

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST
August 20, 2000 Fall National Meeting, Washington, DC

The meeting started at 5:10pm.

1. HIST/National Chemical Historic Landmarks Committee Report - Ann Higgins (A.Higgins@acs.org)
 - a. Three NCHLP events have occurred to date. In April, the Univ. Kansas celebrated the discovery of helium in natural gas. The event also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Bailey Hall where the work was actually done. In June was the celebration honoring Gomberg for the discovery of organic free radicals. In August was a joint Royal Society of Chemistry celebration in Wiltshire honoring Priestley. Some activities included Priestley House which is now run as a bed and breakfast inn.
 - b. Ad-Hoc Board Committee on CHLF met in retreat in May. Recommendations: 1) We have 30 landmarks already completed, so we should try to develop public awareness around the landmarks already in place; 2) Try to set up a web presence; 3) Try to limit the number of landmarks in a given year to four -- more is exhausting for governance (extensive travel for ACS president, etc.); 4) Keep the quality high of landmarks accepted high. The committee pledged to continue to solicit nominations for worthy landmarks and to continue diversity, i.e., honoring the work of a woman, and one honoring the 125th anniversary of ACS.
 - c. Royal Society of Chemistry will initiate their own landmark program. This has been a goal of our own program (helping sister societies start program).
 - d. The ACS was asked for additional staffing and funding for landmark program and it was approved – associate for publicity and 2 web associates.
 - e. Between Oct. 1, 1999 and Aug. 2, 2000, there were 12 events, many international in scope as part of the International Chemistry Celebration.
 - f. The Ad-Hoc Landmark Committee seeks recommendations from HIST for candidates to serve on the committee.

2. Chair Reports - Steve Weininger (stevejw@wpi.edu)
 - a) **HIST/CHLP participation** - there was a discussion of possible funding from the Landmark Committee to support HIST representation at CHLP events. Steve will nominate a liaison to the CHLP and try to finish discussion via email.

 - b) **Dexter Award** - There was much discussion about the future of the Dexter Award. For the 2000 award plaque the name of the Dexter Co. has been removed and it is noted that the award is sponsored by the Sidney and Mildred Edelstein Foundation. Consensus of the committee is that HIST needs to start a campaign to support/endow the award. There was then more discussion on what the name of the award would become. MV Orna moved that HIST establish the Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding

Achievement in the History of Chemistry to be awarded by the person designated by the Edelstein Award Jury. Seconded by Paul Jones. Motion passed. It was decided that the Chair appoint a study committee to recommend criteria for the award and appointment of the committee members. The 2001 award will continue as this year. Present Dexter Award committee needs to be told that their work will terminate at a specific date. Fund raising for the award needs a person to act as chair. Ned Heindel was suggested as a possibility and Steve will contact him.

c) **Outstanding Paper Award** - In the past, winners were given \$100, plaque, and a gift of \$150 books (originally from Kluwer, then U Penn Press). The editor at U Penn Press has told Steve that this is the last year they will support the award. MV Orna led a discussion concerning abolishment of the award. Steve asked the award subcommittee to take up issue of the future of this award.

d) **Minigrant Proposal** - There is \$2000 available from ACS for minigrants. Steve believes we can 1) make the case that the Division doesn't have a very high profile and 2) doesn't have a lot of member involvement. Proposal would address both issues, by asking for money to support non-executive committee members to attend regional meetings and give presentations on the history of chemistry. This would raise visibility. MV Orna suggested we look in vol 18(1) of CHF magazine, which discusses the history of CHF - we could extract information on value of history to use for proposal. Recent interview in C&E News by Arnold Thackray may also provide material. Vera Mainz and Paul Jones volunteered to help.

e) **Report from DAC Meeting** - The first order of business was whether the DAC meeting financial form be simplified – the consensus was yes. Division Leaders Conference - Galveston, Feb. 2-4th. For the Chair-Elect, the Division picks up travel cost but ACS picks up local costs. Divisions – one-time offer of affiliated membership to ACS members; Steve wanted the ACS to subsidize the affiliation fees.

f) **News items - ACS publishing** - The ACS Symposium series has been losing money and they are considering stopping production and placing the material on a website. ACS is under assault by commercial publishers trying to supplant ACS journals by for-profit journals and vice-versa.

3) Chair-Elect Reports – Richard Rice (ricere@jmu.edu)

Nothing new to report.

4) Program Chair – Roger Egolf (rae4@psu.edu)

a) The HIST abstracts has a summary of current and future symposia. Herb Pratt asked about chemistry bibliophile session for the Chicago meeting. Roger is recommending it as a trial session. The next Archeological Symposium is being organized for Chicago in Fall 2001 by Kathryn Jakes. The current plan is to have a separate dinner for those speaking at that symposium at each speaker's expense.

b) DAC – Sci Mix poster sessions were discussed because the ACS rule is that no paper shall be given more than once at a meeting; they made an exception in the past for the posters at Sci Mix. However, the discussion at DAC indicated that they were planning to remove that exemption. Steve has been advised by Frank Blum to get back to the Meetings and Expositions people and explain that the Division doesn't have poster sessions, so we need this option. MV Orna reminded us all that it is important to keep a presence at Sci-Mix.

c) HIST interested in co-sponsoring symposium for 125th anniv., but Roger has only heard about one. He will be in the program chair meeting in October in New Orleans and will try to see if there is any other interest.

d) Roger keeps telling presenters that we can't furnish LCD projectors, but they can bring their own. Roger hasn't turned down any papers yet because of this issue, but believes we are getting some problems.

5) Bulletin Editor Report – Paul Jones (prjones@umich.edu)

Vol 25(2) goes to the printer in a week and will include the cumulative index (1-25). The index will be an extra 20 pages. Subscriptions are holding steady. Paul proposed offering a sample bulletin/membership to increase memberships.

6) Secretary/Treasurer Report - Vera Mainz (v-mainz@uiuc.edu)

a) **Elections:** To summarize the current elected executive committee member terms:

Steve W. Chair, 1999, 2000

Richard R. Chair-Elect, to serve as chair in 2001, 2002

Vera M. Sec.-Treas. 1999, 2000, /2001, 2002

Ben C. Councilor, 1999, 2000, 2001

Albert K. Alt.-Councilor, 1999, 2000, 2001

Mary V. Orna Councilor (term was 1997, 1998, 1999 - she was appointed for 1997, and elected for the remainder of the term in late 1997 at the same election in which Steve was elected chair.)

Vera suggested that at the election this year, we fill the MV Orna's councilor position (term 2000, 2001, 2002), and also have an election for the next chair-elect (to start the term as chair-elect in 2001, 2002, serve as chair in 2003, 2004), as well as the other councilor and alternate councilor positions (with term to be 2002, 2003, 2004).

Then, in 2002 we can have the next election for

councilor (term 2003, 2004, 2005)

Sec.-Treas. (term 2003, 2004)

chair-elect. (to start the term as chair-elect in 2003, 2004, serve as chair in 2005, 2006)
councilor (term 2005, 2006, 2007)
alternate councilor (term 2005, 2006, 2007)

This sets up a two-year election cycle for all offices, letting us be ahead of the game with respect to councilors and allows one election every two years instead of two every three years. Vera suggested that Harold Goldwhite be asked to chair the nominating committee, and that the ballots be mailed by the Secretary and counted by the nominating committee chair.

b) **Financial Status** - The Division finances remain stable, as we continue to be able to fund the Bulletin. It appears as though we will not be required to withdraw any money from the ACS Investment Account in 2000, which is a very healthy sign.

7) Councilor Reports

- a) The Councilor's Report is printed in the HIST Abstracts for the meeting.
- b) Herb Pratt urged the Chair and Chair-Elect to approach Attila Pavlath concerning a settlement of the monies the Division spent settling the Wotiz lawsuit.