

SERMACS 2012 Executive Committee Report

Summary: The 64th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society was held November 14-17 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The meeting was highly successful, with more than 2200 attendees, strong undergraduate and graduate student participation, a very large vendor exhibition, and an excellent technical program. The SERMACS Executive Board met on the 17th, taking action on future meetings, making key decisions on improving the Region's website, and electing new officers.

Background: ACS Regions are collections of local sections that have traditionally banded together to operate scientific meetings that are both smaller than national meetings and are more responsive to regional needs and interests. As these meetings are located closer to the local sections and are far less expensive to attend, regional meetings attract a large student attendance. The Southeast Region has, for many years, operated relatively large and technically sophisticated meetings. A local section runs each meeting with some financial and logistical support from the Region's Executive Board and the ACS. A well-organized meeting can return excess revenue to the local section to be used for its own projects.

The meetings are overseen by an Executive Board that is composed of representatives from each of the participating local sections. The Board is charged with choosing locations for future meetings, offering guidance to meeting organizers and to assist in the selection of winners of the Region's four awards.

Future Meetings: The sites for future meetings are chosen five years in advance. Preference is given to particular areas within the Region based upon a rotating schedule. Sections outside the District of preference may submit bids and are usually successful if the sections within the preferred District do not provide a satisfactory bid. This year, three bids were received for the 2017 meeting from the Savannah River Section, The Chattanooga Section and the Carolina-Piedmont Section (Charlotte). The latter was chosen as it is part of District V; the District of preference for 2017. The schedule for upcoming meetings is as follows:

2013- Atlanta
2014- Nashville
2015- Memphis
2016- Columbia
2017- Charlotte

Reports were presented by all of the upcoming meetings and all were found to be proceeding satisfactorily. Each meeting has chosen a good meeting site and has a strong team of volunteers in place. The Board was enthusiastic about the prospects for each of the meetings.

Awards: Nominations for the four Regional Awards were up this year, with significant competition for each. The awards presented this year include:

The ACS Stanley C. Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences:

Dr. Christine S. Grant, Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Special Initiatives, College of Engineering, and Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, North Carolina State University.

The ACS E. Ann Nalley Southeastern Regional Award for Volunteer Service:

Dr. Christopher J. Bannochie, Fellow, Savannah River National Laboratory.

The SERMACS Industrial Innovation Award:

Dr. Christian Melander, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, North Carolina State University, and cofounder, Agile Sciences.

The ACS CHED Regional Award for Excellence in High School Teaching:

Ms. Susanne M. Dana, Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg, VA.

Other Business: The Board has asked Charles Goss (General Chair of SERMACS 2012) to proceed with a plan to select a commercial web site developer to move the ailing Region website to a new host and to serve as a liaison between the board and the developer. Charlie will work to make sure the site is up to date and serves the needs of the region.

Dr. Christopher Bannochie was elected to the post of Chair Elect for 2013. Dr. Bannochie has previously served in the chair rotation and will continue to provide leadership to the Region in his second rotation.

The Board considered a request from the Southeast Research Conference for official recognition by SERMACS. This would have allowed the conference to brand itself as a SERMACS event and potentially to request future financial support from the Region. The Board agreed to provide advertising for the conference, as well as other chemical and educational conferences taking place within the Region, but they declined to formally endorse this particular conference or to become an official sponsor.

The Board received an encouraging report from the Treasurer. The success of recent meetings has allowed the Board to consider a possible expansion of its activities, including the possibility of additional awards and expanded programing support at Regional meetings, however, no action was taken on these items at this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Timothy Hanks
WCACS Representative, SERMACS Board