

April 7, 2026

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

Happy Spring? (Fingers crossed, at least...)

It's been a busy start to the year for our local section, with a wide range of outreach activities and volunteer efforts, many of which are highlighted in this newsletter. I know that many members of our local section attended and participated in the ACS Spring 2026 Meeting in Atlanta, and I look forward to hearing about the meeting and key takeaways from those who attended.

As we continue into the year, please be on the lookout for an invitation to our annual MNACS Awards Dinner, typically held in late May or early June. While details are still being finalized, I did want to share a tentative save-the-date for our first event of the year below:



We are planning to host an MNACS Networking Happy Hour (with a possible brewery tour) on Saturday, April 25, from 1:00–4:00 PM. More details will be shared once the venue and plans are finalized.

I hope to see you all soon!

Andy Tangen
Chair 2026

ACS Insights

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

Ramesh C. Kumar, Sarah Mullins, Nick Schlotter, James Wollack and Katya Kadnikova (online) as MN ACS councilors attended and participated in the ACS council meeting held on March 25, 2026 in Atlanta, GA. The meeting minutes and actions of the council are described [in this link](#).

Free Lab Safety e-Textbook Available Now!

The ACS Office of Safety Programs encourages chemistry instructors everywhere to explore the free [Laboratory Safety for Chemistry Students \(LSCS\) e-Textbook](#). This resource is designed for flexible incorporation into an undergraduate chemistry curriculum and contains eight chapters based on the RAMP Risk Assessment Framework. The e-

Textbook also contains a customizable quiz at the end of all 73 sections and aligns with the [ACS Guidelines for Bachelor's Degree Programs](#). Contact our Office at safety@acs.org with any questions!

ACS MN Local Section News

Senior Chemists 2025 in Review

The Senior Chemists enjoyed several outings and meetings in 2025 including:

- A visit to St. Paul Brewery, that included a tour, and a lunch.
- A visit to the Science Museum, arranged by Tom Ostertag, that included a “behind the Scenes” tour and a lunch.
- Lunch at the Green Mill in Woodbury, with a book exchange after lunch.
- A talk at the Sally Manzara Nature Center in Lake Elmo, with a picnic lunch provided by the Lake Elmo Event Center, and a talk by Paul Red Elk, who is a Native American Medicine Man.
- A tour of the 3M Innovation Center, led by a current 3M scientist.
- Senior Chemists also volunteered as judges at the Minnesota State Science Fair in St Paul.

Thanks to the Section for the funding provided by The Minnesota Chemists to the Senior Chemists, which is used to pay some, not all, of the cost of these meetings. Thanks also to Ken Latham, a Senior Chemist who is responsible for all the communications sent to the Senior Chemists about upcoming events, and keeping track of how many are attending.

Any suggestions for Senior Chemists events in 2026 are very welcome! Also new members are always welcome at our events, lunches and meetings.

Lynn G. Hartshorn, Senior Chemists Organizer

Metro State Students and MNACS Partnered at Mill City Museum

On Saturday, February 28th, student members of the Pre-Health student group at Metro State University volunteered at the Mill City Museum for Milly City’s Family STEM Day. Supported in materials and resources from the MNACS, these students assisted over 400 area schoolchildren in their exploration of iron in Cheerios. Many thanks to James Wollack for being a facilitator for this event!



Call for Nominations: 2026 Minnesota Chemist Award

Established in 1958, this award honors members who have made outstanding contributions to chemical research or service to the profession. The recipient will receive a bronze plaque and a \$600 cash award, and will give an award presentation to the section as part of May's local section meeting.

Previous winners have included Izaak Kolthoff, Robert Brasted, Paul Gassman, Edward Leete, Wayland Noland and Donald Truhlar (University of Minnesota), Courtland Agre

(Augsburg College), John Wilson (Economics Laboratory), Frank Bovey, Julianne Prager, Don Hagen, Richard Newmark, Andrew Ouderkirk (3M), George Moore (3M), Tom Hoye (University of Minnesota), Dr. Steve Hecht (University of Minnesota), Dr. Phil Buhlmann (University of Minnesota), and Dr. Tim Lodge (University of Minnesota).

Nomination Requirements:

- A nomination letter
- The nominee's CV or resume
- Up to four supporting letters highlighting the nominee's achievements

Deadline:

- April 10, 2026

Submission:

- Email Ramesh C. Kumar at rckumar0051@gmail.com

Call for Nominations: 2026 Lyle Hall and Janet Tarino Volunteer Award

Starting this year, the Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award and the Janet Tarino Volunteer Award have been combined. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding volunteer service to the MN ACS or chemistry-related community outreach. The volunteer activities may include volunteer ACS service, volunteer activities in any other scientific organization such as the Minnesota Academy of Science (i.e. Science Fair Judging), professional writing, consulting, and/or research. The winner receives a bronze plaque and a \$500 cash award, and will present a brief description of their activities at the May meeting.

Nomination Requirements:

- A CV
- Up to two supporting letters
- Examples of volunteer service

Deadline:

- April 10, 2026

Submission:

- Email Ramesh C. Kumar at rckumar0051@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Chemists in the Library

Watch the Minnesota Local Section ACS website for details about upcoming events. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please get in touch with [Phil Buhlmann](#); 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 Early 2026

18 April, 1:30 PM: Farmington Library



Do you have experience running professional development workshops? The Younger Chemists Committee is looking for volunteers to run workshops on topics such as networking, resume building, and leadership for graduate students, postdocs, and early career chemists in the area. Please contact the chair, Allison Smith, at amscrik@gmail.com if you are interested.

Volunteer Opportunities - Get Involved!

Are you looking to enhance your leadership, project management, and networking skills? Volunteering for the Minnesota Local Section of the ACS is a fantastic way to grow professionally while making a meaningful impact!

We are currently seeking passionate leaders for the following committees:

- **Public Affairs** – serves as a bridge between the chemistry community and policymakers, advocating for science-related policies and engaging the public on key issues.
- **Government Affairs** – plays a key role in advocating for science policy and fostering relationships between the chemistry community and government officials.
- **Minority Affairs** – plays a key role in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to [Andy Tangen](#) to explore these opportunities.

Take the next step in your leadership journey—get involved today!



Visit our Website

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