



Western Carolinas Local Section.

Councilor's report: Fall Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 21-25, 201

Dr. George L. Heard, Councilor, Western Carolinas Section

Saturday August 20

Taking advantage of an opportunity presented by my current professional development leave, I took a commuter train to Philadelphia. First stop was the CCA outreach event at the Franklin Institute where I was roped into helping stuff goody bags and cleaning goggles. Ah the memories. The Ethics committee dinner was challenging, being at a smokehouse with no vegetarian appetizers and only one meal option. Fortunately it was rather tasty (grilled vegetable sandwich).

Sunday August 21

The Ethics subcommittee meeting begins with a breakfast at 8:30am, which is an extremely hospitable time to have breakfast, particularly when compared to the CCA breakfast that was at 6:45am. Following that we split almost immediately into subcommittees where I presented some potential ACS website updates.

The full meeting of ETHX went until after 4:30pm, also known as just enough time to grab a quick drink before attending the District IV Caucus where we were briefed on actions of the Board designed to separate you from your money and what fun awaits us at Council.

Monday, August 22

Classes began at UNC Asheville, so I took advantage of a quiet morning to catch up with work emails.

There was an afternoon workshop on Safe Space training, the first time such an opportunity had been offered at an ACS National meeting, so I took advantage of it and spent four hours in the afternoon learning language and strategies for inclusion of a spectrum of gender identities.

I attended the reception of the division of Chemistry and the Law before heading to Sci Mix where I met with Tim Hanks and his students to collect the poster for the ChemLuminary award nominations.

Tuesday, August 23

I spent the morning at the Convention Center around the Exposition, which runs from Sunday-Tuesday at the National Meeting.

The afternoon was a series of open meetings, thankfully all hosted in the rather expansive Marriot hotel – I attended the joint CCA/LSAC open meeting, and suggested to LSAC that they consider reducing attendance fees at the Leadership Institute for those chairs-elect that were unable to travel in 2016. From there I went to the Division of Professional Relations open meeting, and then to the CPRC meeting where Peter Atkins was being honored. Next up was the Presidential reception for the LGBT Subdivision of PROF, which had a balcony! ACS National Meetings rarely involve natural light.

The final event was the ChemLuminary awards, held in the remotest part of the Convention Center. I arrived early hoping to put our poster up to find a rope and forbidding Convention Center workers barring entrance until the event officially started. Our poster saw a decent amount of traffic, particularly from people wanting to know exactly where we were (I had a map), and I was interviewed by a representative of LSAC on what were successful strategies.

And the winner is.... US! We were nominated for two awards, and won the award for Outstanding NCW event organized by a student group for the event at the Spartanbug Science Center organized by Dorman High School, Boiling Springs High School, USC Upstate and UNC Asheville. Our trophy will be forwarded in the near future.

Wednesday, August 24

Council met at 8am. Please see a separate report for actions at Council.

A student from UNC Asheville was presenting in a CHED symposium late on Wednesday, so I finished out the day at the sparsely-attended talks and poster sessions of the tail end of the National Meeting.

Thursday, August 25

I could get used to this – the automated checkout at the hotel wasn't working, so I had to go downstairs and wait in line which meant I missed my train. No biggie – there is another train in an hour! Can't do that with Delta!

I will be happy to give any further details of my time and meetings in Philadelphia. Please contact me at glheard@gmail.com or 828-337-7943.