



# COUNCIL CORNER

## ROCHESTER LOCAL SECTION

2020 comes to a close, and it is assured that this is a year within the ACS, as well as everywhere we will never forget.

As we enter 2021, it appears that many of the new concepts will continue. The January ACS Leadership Institute will be virtual, as will the Spring ACS Meeting, originally scheduled for San Antonio. It is also my opinion that such safeguards will continue on through the Fall ACS meeting as well, scheduled for Atlanta.

I do want to make sure that our Section members are in the loop about the planning around the Spring, 2021 ACS meeting as many of you may be interested in taking part.

Here are some key points as it takes on a whole new look for such meetings:

- \* They are now calling these meetings the "ACS Spring 2021 Meeting" and the "ACS Fall 2021 Meeting" - no longer the "ACS National Meeting & Exposition".
- \* The "technical meeting" will take place from April 5th through April 16th as a series of virtual meetings around programming as scheduled during that timeframe. The program will include 10 weekdays of live sessions, followed by two weeks of on-demand content. Abstracts open December 16th.
- \* Registration for the technical meeting will open by mid-January and the cost will be as follows:
  - ACS Members = \$99.00
  - Non-ACS Members = \$149.00
  - Students = \$29.00
  - Unemployed members and 5-year emeritus members - no cost
- \* All of the virtual governance meetings, Committee meetings, "open" meetings must be completed by March 17th
- \* The ACS Council meeting itself will be held on Wednesday, March 24th. You can see now that there is a defined separation between the governance aspect of this meeting and the scientific and programming aspect.

On another note, I wanted to let our members know of a key petition that is coming before Council from the Subcommittee I am Chair of within the ACS Committee on Committees (ConC).

This petition, entitled the "Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes and Terms" is the biggest re-organization of the ACS Committee structure and process in ACS history. It is based on feedback from Councilors, Committee Members as well as members who have wanted to serve on an ACS National Committee or maximize their value in serving.

In a nutshell, here is what the petition proposes to do:

- Establish one structure for all Council-related Committees, removing the confusing categories now in place, ("Society Committees", "Standing Council Committees", "Other Council Committees", and "Joint Board-Council Committees") and establish one category - "Society Committees"
- Establish consistent 3-year terms of service for all committees with a maximum of two terms

- Establish a consistent range in size for all committees (12 to 20 Members) not including associates and consultants
- Include all “Society Committees” part of the ConC 5-year Committee Review Process, except for the three elected Society Committees
- Eliminate the “Councilor only” requirement now in place for serving on the present six “Standing Council Committees”
- Authorize the use of virtual meetings in the ACS Governing Documents
- Clarify quorum requirements for committees within the ACS Governing Documents
- The Committee appointment process itself will remain the same (the ACS President-elect, Chair of the Board or both make the official appointments).

What do we see as the benefits of this petition?

- Limiting the total years of service on a committee as a full member to six years allows for greater mobility among members to serve on different committees, while...
- ...helping to increase the diversity of committees by allowing more opportunities to serve, especially by those members who have not yet served on a National Committee
- Ending any confusion around the requirements for serving on committees and addressing the systemic barriers that may have stymied members from maximizing their impact or being involved on the National ACS governance scene at all
- Removing the Councilor requirement and allowing committees to draw upon greater expertise among its members, while still assuring Councilors are well-represented on committees
- ConC is working on a communications plan in order to share the information within this petition to all involved leading up to the March Council meeting.

As the committee system is the backbone of national ACS governance. It should not be so complicated that only a few understand the differences distinctions between committees that report to the Council and/or the Board. The ACS is strongest when we benefit from all the expertise of all of our members, thus we need to make use of all the expertise from among those members. These changes will open up the doors of opportunity for more grassroots members to be part of the National ACS Committee system. As a member of ConC, I am always willing to help any of you with information about the Committees and which may align with your interest.

Finally as 2020 comes to a close, I want to salute my fellow Councilor, Steve Tajc, who did not run for re-election to this position this year. I look forward to working with our new academic Councilor Amber Charlebois who already has much National ACS experience. Thanks Steve for all you did in representing well the membership of the Rochester Section!

Feel free to contact me at [DCOBB4@rochester.rr.com](mailto:DCOBB4@rochester.rr.com) with any input, ideas or questions.

I wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy, healthy and successful New Year!

D. Richard Cobb  
Councilor