

Greater Houston > Administration Form

***Required Fields**

Governance

1. How many times did the executive committee conduct governance business during 2020? ***2. How many members were there in the executive committee during 2020? *****3. How did the executive committee communicate with one another during 2020? (Check all that apply.) *** Email Teleconference Zoom/Gotomeeting/Webex ACS Network Other**4. What percentage of your councilors participated in the Spring Special Meeting of Council (to hear nominees for President-Elect)? *****5. What percentage of your councilors were in official attendance at the Fall Virtual Council Meeting? *****6. Did a member of your local section attend the Local Section Leaders Track at the 2020 ACS Leadership Institute? *** Yes No

7. Did your local section have a succession and/or leadership development plan during 2020? *

- Yes
- No

8. How did your local section identify future leaders and get them into the leadership pipeline during 2020? (Check all that apply.) *

- Self-nomination
- Solicitation or Advertising
- Identify Active Committee Members
- Formal Leadership Training
- Long Term Plan
- Outreach to New Members
- Arm-twisting
- Other

9. Did your local section conduct an officer election during 2020? *

- Yes
- No

256

10. Did your local section conduct its elections electronically during 2020? *

- Yes
- No

Vote-Now.com

Questions 11-13 provide the opportunity for your section's leadership to communicate successes, challenges, goals, and progress towards meeting those goals. We want to hear from you! Please use the required comment boxes to share your thoughts about your section. In questions 12 and 13, do not feel limited by having spaces indicated for the top three goals. Other goals can be added in the comment box if needed.

11. 2020 Chair's report: Please provide a narrative of the past year's activity/successes/challenges: *

Despite the unprecedented struggles of 2020, the Greater Houston Section has succeeded in transitioning to new formats and platforms to serve our members, foster chemical education, and effectively communicate chemistry related information with the public using new technologies. Strategic Planning: We built on the momentum we started in 2019 and continued to recruit new and active volunteers in 2020, with several new active participants who were later elected to serve as directors for 2021. Executive Committee Meetings: We offered a virtual attendance option for Executive Committee Meetings in 2019. This allowed us to transition more easily to completely virtual meetings in February of 2020. We were able to include guests and new members in these meetings and share information about collaborative opportunities that were becoming available. Programming: While the majority of our programming in 2020 was virtual, we had an excellent in-person event early in the year, ACS Career Day. This event was hosted by members of the ACS National team and provided a wealth of career advice and networking opportunities. The first and last in-person Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) event was a post-Career Day Happy Hour networking event immediately following ACS Career Day Houston. This event kept the fun going and also was the first time many of our new 2020 volunteers attended an event. The Women's Chemist Committee was able to host an in-person event for the 2nd Global Women's Breakfast. Small group networking events like this helped to engage volunteers early in the year prior to switching to virtual programming. In mid-March, we transitioned to virtual seminars and workshops that could be attended online or viewed later on the ACS-GHS YouTube channel. A notable virtual tech talk was by Brian "Ponch" Rivera from Hyperdrive focused on agile iterative approaches to R&D, highlighting the importance of team work in driving successful projects, and how critical clear communication is to make sure every member of your team is working towards the same goal. Skydiving into Retirement with Bill Carroll was an ACS Career Workshop for those contemplating retirement or newly retired. The first virtual workshop had 7 attendees but the course was extremely popular with both Houston and Brazosport local section members and resulted in a wait list almost double the size of the course capacity, so the facilitator graciously agreed to run a second 8-person workshop session. The Programming Committee also hosted several virtual networking events including virtual gaming, trivia nights, and small group discussions. These events sometimes included more serious topics regarding career development opportunities available online. These virtual events were occasionally co-hosted by the YCC and always attracted a diverse group of attendees which allowed members to socialize in these socially distanced times. Awards: The Awards Committee was working overtime from the very beginning of 2020. We recognized several regional award winners at our transition meeting who were unable to attend the 2019 meeting in El Paso. Planning for an awards banquet in 2020, an incredibly successful virtual event was hosted through Zoom and coupled with a networking happy hour mixer before a jam-packed night of recognizing local, regional, and national award winners capped off with a keynote presentation by our Joe W. Hightower winner, Roxie Allen. This event can be viewed on our local section YouTube Channel. Education: We continue to focus on education by participating (virtually) in the US National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). 176 registered students joined the local competition for 14 available spots and two were selected and joined the national team. While we were unable to safely administer our annual scholarship exam, many past scholarship winners chose this year to claim their scholarships and start their college education with our support. Due to COVID-19, many universities and research facilities were forced to close and Project SEED moved to a virtual option. The Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp was an overwhelmingly successful project which included four-weeks of intense programming that sought to strengthen students professionally while preparing them for in-person 2021 research as part of Project SEED or other research opportunities. Students attended webinars to assist them with their college and career decisions. The ACS-GHS chose to recognize the Metropolitan Houston Chemistry Teachers Association for their tireless efforts to encourage networking and professional development for chemistry teachers in the metro area. New to the area or new to the profession teachers are given tools and training for engaging demonstrations and educational activities to help light the spark in the next generation of chemists. Community and Chemistry Outreach: ACS Greater Houston Section visited Kempner High School as part of the Chemistry Career Roadshow. The team of professionals was able to inform students about the many career paths that were available

through chemistry. Kempner HS is primarily composed of students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM. Through this outreach effort, these students developed a new understanding about the potential careers they can pursue in chemistry. This year, a student from the Greater Houston Section was honored at the national level for their submission to the Illustrated Poetry Contest for National Chemistry Week. This year's theme was Marvelous Metals and Isabella Trong, a junior at Memorial High School, was the national 2nd place winner for the 9-12 grade category with her poem on Aluminum. To promote public safety and encourage proper PPE use in the chemistry community during the COVID-19 pandemic, GHS member Catherine Faler sewed a series of chemistry-themed face masks that were sold through the ACS-GHS with the proceeds going towards future ACS-GHS chemistry activities and outreach programs. Between May and August 2020, 95 masks were sold and sent out to safety-minded purchasers in Houston and around the US! Communications and Technology: We continue to build on successes from 2019 by incorporating new methods to encourage engagement on all our platforms. From regular "Guess the Molecule" posts to timely infographics and social media posts on relevant chemistry in the news, we have seen a great deal of online activity. In order to reach out to our members, a new series of videos has been developed for our YouTube channel "Meet Your ACS-GHS Leaders". It is a series of short interviews with members of the Greater Houston local section leadership. The GHS executive board is made up of members from all areas of chemistry and we hope to provide some insight into the different career paths available to chemists in the Houston area, as well as the impact that the ACS can have on its members, both personally and professionally.

12. 2021 Chair's goals for the Section

a . Please list first of top three goals

Increase membership participation and encourage volunteers to move into leadership positions within the section

b . Please list second of top three goals

Incorporate virtual communication methods to offer diverse programming to GHS members and the Houston chemistry community

c . Please list third of top three goals

Build collaboration opportunities with other STEM organizations

d . What are your concerns and challenges?

One of my major concerns is how we can attract and keep new volunteers engaged in the ACS and GHS activities, especially with limited opportunities for in-person events. I have seen our section struggle to retain or make good use of volunteers when we don't have specific needs outlined in advance, such as demonstrators for outreach events or classroom presenters. We are fortunate that our 2021 board has several new volunteers and I want to make sure they feel valued and are successful in their roles. Another significant concern is that events and activities this year will continue to be limited due to restrictions on in-person gatherings. We held several successful virtual events in 2020 and attracted new volunteers, but they were largely limited to social/networking events with very little outreach to students or the public. I would like to see our activities take advantage of virtual technologies for outreach as well as public and member education. The large geographic size of our section makes virtual gatherings an attractive option for many potential participants and the challenge will be to not lose interest in virtual or hybrid options once in-person gatherings resume.

13. 2021 Chair-Elect's goals for the Section

a . Please list first of top three goals

Increase volunteer participation (10-15 new individuals) this year in the local section

b . Please list second of top three goals

Host successful events that affect the greater Houston community positively in 2021

c . Please list third of top three goals

Retain member engagement and interest on-line and in person (where applicable)

d . What are your concerns and challenges?

Coming up with novel ideas to host impactful events in this pandemic

14. Does the Local Section have a Vision and/or Mission Statement? *

- Yes
- No

15. What was the month and year of the last Local Section strategic planning session?

01/18/2020

Organization

1. Did your local section have active coordinators for the following? *

Activity	Coordinator Names
Awards	Lisa Houston
Budget/Finance	Sam Lewis
Budget/Finance	Sunny Conrad Tang
Chemistry Olympiad	Ding-Shyue Yang
Community Activities	Kerry K Spilker
Educational	Roxie Allen
Industry Relations	Chen Chuan James Kuo
Membership/Membership Retention	David S Germack
Minority Affairs	Javoris Hollingsworth
Newsletter/Publications	Laura Smith Callahan
Nominations	Snigdha Chennamaneni
Project SEED	Carolyn A Burnley

Project SEED

Javoris Hollingsworth

Strategic Planning

Amber Schulz Hinkle

Women Chemists

Valerie Lafitte

Younger Chemists

Kevin Ramirez

2. How many subsections were active in your local section during 2020? *

0

3. How many subsection meetings were held by your local section during 2020? *

0

4. How many topical groups were active in your local section during 2020? *

0

5. How many topical group meetings were held in your local section during 2020? *

0

6. Did your local section support (financial or otherwise) an existing Technician Affiliate Group (TAG) during 2020? *

- Yes
 No

*A person who is not a member of the SOCIETY shall not become a member of any Local Section, but Local Sections may provide in their bylaws to have Local Section Affiliates, not members of the SOCIETY, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership in the Local Section, as provided in the Local Section bylaws, except that of holding an elective position of the Local Section, or voting on Articles of Incorporation and bylaws for the Local Section, or serving as a voting member of its Executive Committee or equivalent policymaking body, or voting for Councilor(s) or Alternate Councilor(s) from the Local Section. In their bylaws, Local Sections may either provide or withhold the privilege of voting by Local Section Affiliates for an elective position (other than Councilor or Alternate Councilor) of the Local Section. Local Section Affiliates may be appointed as Committee Chairs, if allowed by the bylaws of the Local Section.

7. How many dues-paying local section affiliates* were in your local section during 2020? *

65

8. What was the approximate number of active volunteers in your local section during 2020? *

50

9. Please estimate the number of new volunteers in your local section during 2020? *

10

10. Please indicate all the ways that your local section recognized volunteers during 2020 (Check all that apply.) *

- Awards
- Certificates
- Letter to Volunteer
- Letter to Volunteer Supervisor
- Recognition at an Event
- Recognition in Newsletter
- Recognition on Web
- Other

Communication

1. How many local section meetings were held during 2020? *

11

2. On average, how many members attended a local section meeting during 2020? *

20

3. How did Councilors report to your local section members about national ACS matters during 2020? (Check all that apply.) *

- At an Executive Committee Meeting
- At a Section Meeting
- In an Email
- In the Newsletter
- On the Local Section Website
- Other

4. Did your local section have a representative on your Regional Meeting Board or Steering Committee during 2020? *

- Yes
- No

5. How does the section's leadership communicate information to its members (including social media channels)?

a . General description of communication:

Email, Newsletter, Website, Twitter, Linked In, Facebook, YouTube

b . How Often do these communications occur? Number of newsletters published:

12 - Newsletters published monthly, usually on 1st Monday of month

c . How Often do these communications occur? Number of meeting notices:

12

6. What social media does your local section use? (If selected, the link is required.)

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Snapchat
- TikTok
- Twitter
- Other

7. Did your local section have a website during 2020? *

- Yes
- No

8. Did your local section post its Annual Report on your website during 2020? *

- Yes

No

Nomination

The Local Section (LS) Outstanding Performance (OP) ChemLuminary Award is given annually to a local section in each section size category by the Local Section Activities Committee. This award recognizes the most outstanding performance of a LS in a particular size category in supporting ACS, its section members, students, the public, the education enterprise, industry, other ACS sections, other professional societies, and partnering organizations. The review is based solely on the LS FORMS annual report (AR), considering primarily the summary self-nomination statement below and the summary descriptions contained within Events, Activities, and Meetings. Other performance indicators may include administrative (e.g. participation in elections) and financial (e.g. sound budgetary policy) aspects. Timely submission of your administration and financial forms is a major factor in the evaluation of your LS for the Outstanding Performance Award.

1. Our Section would like to self-nominate for the Local Section Outstanding Performance Award *

Yes

No

ACS Career Day was hosted by members of the ACS National team and provided a wealth of career advice and networking opportunities. The Younger Chemist Committee (YCC) organized a post-Career Day Happy Hour networking event immediately following ACS Career Day Houston that was the first time many of our new 2020 volunteers attended an event. The Women's Chemist Committee hosted an in-person event for the 2nd Global Women's Breakfast. Small group networking events like this helped to engage volunteers early in the year prior to switching to virtual programming. We hosted a webinar on Agile Iterative Approaches to R&D highlighting the importance of team work in driving successful projects, and how critical clear communication is to make sure every member of your team is working towards the same goal. Skydiving into Retirement was an ACS Career Workshop with Bill Carroll for those contemplating retirement or newly retired. The course was extremely popular and a second session was added! The Programming Committee hosted several virtual networking events including trivia/gaming nights and small group discussions. These events sometimes included more serious topics regarding career development opportunities available online and always attracted a diverse group of attendees. A successful virtual awards ceremony was coupled with a networking happy hour mixer hosted through Zoom to recognize local, regional, and national award winners capped off with a keynote presentation. The US National Chemistry Olympiad had 176 registered students joined the local competition for 14 available spots and two were selected and joined the national team. The Project SEED Virtual Summer Camp was an overwhelmingly successful project which included four-weeks of intense programming that sought to strengthen 300 students professionally while preparing them for in-person 2021 research as part of Project SEED or other research opportunities. The ACS-GHS recognized the Metropolitan Houston Chemistry Teachers Association for their tireless efforts to encourage networking and professional development for chemistry teachers in the metro area. ACS-GHS visited Kempner High School as part of the Chemistry Career Roadshow. Through this outreach effort, students from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM developed a new understanding about the potential careers they can pursue in chemistry. To promote public safety and encourage proper PPE use in the chemistry community during the COVID-19 crisis, GHS member Catherine Faler sewed a series of chemistry-themed face masks that were sold through the ACS-GHS with the proceeds going towards future ACS-GHS chemistry activities and outreach programs. Over 95 masks were sold and sent out to safety-minded purchasers in Houston and around the US! Our social media channels continue to engage the public with regular "Guess the Molecule" posts to timely infographics and posts on relevant chemistry in the news. A new video series, "Meet Your ACS-GHS Leaders", has been developed for our YouTube channel. It is a series of short interviews with members of the Greater Houston local

section leadership to provide some insight into the different career paths available to chemists in the Houston area, as well as the impact that the ACS can have on its members.

Supporting Materials

Brief Description	File Name	File Size	Date Uploaded
-------------------	-----------	-----------	---------------