

## ACS-GHS March Meeting Minutes

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. **Welcome/Introductions:**

Meeting convened at 6:34 p.m. over Zoom (Online) by Dawn Friesen.

**Attendees:**

Board Members:	Position	Active Volunteers:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Friesen	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amiee Modic – AACT Liaison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eme Abu	Chair-Elect	<input type="checkbox"/> Tai-Yen Chen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crystal Young	Past Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Yang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ramirez	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Star
<input type="checkbox"/> Sam Lewis	Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryanne Mores
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Smith Callahan	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiresha Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David E. Thompson	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunny Tang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn Foster	Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Singleton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loïc Samuel	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Usha Devathosh
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Germack	Councilor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safia Mohamed
<input type="checkbox"/> Mamie Moy	Councilor	<b>General Attendees:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Dennis	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/> Zlata Simunic-Grenoble
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amber Hinkle	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Burnley	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Valerie Lafitte	Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Javoris Hollingsworth	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snigdha Chennamaneni	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerry Spilker	Alt. Councilor; Community Affairs Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Botto	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Malloy	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>VACANT</b>	Alt. Councilor	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Houston	Awards Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Roxie Allen	Education Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Needed for Quorum:</b>	<b>12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quorum Met		<input type="checkbox"/>

2. **Adoption of February 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Dawn Friesen

David Germack made a motion, David Thompson seconded.

**Minutes accepted 14 – 0.**

3. **Approval of 2021 Budget:** Sam Lewis

**ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out budget update prior to next meeting.**

Budget to be reviewed at April Board Meeting.

4. **Committee Updates:**

I. Programming Committee: Eme Abu

- Younger Chemists Committee (YCC): Safia Mohamed & Kevin Ramirez

A. New Logo

Updated logo to incorporate GHS logo.

Closer to what YCC National has with the exchange of the GHS logo for the National phoenix.

B. Revamped Website and Twitter profile

<https://acsghs.wildapricot.org/YCC>

Under Exec Board & Committees on our home page.

Layout has an eye-catching slide show to showcase events, relevant info, and useful resources.

Link to ACS National YCC under the *Who are we?* Section.

Included HTML email link with a pre-made subject-line of “New Member” for those interested in becoming members of ACS and ACS-GHS YCC.

Upcoming Events section has details on upcoming HMNS with link to Health Precautions.

Links to all FREE ACS Career Navigator resources.

Link to Younger Chemist Award criteria.

Links to social media accounts.

C. ACS-YCC National

Tabbatha Bohac, Chair of the Local and Regional Affairs subcommittee of the ACS National YCC, reached out to generate list of active LSYCCs and connect LSYCC leadership.

Safia completed survey providing feedback on how National YCC can better help serve our community and achieve subcommittee goals.

D. Update on events

Chemistry Themed Private Tour at MHNS (April 18/CCEW):

To generate interest in ACS-GHS YCC.

To be held on Sunday April 18, 2 – 4 p.m.

Working on gathering interesting chemistry facts about Ancient Egypt to provide the tour guide (who has a Chemistry background from UofH) no later than 2 weeks before the event.

We are asking attendees to arrive at least 15 minutes before the event.

Safia & Kevin will be there 30 minutes prior to the event.

\$5 fee for the event - \$50 back to ACS-GHS.

Awaiting PayPal code, which will go live tonight (March 15<sup>th</sup>).

Advertising to take place on ACS-GHS YCC Website, Twitter, Newsletter, and all materials will be shared with Laura for posting on all our social media platforms.

Ordered:

36 x PURELL 1 fl oz hand sanitizers.

24 x ACS periodic table face masks.

1 sheet (36 stickers) ACS-GHS YCC Custom Stickers.

24 x organic cotton reusable bags (small 5" x 7").

10 tickets & booked 2-hour private tour of exhibit.

Virtual Networking (August):

Mentorship opportunity to connect early/experienced professionals in their field.

Reached out to National YCC to see if they could offer any assistance/resources for this event via survey.

We can also collaborate with other local sections as this is a virtual event – to cast a wider net for interested mentors and mentees.

Happy Hour/Trivia Night (October 23/NCW):

Social mixer.

Ordered “Overreacting” cookies from Tall Dark Frosted (Emily Hamner – HS Science Teacher) for the event to tie in with NCW theme – Reaction Rates – “Fast or Slow...Chemistry Makes It Go!”

Have an ACS 2019 IYPT Periodic Table blanket as a prize for trivia night. **THANK YOU, LISA!!**

- Women Chemists Committee (WCC): Lynn Foster

Reached out to Association of Women in Science – Gulf Coast/Houston Chapter to collaborate on an event this summer.

Expecting to hold a planning meeting by April, all are welcome to attend.

Notifications will go out prior to planning meeting.

There is interest in getting an event going.

- Minority Affairs Committee (MAC): Javoris Hollingsworth

- Engineering Council of Houston Liaison (ECH): Larry Dennis

Held meeting the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>. Typically hold meeting first Thursday of the month.

Science fair went well.

Had an online awards ceremony that was well executed.

Also talked about some environmental climate issue programs that are being planned for later in the year.

- Senior Chemists Committee (SCC): Carolyn Burnley

There is a 2021 Mini-Grant for Local Section Senior Chemists Committees

- Seminars & Summer Social: Eme Abu

Eva Marie Harth (UH) – finalizing late May day, evening seminar, midweek. Director of Welch Center for Polymer Science.

MFAH speaker bureau – no current volunteer talks focused on chemistry, discussing options. Offered to connect us with the (new) director of conservation. May be an associated speaker fee.

NASA speaker bureau submitted. Planning for a virtual seminar.

Madeleine Swortwood (SHSU) – waiting for response. Dr. Swortwood does forensic chemistry of cannabis and illicit drugs. We had good response from our forensic chemists some years ago.

- Science Café:

If you have any ideas of virtual summer socials. Please speak with Dawn

## II. Awards Committee: Lisa Houston

Held first meeting last week.

Officially a committee of 11.

Good representation from industry and academia. Good spread from all levels of high school up to 4-year universities.

The ACS Fellows deadline is coming up, we do have 1 package that can be resubmitted.

**ACTION ITEM: Lisa needs help submitting the nomination for Monty Pettit. Please contact Lisa if you would like to shepherd this nomination.**

## III. Education Committee: Roxie Allen

- Chemistry Olympiad: Jerry Yang
- Project Seed: Carolyn Burnley & Javoris Hollingsworth
- AACT Liaison: Amiee Modic

In odd numbered years, AACT holds International Conference on Chemical Education.

This year it was projected to be held at the University of Guelph in Ontario, but because vaccinations are slowly ramping up, they have moved the meeting virtual.

AACT is hosting the virtual conference and it is free to high school and college educators.

As Amiee learns more about that conference, she will share that with the section for advertisement.

AACT is calling the conference “The Best of ChemEd”, but Amiee is unsure if that necessarily limits the idea of new presentations.

There are number of collegiate presenters that will present if others are interested in those sessions.

- High School Chemistry Clubs Liaison: Usha Devathosh

Planning to meet the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting delayed due to vaccinations opening for educators.

- Middle School Liaison: Kiresha Johnson

- Scholarship Exam: Tai-Yen Chen

- Student Affiliates: Loïc Samuel

Met with the Chair of the Brazosport Section, Daniel Abebe.

They are trying to support the start of a student affiliate section at Brazosport Community College.

Discussed general strategies & ideas ahead of the student's meeting with the College's Student Organizations committee.

Loïc was contacted by the Chair of the student affiliate at University of Houston.

She inquired about if GHS had any advice or resources for having virtual events and recruiting speakers.

Loïc shared the ACS Speaker Directory with her and a collection of pre-recorded webinars from the ACS.

He also mentioned that various members of the GHS or Brazosport Section might be willing to speak with them as an invited speaker.

If you are interested in speaking to the University of Houston student affiliate, please contact Loïc.

Loïc shared our upcoming events with the student affiliate as well as ACS National's upcoming virtual events, e.g., Upcoming Career Day designed for undergraduates, Social Distancing Socials, Monthly journal clubs, etc.

Loïc is planning on reaching out to other student affiliates in the area to gauge what they have planned as well as invite them to our larger events throughout the year.

- Science Fairs: ECH Liaison, Larry Dennis

Kerry attended the virtual awards ceremony.

She noticed that they put the names of the winners, categories, and award titles, but not the title of project.

She mentions that there were different presenters to give out each of the special awards.

ACS Chemistry was absent, but Kerry would like to see us give out a special award next year.

There were not specific money awards attached to each special award, but some divisions did give a nominal amount (e.g., \$25 - \$50, or a gift certificate).

This year there were 7 winners, 4 Junior Division winners and 3 Senior Division winners.

Kerry was thinking that we could offer a \$25 gift card to Junior Division winners, and \$50 to Senior Division winners.

Kerry would also like the section to consider being present at the Science Fair next year to be able to offer a special award.

Lisa asks about progress of the spring awards ceremony for the Chemistry Olympiad/Science Fair winners.

Kerry followed up with the SEFH and she has the names of all the winners, their teacher and parent contacts.

Kerry was looking to get Lisa and Roxie involved on the project slated for late May (to include the winners of the National Olympiad).

Kerry is envisioning the program to be something where the Junior Division Chemistry Winners could have their poster on the website and the Senior Division Winners could give a 15-minute presentation of their work with a 10-minute Q&A session. The total program would be somewhere between 45 minutes to an hour where the GHS would hand out the certificates & gift cards.

Kerry asked for clarity on whether the Olympiad winners were to receive a monetary award as well.

Lisa mentions that we approved monetary awards for Olympiad winners in January.

Kerry mentions that she will begin reaching out to the parents to begin organizing the event.

She also mentions that perhaps we should plan to have a guest speaker as well, depending on how long we want the program to last.

Kerry mentions that while she has enough money in her section to cover the awards, she asks if she should formally ask for funding like the Olympiad funding request in January.

Larry suggests that we formally vote on the funding request to set precedent for the proceeding years.

Kerry makes a motion to give gift certificates to the SEFH Chemistry winners. The Junior Division will receive \$25, and the Senior Division will receive \$50.

Larry seconded.

David Thompson asks how many students are typically recognized.

Kerry clarifies that there are 4 Junior Division winners: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Honorable Mention. The Senior Division winners are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. \$250 total would need to be allocated to recognize all winners (excluding Junior Division Honorable Mention).

**SEFH Chemistry Gift Certificate Funding: Motion passed 14 – 0.**

Larry mentions that in order to make our involvement with the SEFH Science Fair more formal next year there is a 'Sponsoring Agent' form we need to fill out during the planning period where we state our intent with the Fair.

Dawn asks if there is a financial requirement to participate with SEFH.

Larry and Kerry are unsure, but Kerry says that there might not be a financial commitment required. Further research is needed to determine for sure if that is the case.

Kerry mentions that most of the Societies handed out plaques for their special awards with others mentioning that they were also including a gift certificate, but it was low key.

Larry mentions that in the past the GHS had donated about \$1000 to the SEFH for several years. He believes that was just part of sponsoring the Fair, but unsure if that was a requirement of being a Sponsoring Agent.

Larry to investigate SEFH financial sponsorship commitment, if any, for next year.

IV. Community Affairs: Kerry Spilker



- Chemists Celebrate Earth Week & National Chemistry Week (CCEW & NCW): Kiresha Johnson and Kerry Spilker

Planning ongoing.

Kerry attended Dawn's workshop on how to build committee websites through the ACS-GHS webpage.

Kerry has been working on webpage for CCEW.

The webpage has links to activities like crossword puzzle, word search, links to get plants from Mercer Arboretum or HMNS.

Kerry anticipates that there will be a block of 4 different events for CCEW participants.

Participants who turn materials in will be eligible to win a gift card, winner chosen at random.

Discovery Green will be holding an in-person CCEW event this year, ACS-GHS does have a table for the event.

Reese is looking for volunteers for the event if you are interested.

Planning to have hands-on demonstrations at the Discovery Green around this year's theme.

The CCEW Discovery Green event is on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Kids & Chemistry: Bob Botto

Bob reached out to Kerry, to let her know he will be laying low this year.

San Jacinto is moving on with their program, already in full swing. Many of their things are virtual.

Kerry will reach out to San Jac and prepare an update on the Kids & Chemistry at San Jac.

- Education Rainbow Challenge: Eme Abu

No updates for ERC yet.

Eme reached out to Cecil to check if the event will be held this year. She is waiting to hear back.

For now, it is a "wait and see".

As the event gets closer, Eme will update the group.

- Industry Relations: **Vacant**

Kerry reached out to J.C. and asked what he did and what his program was like. CC'd Kevin & Safia.

- Government Affairs: Kerry Spilker

Kerry attended "Science As A Diplomatic Tool" webinar held by ACS National.

Discussed different ways science is used in diplomacy.

Kerry has access to the webinar recording if you are interested.

The speakers were stressing that when you get to know your legislators/representatives it offers you the ability to get know your officials from D.C. down to the local level. That way when these representatives have questions, it encourages them to come to the Local Section for answers/clarity solely based on facts. As that happens over time, that is one way to get your chapter involved in government affairs.

If anyone is interested in working with Kerry and getting to know our local and state representatives in Austin and introducing them more to our organization, please let Kerry know.

V. Communications & Technology: Laura Smith Callahan

If you have any events or news, please let Laura know so she can get it out on social media and the newsletter.

For those committee members that operate websites once the page is ready send the links to Laura so they can be included in our regular postings.

Laura reached out to the PR Makeover contact(s) and is waiting to hear back.

VI. Strategic Planning: Amber Hinkle

VII. Membership: David Germack

Meeting with Lisa to run through actions to be taken on membership and will follow up with Laura & Kevin to execute those plans.

There are also plans for rolling out a survey to former and current members to gauge each member's thoughts on the value of membership.

David Germack asks if there is a level of approval to send out this poll to our members.

David is looking for volunteer(s) to send some questions on what we could do to entice former members to rejoin.

David is planning to reach out to Safia & Kevin in the YCC to capitalize on the refreshed website to promote and recruit more student members and younger chemists.

Dawn mentions that in her & Kerry's discussions with San Jac, they are interested in getting members down there to discuss careers in chemistry with the students.

The opportunity to speak at San Jac is a great way to plug the benefits of the ACS and San Jac is very interested in having chemists come speak to their students.

Amber offers to get David the last membership survey conducted a few years ago in conjunction with the then strategic planning.

Dawn mentions that the survey may still be on a Google Form, but the form owner needs to be tracked down.

Amber mentions that the GHS conducted a membership survey in 2016 that she will track down for David's reference.

Lisa mentions that she remembers that should be another survey in 2017/2018 that would also be useful to look over.

Lisa also mentions that there are synergies we should capitalize on between Student Affiliates, YCC & Membership to promote, and retain potential/future members.

David to reach out to Loïc, Safia, and Kevin to begin that process.

Snigdha found the link for the 2019 membership survey that she will send to Dawn and David.

#### VIII. Financial Advisory: Larry Dennis

Larry put together a summary of section finances from 2015 – 2020 and shared it with the committee.

Waiting to hear back from the committee before he shares with the group.

Larry mentions that in 2016 we hosted a regional meeting that had a reasonable profit of \$45,000 that was received the following year.

The financial advisory committee was formed in 2017 to look at the Sections' finances and came up with recommendations.

Some of those recommendations were to put some of the Section's cash in puritan funds, all-purpose/broad investment funds.

Over the years, the funds have been doing very well.

The cash accounts have been growing since we usually do not spend all the money.

The funds are generating \$4,000 - \$6,000 per year of income.

There are several things we need to think about.

1. We are a charitable organization, so we cannot just accumulate money.
2. We need to have a purpose for the money.

There are guidelines for how to use it, and we are within those guidelines now.

3. We need to think about what we have been putting money into.
4. We need to look at old programs we used to support and ask ourselves "Do we still want to support those?"

This year, since we are getting a second allotment, we need to have plans in place for how to use that money to enhance membership and programming.

Larry asks all committee chairs to consider that and think about what your committee can do.

Larry clarifies that he is not asking us to be big spenders, we have always been conservative, but we do need to consider our strategic goals especially concerning membership.

Larry mentions that as the National meeting comes up, Councilors will be voting on some new member classifications and we will need to consider those if they pass Council.

They may give us some new ways to get new members in at all levels.

Larry has a list of our spending over the last few years, but he will get approval from the financial advisory committee on what exactly will get circulated to the group.

Larry summarizes that the Section is in very good financial shape.

IX. Fundraising (Ad hoc): Snigdha Chennamaneni

Committee of 4 members, with Snigdha as Chair.

Still working on generating sponsorship opportunities with cost & benefits for potential sponsors.

Also coming up with a list of ACS resources and funding opportunities.

She will discuss it first within the committee and then share that information with the board members to get feedback.

By end of March, she will have list of funding opportunities that we can apply to and a draft of sponsorship opportunities.

We received an IPG grant last year for the Passport Program that we were not able to spend all the money on.

Snigdha reached out to LSAC and they mentioned that they have this issue sometimes.

LSAC asked that we come up with a list of events or how we plan to spend that money.

Snigdha will send back that list to LSAC and we should be good to go.

She mentions that we probably will not have to send back the money that we already got for the grant award.

Larry brings up that with fundraising that we have a purpose for raising those funds, whether broad or narrow in purpose.

He mentions that is one of the rules of being a charitable organization, and that the money should come from various sources and if it is deemed as something just to make money then we could get into trouble.

Lisa clarifies that the committee has plans on what they plan to raise money for like sponsor our awards, Project SEED students, or beverages at a seminar, etc.

## 5. **Other Business:**

### I. SWRM

Kerry asks when the next SWRM is and Lisa mentions that it is from Oct 31 – Nov 3, in Austin.

Kerry and Lisa both mention that we will host SWRM in 2026.

Kerry asks if we should begin fundraising now and begin putting a portion of that money away to support the upcoming SWRM.

Kerry also mentions that would be a great way to raise awareness of ACS/GHS and support membership, etc., since SWRM is what drew Kerry into the group.

Larry asks if we are officially on the book for 2026.

Lisa clarifies that we are on the books, but it will be coming up soon that we will need to put together our proposal.

Dawn mentions that was a little bit of shuffling in the schedule.

Lisa agrees and mentions that there was a bit of shuffling to include El Paso back on the schedule.

## II. Picture a Scientist Panel Discussion

Yifan Dong from Brazosport Section shared the "Picture A Scientist" panel discussion with Rochelle Burks (sp?) & Jane Willenbran (sp?) and other prominent women in science on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion on diversity & inclusion in science/STEM.

There are links for those that wanted to see the documentary but were not able to.

Those with university access, may get it through there, but there are links via other venues.

## III. ACS Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect Workshop for Volunteer Leaders

Recommended that all ACS volunteer leaders, including local section leaders attend.

If you did not receive the announcement and would like it, please let Dawn know and she will send it to you.

## IV. ACS on Campus

Larry mentions a program that he heard about during a Senior Chemists Committee meeting, ACS on Campus.

It is a program where ACS comes to a college campus and they run a half-day program, sponsor research happening at the university, and offer career advice.

Once all the plans are worked out. ACS National agrees to handle all the costs and booking of speakers, etc.

Program is aimed at undergraduate, graduate students, postdocs, and faculty at the university.

Larry mentions that because we have several universities in our local section, someone within our domain might be interested in contacting them to bring this program to their campus.

Fairly new program, it seems.

It is something that the LS can be involved with peripherally and would help drive up membership.

**Meeting Adjourned At:** 7:44 p.m.