassment will be stripped of awards.



## Richland Section Board Meeting

Wednesday, 9/12/2018, 6:03 PM at BSEL 202 WSU Tri City Campus

Anna also mentioned that she is now a member of the Local Section Activity Committee. She would like us to be aware of their activities. She is part of the sub-committee that is responsible with grants and awards. The first one is the Science Café, and for this, we can request up to \$500. This is geared towards hosting an event that is for the public and is held in a public venue. The deadline for this award is in May. There is also the IPG grant. We had an IPG for enhancing presentation which still needs to be closed. The maximum amount that can be requested is \$3500 and is for a new initiative within the local section. Ram inquired if requesting to get support to start a Government Affairs within the scope of IPG and it was. However, as long as we have an open IPG, we cannot request for a new one. Then there is a new program, the MET, which stands for Member Engaging with Technology. With a deadline in October. This is a proposal to purchase technology that is needed by the section. For example, for sections that are geographically isolated such as our group, we might consider buying something that will help us to broadcast talks, such as a projector. Sandy noted that Frannie got an award called Bridging the Gap. Anna said those do not exist anymore. MET replaced Bridging the Gap. We haven't spent the award yet. Anna said that we have to do something about these awards because we cannot apply for a new award unless they are closed.

Kristin asked if we can request a re-allocation of funds from a previous IPG. Anna said she will try to find out information regarding this, in the spirit of an IPG. Ram suggested two paths: (1) Using the IPG mini-grant to complete a training to enhance communication, which was what it was intended for, but assign someone else to coordinate these activities and get something done, preferably before December, finish the report, call it good, and then submit another request and (2) look into repurposing, if the other path is not feasible within the short span.

What happened previously was that Vanda had a large proposal for \$2500 but only got awarded \$750. This was not sufficient for the original planned activity but we did not say no to the award. Ram suggested an alternative where we tap Toastmasters, of which he is a member of, to run a communication program. Get some Toastmaster folks, provide some food, get some target audience and get it done. Kristin mentioned that she ran a program for post-docs in New Mexico with a guy who can potentially do the training for \$750. One very helpful thing that he did was to video participants speaking in their native tongue and in English about the same topic. They saw how they were tensing up when speaking in English, while they were more compelling in their native tongue, even if the words were not actually understood. In the workshop, they worked on an analysis of these videos and identified ways to make them more comfortable. The goal was to be better in communicating in English, in the same style as they did when speaking in their first language. Anna reiterated that we need to file a report because that will clear the box so we can request again. Ram will look into tapping The Lab Oratories Toastmaster group from PNNL, which is one of the best chapters in the world in terms of awards. Anna will at the same time look into repurposing the grant. Considering that the maximum grant amount can be \$3500, if we can close the current award, there is a chance for us to request a higher amount for a different objective.

Anna also talked about National Chemistry Week, which is the last week of October. The theme is "Out of this World". As the coordinator, Anna can order materials for this event as well as order the other paraphernalia, like the mole. Maybe look online in the ACS store and decide what to order. This year, at EOU, there will also be the Girls in Science activity with the topic of "Something's Fishy: an Environmental Mystery" on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 4 pm. A student designed the logo. There is also Program-In-A-Box that is connected to the National Chemistry Week theme. Program-In-A-Box will be in Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. The EOU student chapter has already signed up for it but we can still sign-up for it as well to hold something at PNNL or in another school or in some other local event. Last Spring, Anna got



## Richland Section Board Meeting

Wednesday, 9/12/2018, 6:03 PM at BSEL 202 WSU Tri City Campus

an invitation to apply for a kit from the National Informal STEM Education network (NISE). She just attended the training the day before and was awarded one of 250 kits in the nation. She will receive it in the following weeks. The box contains items that can be used for an activity with 100 participants. Anna has a commitment to use materials from the box between October to December this year and explain how they were used. She also offered that we can use any of the items for display in the library, an event or at work. Looking up the website online, a description of the kit content can be accessed at ([www.nisenet.org/chemistry\\_kit](http://www.nisenet.org/chemistry_kit)).

5. Closing the books for NORM, Jane/Sandy – Janet was not able to call in. There are still some receivables, including a check from President Dorhout, City of Richland and ACS Corporation Associates. Some folks also owe Janet a portion of the report: WCC, program chairs and session chairs. We should aim to send her those reports next week so we can have progress on this. With regards to e-chem in a box, the strategy was to just give reimbursement.

6. Newsletter, Steve – Steve plans to advertise the Geezerfest Party in early October. Steve also needs the bios of the candidates since the ballots need to be out to the section membership by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. For the newsletter, he plans to include the photos from NORM, Steve received a letter from the local section in New England, advertising an award to a chemist known for social involvement, a chemist who is noteworthy for their activity in the community. Ram mentioned that America Sevilla sent out a blurb about her activities in project SEED and also have SEED photos. Steve is looking for any newsworthy items to publish.

Steve also checked with other societies for ideas regarding their dinner meetings. Not many do have dinner activities. AICHE does not have on. IEEE is not active anymore. Academy of Certified HAZMat managers had in the past but it didn't work out too well on participation. Maybe we can have joint meeting with them with a common topic (e.g. Hanford). The American Nuclear Society is also interested to collaborate. Their comment is that dinner events are money losing affair. They used to have the dinner in restaurants and the rent alone can be \$700-800, with a fee of \$20 for members and \$22 for non-members. The night before, they had it at the REACH. Ram pointed out that this event is initially only for the Board meeting dinner and will be dutch. Potentially, we can aim for 1<sup>st</sup> week of December joint dinner with ANS. A speaker at the event maybe Sue Clarke. Ram will to look into it.

Steve also needed bios from the nominees. We have two nominees for the chair elect (Sandy and Mariefel), secretary (Shirmir) and treasurer (Deepika). An e-mail will be sent out to the general membership soliciting nominations. Steve will also include a survey in the newsletter to see if there is interest for a general membership dinner event.

Ram brought up possible speakers at the GeezerFest and mentioned that John LaFemina will likely be an entertaining speaker.

Meeting adjourned: 6:56 pm

**ACS Richland Section  
Treasurer's Report**

September 12, 2018

**Activities**

**Starting Balance**

Savings	\$18,895.92
Checking	\$15,099.85

**Receipts**

From	Amount	Budget Category	Date	Directed to:
ACS/SEED	\$500.00	5	8/15/2018	Checking

---

Total receipts this period	\$500.00
----------------------------	----------

**Expenses**

To (date billed)	Amount	Budget Category	Date Paid	Description; check number
America Sevilla	\$500.00	21k	8/15/2018	Project SEED, third payment; 1268
Anna Cavinato	\$1,527.87	19	8/26/2018	Councilor travel reimbursement; 1269
Yokes Fresh Market	\$10.00	16d	8/26/2018	Stamps; debit card
City of Richland	\$108.50	17c	9/9/2018	Room rental; debit card

---

Total spent this period	\$2,146.37
-------------------------	------------

**Ending Balance**

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