

**Central PA Local Section  
American Chemical Society**

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, August 7, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.**

330 Whitmore Lab, Penn State University

Present: Peter Baran, Mary Carol Frier, Cathy Hetrick, Joe Houck, Jared Mondschein, Lori Stepan Van Der Sluys, Dan Sykes, Kevin Range

**Minutes**

1. Introductions; present and apologies
2. Approved Minutes from the April 18, 2017 ExComm Meeting
3. General Business

A. Budget and Fundraising Event

\$10,000 investment commitment membership 400 now (used to be 600)

Fundraising event ideas:

- Big Springs event with a fee charged? Adopt a barrel?
- Seven mountains vineyard; charge more for the fee
- Restek even
- Millipore sigma
- 50-50 drawing or door prizes
- arboretum, tour, band, picnic, wine tasting

B. 2018 Officer elections; slate due Oct. 15, results Dec. 1

Chair-Elect

Treasurer

Government Affairs; Jared

(Secretary)

New Business; Jared Mondschein wants to be the acting government affairs chair in the fall election. He is a member of the science policy society (members are PSU grad and undergrad, they hold monthly seminars 20-30, public outreach event at Liberty called Science on Tap where they invite a PI from Penn state to talk about their research). He wants to get students involved from NCS with this group. They have a close relationship with the Union of Concerned Scientists at PSU, and are beta

testing a new initiative with swag and training tools for grad students. He wants access to the list-serve, but they would have to be co-sponsors with ACS in order to do so. They have a list of sponsors contribute financially. They already have the infrastructure. They could write an innovative program grant, and Joe will advise them. They could work with “Group 314”, since Michael Mann is their science policy faculty advisor. They want to work with Congressman Glenn Thompson, with whom they have a relationship (his aide). All of us should think about it and let Jared know our ideas. Jared’s contact info is [jsm366@psu.edu](mailto:jsm366@psu.edu), and his email is linked to the website on the committees page.

C. IPG status – Joe Houck

We received \$3500 as an IPG grant to put together “chem kits” (\$200 per kit) for elementary school grades. We will create 6 kits per institution, 3 kits per grade level. The topics can grow over time, but we will start with these 6. All materials would be included. The committee approved the topics on the proposal. Could be associated with picnic or other event to put together the kits. We will put together 18 kits and send to schools; student affiliates will store, perform, and distribute them (6 bins each). They will be ready to put together by October; Joe will order materials. Lockhaven has SEIG center reserved (October?), which has cabins in the woods that Lockhaven owns; perhaps student groups could meet there and put kits together. How will it be integrated into the K-12 curriculum? Joe tried it out in Tyrone already. State standards are assigned and instructions are included. We can link to a google form on the website to allow teachers and users to borrow kits. Student affiliates would have to make sure supplies are replenished.

D. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium;

Sept. 5, Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 PM, deadlines and info posted on website. Dan will purchase food and cake through Wegmans. It will be held on the bridge, 40 students last year, can use 4<sup>th</sup> floor and possibly 301 or life science rooms. The commonwealth campuses want to participate, but not on a weekday (will a weekend conflict with too many things?) We could collaborate with POB and Erie local sections if it was on a weekend. We could invite St. Francis. Altoona never wants to participate.

4. New Business

A. Student Affiliate Activities(?) none

## B. Other Business

Joe proposes we host a “you be the chemist” local competition in the spring. Students are in grades 5-8. We need corporate sponsorship and buy in from teachers and schools; teachers would administer a test to qualify students. The test limits the number of students from each school; the top 10 students are chosen. Advancement to state or national challenge depends on how many local challenges there are in the state. We only have 4 local competitions in the state of PA, so there is a good chance that our local students would do well in the state challenge. It could be hosted at PSU, and 2 weeks later could be held at other schools; we could do planning at the same time. The challenge is 5 rounds, 3 rounds of 20 MC questions, they send you a turning point clicker response system for 30 or so students, they send you a powerpoint file with timing, students respond in 10 seconds, rules are spelled out for tie breakers and eliminations. Winner advances. Study guides are given to students. Questions start easy and get harder. Schools must commit by Feb. 1, then we host a local challenge by Feb-March. Joe will make a single sheet of talking points and go to schools to see if there is interest; teachers need to be on board. We can submit a new IPG to pay for prizes, certificates, gifts cards, judge gifts, and demo materials in between judging rounds. Student affiliates could sell shirts, cupcakes, etc., and schools can recruit since parents are there. The Chem Ed foundation funds state winners to go to Washington DC. 15-30 students are best number for challenge, 8 is too few.

5. Date of next Ex Comm meetings; Thurs. Nov. 2, 6:30 PM, venue TBA
6. Closing; 6:45 PM