

The Minnesota Chemist



Chair's Corner

It is the final Friday in August as a I write this, and the traffic on northbound I-35 is mighty. For Minnesotans, this is a pivotal weekend: seemingly the last gasp of summer before we buckle down for fall, adapting to schedules and commitments more suited to our shorter days and cooling weather.

At MN ACS, we have several communities, like Chemists in the Library and Senior Chemists, who have a consistent level of activity (which is high!) no matter the season and several other communities who have taken a break and are gearing up for activities in the coming months.



So what kept MN ACS busy during the summer? Our Councilors made sure the Minnesotan voices were heard at the ACS National Meeting in DC on August 17-21; this gathering saw over 10,000 chemists attend in person with additional papers presented virtually. Many thanks to Ramesh Kumar, James Wollack, and Sarah Mullins for attending in-person and Becky Guza for attending these sessions virtually. MN ACS sponsored one graduate student and one undergraduate at the DC National Meeting and we will be sponsoring another graduate student at the Midwest Regional Meeting in October. MN ACS sponsored the undergraduate ACTC symposium and the Transforming Undergraduate Education in Molecular Life Sciences (TUEMLS) conference this summer—please see the write-ups below. The Senior Chemists met on June 17th at the Schmidt Brewery for a tour. The U of MN Joint Safety Team held its fourth workshop on chemical safety for high school and middle school science teachers August 7th & 8th. Chuck Handlon, our Education Committee Chair, did two presentations, one on liability and the other on Personal Protection Equipment.

As we turn our attention to fall, we have the ACS Career Fair at Metro State University on November 19th. Fall also represents the time for us to gather new energy and new involvement in the form of members stepping forward for a role as a MNACS Executive Team member. This year, we are searching for a(n) Academic Chair Elect, a Secretary, two Councilors, a newsletter editor, and members of the Nominations Committee. Additionally, we would welcome a leader for the Younger Chemists Committee, so if any of these positions sound interesting, please contact us.

Sarah Dimick Gray
Chair 2025

ACS MN Local Section Meetings

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

The Chemistry Job and Recruiting Fair will be held from 4-6 pm on November, 19th, 2025 at the Science Education Center of Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN.

Past companies and organizations that have attended the career fair include: Aerotek, Apex Life Sciences, Experis, H.B. Fuller, Medtronic, Pace Analytical, Land O'Lakes, WuXi AppTec, Sherwin Williams, University of MN Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of MN Environmental Health Sciences, University of MN M.S. in Patent Law

This event is an opportunity to meet with technical recruiters from the Twin Cities area and is open to professionals and students from chemistry and related fields. Sophomore and junior chemistry majors are also encouraged to attend to inquire about internships.

Day & Time

Wednesday, November 19

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Meet with recruiters

Location

Science Education Center of Metropolitan State University, 644 6th St E, St Paul, MN 55106

Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

RSVP

Please watch the [MN ACS Local Section website](#) for details regarding RSVPs.

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 2026.

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](#).

The following positions are open:

Chair Elect (from academia) – 3-year term

Secretary – 2-year term

Councilor – 3-year term

Nominations Committee – 3-year term

We are also looking for a MN Chemist Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in taking on this role and helping spread the word on all of the amazing things the MN ACS Local Section does, please contact the Section's Chair, [Sarah Dimick Gray](#).

Northwestern Society for Coating Technology (NWSCT) Tuesday, November 11, 2025

The NWSCT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the science and technology of coatings—including paints, varnishes, lacquers, printing inks, and their raw

materials—by supporting research, technical standards, and the practical application of scientific knowledge. It promotes educational activities and idea exchange among professionals and the public, facilitates the dissemination and discussion of industry-relevant information, and encourages environmental responsibility by advocating for improved manufacturing practices that reduce waste and pollution. Additionally, NWSCT actively collaborates with other public and private organizations to achieve these goals.

NWSCT host local events and presentations throughout the year. Please consider attending the next technical presentation. Watch the [NWSCT website](#) for details.

Day & Time

Tuesday, November 11

10:30 am - 11:30 am Board Meeting

11:30 am - 1:30 pm General Meeting

Location

Cortec Corporation, 4119 White Bear Pkwy, St. Paul, MN 55110

RSVP

Please watch the [NWSCT website](#) for details regarding RSVPs.

Councilor Talking Points

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting held on August 20, 2025.

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Penny Beuning, Raychelle Burks, Jason Ritchie, and Frankie Wood-Black for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC).
 - By electronic ballot, the Council elected William Carroll, Jr., Carmen Gauthier, Thomas Lane, Louise Lawter, and Lori Stepan for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Committees (ConC). Louise Lawter will begin serving immediately to fill a vacated seat.
 - By electronic ballot, the Council elected Kelly Elkins, Jennifer Hollingsworth, Alison Hyslop, Gregory Tew, Kathryn Uhrich, Don Warner, and Peter Zarras for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). After a tie vote and run-off election, Ellene Tratras Contis was elected to a two-year term (2026 – 2027) and Jingbo Louise Liu was elected to a one-year term (2026) to maintain rotation of terms as the committee expands its membership.
 - On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 343 (86.40%) / No 54 (13.60%)] to approve the Petition to Establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. Members will be appointed to this committee with terms beginning in 2026.
 - On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 336 (83.58%) / No 66 (16.42%)] to approve the Petition to Realign the Committee on Publications, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition dissolves the committee; the work formerly performed by this committee will be handled by a new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board of Publishing.
 - On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 389 (97.49%) / No 10 (2.51%)] to approve the Petition for Changes in Local Section Territory. This petition adds territory not currently within the boundaries of a Local Section to adjacent Local Sections.
 - On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Guatemala [Yes 383 (97.21%) / No 11 (2.79%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
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ACS Graduate Student Success Grant

- **Goal:** Support M.S. and Ph.D. students within one year of degree completion who have been impacted by the termination or cancellation of their advisor's research grant(s).
- **Amount:** \$25,000 for one year per research institution (up to 100 grants total)
- **Submission Window:** September 15 – October 1, 2025
- **For additional information visit the website:**
www.acs.org/gradsuccessgrant



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ACS Graduate Student Success Grant



SUBMISSIONS OPEN SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

ACTC Summer Chemistry Research Symposium

On July 22, the annual ACTC Summer Chemistry Research Symposium was held at Augsburg University. Over 125 chemistry students and faculty from Augsburg, Bethel, Hamline, Macalester, St. Catherine, and St. Thomas gathered to share their science. Across two poster sessions, there were 52 posters representing each subdivision of chemistry. Rahmanimo Yusuf (Augsburg), Thomas Troester (St. Thomas), Mya Pederson (Bethel), and Isabella Nimm (Macalester) were our student presenters, each giving 20 minute oral presentations. During these time slots, they taught the audience about natural products, organic synthesis, vibrational Raman optical activity, and chemical biology. The program ended with a group photo and popsicles to wrap up an engaging day of chemistry. We would like to thank the MN ACS local section for their generous support for this annual event.

Transforming Undergraduate Education in Molecular Life Sciences (TUEMLS) conference

The Transforming Undergraduate Education in Molecular Life Sciences (TUEMLS) conference, held in July 2025 at Macalester College, brought together educators from the U.S. and across the world to explore current themes in biochemistry and chemistry education. Organized by four biochemistry professors: Betsy Martinez-Vaz (Hamline University), Joseph Chihade (Carleton College), Laura Listenberger (St. Olaf College), and Daniel Dries (Chapman University), the conference featured sessions on generative AI in the biochemistry classroom, alternative grading practices, course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs), the development of an indigenized chemistry curriculum, and inclusive teaching strategies that support all students. The program also included hands-on demonstrations of classroom and laboratory activities, a vibrant poster session highlighting educational research, and mentoring events for junior faculty. For more information or questions about the conference themes and activities, please contact MN ACS members Betsy Martinez-Vaz, Joseph Chihade or Laura Listenberger. We are grateful to the ACS Minnesota Local Section for its generous support in making this event possible.



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 2025

13 Sep, 1:30 PM: Merriam Park

18 Oct, 1:30 PM: Minneapolis Central Library

15 Nov, 1:30 PM: Excelsior

6 Dec, 1:30 PM: Eden Prairie



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 a **newsletter editor** to help spread the news about the exciting events and opportunities happening in the local section.

We are currently seeking passionate leaders for the following committees:

- **Younger Chemists** – leads initiatives to support, engage, and connect early-career chemists and students within the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS).
- **National Chemistry Week** – responsible for leading efforts to promote and coordinate activities related to National Chemistry Week, an annual outreach event organized by the American Chemical Society (ACS).
- **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 [Sarah Dimick Gray](#) to explore these opportunities.

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



Visit our Website

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