



Western Carolinas Local Section.

Councilor's report: Fall National Meeting, Denver Colorado, August 28-Sept 1

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

Friday August 26

One of the biggest issues facing a Councilor is getting to a National meeting. You have to carefully choose which airline will prevent you from reaching your destination. In this case, Delta tried exceptionally hard (however, may have been the best option, as US Airways canceled all Friday afternoon flights out of Asheville). I made it on the last flight out of Asheville, and the last flight to Denver out of Atlanta.

Denver airport is very quiet at 1 a.m.

Saturday August 27

All good things begin with lunch, and my first Lunch of the National meeting was with the Executive committee of the Committee on Community Activities. We discussed (amongst other things) the direction for each of the subcommittees before meeting back as a complete group.

I chaired the Evaluation and Technology meeting, where we spent most of our time working on two surveys, one to obtain a snapshot of volunteers and one to evaluate the major products of CCA; Celebrating Chemistry and the NCW/CCED website. We also discussed the ACS goal areas and mobile technology for our existing NCW/CCED event surveys.

The CCA business meeting takes up most of Saturday late afternoon. In this meeting I presented these surveys and fielded questions about the scope and content of them. The catering was pretty good for this meeting – there were churros. I like churros. The meeting went approximately 15 minutes overtime.

Sunday August 28

The Board of Directors held an open meeting, and advertised in advance that there would be refreshments, so of course it was jam-packed. I got a sandwich but did not get a seat. There was a lot of discussion about jobs, and at the end a call for comments to the microphone. I did make my presence felt at this meeting, with one question and a comment. I asked whether it was now OK to post job announcements on ACS Local Section Websites – I was told that this was the case. I also said to not forget in counting unemployed chemists that there are many high school teachers unemployed and underemployed who are not members of the Society but who should be considered as important in the goals of improving employment prospects for chemists.

I was a fill-in panelist on a YCC/PROF session on issues for young faculty. My main contribution to the proceeding was to re-term “soft” skills as “covalent” skills which ended up being the main term used to describe them.

From there I went to the Town Hall meeting for the candidates for Director-at-large. A large number of the questions were about jobs. This is going to be a pattern.

Council District IV Caucus was the next stop where I met up with fellow Councilor Lucy Eubanks. We were briefed on the financial state of the Society, continued discussion on the Master Plan and were given some updates on International Year of Chemistry projects.

I just caught the tail end of the Division of Chemical Education Poster session.

Monday August 29

CCA presented a workshop for students on how to prepare and present hands-on activities based around the themes for National Chemistry Week. It was held at the Sheraton. The Sheraton in Denver was designed by a deranged lunatic who believed that elevators should go between floors and the stairs should be negotiated to get from any one meeting room to any other meeting room. It was nearly impossible to find the room, and the few who did were treated to some well-put-together demonstrations. I mostly manned a toaster oven to make shrinky-dinks.

I spent a few hours volunteering at the Office for Public Affairs booth at the Exposition. I was signing up people for the video project for International Year of Chemistry as well as promoting the Chemistry Ambassadors program and programming for the International Year of Chemistry.

Tuesday August 30

CCA and LSAC presented our joint meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel, another hotel where most of the rules of logic went out the window. The meeting rooms were on the second and third floor, the lobby was on the fourth floor so the only thing on the ground floor was elevators and a Starbucks that closes at noon. There was still a healthy crowd for our meeting, which had more churros and coffee.

I presented my report from the Evaluation and Technology Subcommittee. It was well received. I put it in the form of a children's story book...

American Chemical Society Committee on Community Activities

Evaluation and Technology Subcommittee Report

Denver Open Meeting August 30 2011

- A is for ASSESSMENT of our CCA materials
- B is for BETTERING them through this means
- C is for COLLECTING survey data online
- D is for DATA to be reported on next time
- E is for EVALUATION of your outreach events
- F is for FINDING out how best to help you do that
- G is for GETTING you surveys online and on paper
- H is for HOW to enter this data later
- I is for INPUT that ACS does for you
- J is for JUST how easy we want it to be
- K is for KNOWING how outreach works best
- L is for LINKS to our surveys online
- M is for MEETINGS at this one we drafted something new
- N is for NEXT meeting where we'll have them ready for you
- is for OPINIONS on volunteer issues we want to find out
- P is for PRODUCTS of CCA we're evaluating next
- Q is for QR READER, which we're looking into now
- R is for RETENTION of volunteers we'd like to know how
- S is for SURVEYS – we drafted two here in Denver
- T is for THANKS to my subcommittee – Mike, Sally, Shiela, Melissa, Ingrid David and Elizabeth
- U is for UPDATES on our CCED/NCW surveys, look for them in San Diego
- V is for VOLUNTEERS, who we're targeting next
- W is for WEBINAR, on September 28, where I'll tell you how to use our surveys in your NCW and IYC Q4 events
- X is for ANONYMITY which our surveys preserve
- Y is for Year Of Chemistry, International. Use our survey to evaluate your events
- Z is a letter that Australians say funny.

Tuesday evening was the ChemLuminary awards, and I met Sid and Royce at the poster session to take photographs of the poster and try to snaffle a good table and hold seats for other WCACS folk in attendance.

Wednesday August 31

See the Council report for details of council.

I will be happy to give any further details of my time and meetings in Denver. Please contact me at glheard@gmail.com or 828-232-5170.