

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Hello All!

Since our last newsletter, we held the annual Awards Ceremony on June 5th to present Dr. Tom Ippoliti with the 2024 Brastad Award Excellence in College Teaching, Dr. Peter Simone with 2024 Janet Tarino Volunteer Award, and Mr. Thomas Ostertag with the 2024 Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award. Following the presentation of awards, Dr. Ippoliti gave a joyful presentation on some highlights of his research punctuated by anecdotes of several of his past students in a way that was inspiring to anyone wanting to dive into teaching. Thank you!



Congratulations again to our award winners, as well as our long-time ACS members- thank you for your 50 and 60 years of commitment!

I hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful summer season, and it is the perfect time to prepare for some key fall events, such as our local section election. Several positions for 2025 need to be backfilled- please consider applying or nominating someone to the following:

- Chair (academia)
- Chair-Elect (industry)
- Treasurer
- Councilor

More information on the positions, voting period, and term lengths is below. In addition to elected positions, we are also searching for a new *Newsletter Editor*.

If you are curious about any of these positions, do not hesitate to apply, nominate, and ask for more information from us!

Sincerely,

Catherine (Sutton) Serum

Chair, Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society

ACS MN Local Section News

Minnesota Local ACS Section Officer Positions Open!

The Minnesota Local ACS Section is looking for volunteers willing to serve as officers in

the Local ACS Section. If you are looking to serve the broader community of chemists, chemical engineers, and educators working in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin, this is a great opportunity to gain that experience and give back. This is also a great opportunity to meet and work with other academic and industrial chemists and chemical engineers in the area. The election of new officers will be held from November 1st – 15th and new officers will not officially begin their terms until January 2025.

If you are interested in serving in any of the officer positions listed below or have further questions about the positions, please contact the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Cassie Joiner at joiner1@stolaf.edu.

The following positions are open:

Chair (from academia) – 2-year term

Chair Elect (from industry) – 3-year term

Treasurer – 2-year term

Councilor – 3-year term

There are also many unfilled committees that need volunteers that are not part of the election. Please check out the MN ACS Local Sections website - <https://www.mnlocalsectionacs.org/> for more information. If you are interested in these committees, please reach out to Cassie.

Newsletter Editor Position Open

We are searching for a new MN Chemist newsletter editor to start in October 2024 for training under the former editor. The term of this position is expected to last at least until December 31, 2025, but can absolutely be extended.

Some duties and responsibilities:

- Calling for items from the local section executive committee to announce or report on local and national ACS events.
- Prepare the newsletter from items submitted by the executive committee.
- Attend executive committee meetings (~6-year).
- Prepare and launch MN Chemist newsletters every other month (6-7 newsletters).

Please reach out to Catherine Serum (catanne336@gmail.com) or on our website if you have any questions and/or would like to apply.

MN ACS Chapter Assists with Chemical Safety Outreach

By Chuck Wheeler Handlon, MN ACS Education Chair,
chuckwheelerhandlon@gmail.com

The University of Minnesota's Joint Safety Team (JST) held a two-day workshop on chemical safety for high school science teachers on August 8th and 9th. I was invited to participate and did two presentations. The first was on implementing safer laboratory procedures in schools. The second was on the importance of PPE in labs and demonstrations. I also promoted membership in the Minnesota Science Teachers Association as well as the American Association of Chemistry Teachers.

This was the third year for the workshop and about 7 attendees from school districts across the state and metro area took part. The workshop is free and both staff development Continuing Education Units and possible graduate credit from the U of MN were offered.

Planning for the event was led by Jonathan Nguyen and other members of the University of Minnesota Joint Safety Team. The program went from 8:00 AM till 4:00 PM each day and was structured around lecture presentations, group discussions and hands-on

activities in the laboratory.

Topics covered during the workshop included: developing best practices and a chemical hygiene plan for teaching chemistry, understanding the proper PPE equipment and protocols for high school laboratory work, understanding chemical storage and chemical waste standard operating procedures, promoting safety culture in the laboratory and planning effective, safe demonstrations.

Teachers were given the experience in the laboratory of identifying unknown chemical wastes and safely practicing some exciting chemical demonstrations. The workshop also included a tour of the University of Minnesota Chemical Waste handling facility.

The consensus of both participants and presenters is that valuable connections were made and important safety training had been provided. There is also a feeling that science teachers are not adequately prepared in chemical safety through the teaching licensure process. There is a great need for workshops such as this for more teachers. This training should perhaps be required of all licensed science teachers.

The MN ACS wishes to thank the U of MN JST Committee for providing this service and is grateful to be of support. The U of MN JST and ACS is considering sharing an exhibit table at the Minnesota Science Teachers Association fall Minnesota Conference On Science Education (MNCOSE) which will be held November 1 – 2 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

One personal highlight for me during the conference was meeting a former AP Chemistry student. This student graduated in 2012 and is working as a Post Doc within the U of Mn Chemistry Department. We chatted briefly and it was exciting to hear of his doctoral work and to learn he has a patent for a chemical process he developed. Encounters such as this are one of the rewards of teaching chemistry.



Participants of the 2024 JST High School Chemical Safety workshop listen to a presentation on chemical hazard labeling pictographs.



JST Chemical Safety workshop group tours the U of Mn Hazardous Waste disposal facility.

Volunteer opportunities



Chemists-in-the-Library

A full list of the remaining events planned for 2024 can be found below. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please get in touch with Phil Buhlmann (buhlmann@umn.edu); he would be grateful to hear from you. No preparation before events is required, and no commitment has to be made; volunteers can sign up for one event at a time.

Chemists-in-the-Library Events 2024

21 Sep, 1:30 PM: Southdale Library
19 Oct, 1:30 PM: Minneapolis Central Library
9 Nov, 1:30 PM: Pierre Bottineau Library
7 Dec, 1:30 PM: St. Louis Park Library



Get Ready for National Chemistry Week, October 20-26!

Every year, **National Chemistry Week (NCW)** builds awareness of chemistry's positive impact on local, national, and global levels. The NCW theme for 2024 is "Picture Perfect Chemistry." To celebrate this year, become an official NCW coordinator!

As a coordinator, you can:

- Use campaign art from the Design Toolkit for your events, social media header images, and in your posts.
- Share the NCW 2024 edition of the Celebrating Chemistry Kid's magazine.
- Organize an Illustrated Poem Contest (grades K-12).

Consult your local section chair about becoming a coordinator. Once determined, complete the coordinator survey [form](#). For questions, contact outreach@acs.org.

https://www.acs.org/education/national-chemistry-week.html?cid=ad_onlinestore_shippingemail_ncw_sep-oct_2016

ACS Student Communities Professional Meeting Grant

The **ACS Student Communities** office offers a **Professional Meeting Grant** to encourage members of active student communities to attend professional conferences. Each student community can receive this grant up to twice per calendar year. These grants are for up to \$225 for a virtual conference, \$500 for an in-country conference, or \$2000 for an out-of-country conference. Applications must be received at least three months before the conference to be considered. There are three deadlines throughout the year: **December 15th, May 15th, and September 15th**. Please share this information with ACS student members who are affiliated with active ACS student communities.

<https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/acs-student-communities-professional-meeting-grant.html>



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