North Jersey > Administration Form > 2025

*Required Fields

Governance

Please input your responses to all questions based on the annual reporting year (unless otherwise instructed.)

1. How many times did the executive committee meet to conduct governance business? *

10

2. How many members were there in the executive committee? *

26

3. How did the executive committee communicate with one another? (Check all that apply.) *

- [x] Email
- [ ] Teleconference
- [x] Zoom/Gotomeeting/Webex
- [ ] ACS Network
- [ ] Other

4. What percentage of your councilors were in official attendance at the Spring Virtual Council Meeting? *

100 %

5. What percentage of your councilors were in official attendance at the Fall Hybrid Council Meeting?

100 %

6. Did your local section have a succession and/or leadership development plan? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

7. Did a member of your local section attend the Local Section Leaders Track at ACS Leadership Institute? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

8. How did your local section identify future leaders and get them into the leadership pipeline? (Check all that apply.) *

- [x] Self-nomination
- [ ] Solicitation or Advertising
- [x] Identify Active Committee Members
- [ ] Formal Leadership Training
- [ ] Long Term Plan
- [x] Outreach to New Members
- [ ] Arm-Twisting
- [ ] Other

9. Did your local section conduct an officer election? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

10. Did your local section conduct its elections electronically? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

11. How many members voted in your local section election?

288

The following questions provide the opportunity for your section's leadership to communicate successes, challenges, goals, and progress towards meeting those goals. We want to hear from you! Please use the required comment boxes to share your thoughts about your section. Do not feel limited by having spaces indicated for the top three goals. Other goals can be added in the comment box if needed.

12. Chair's Report: Please proved a narrative of the past year's activity/successes/challenges *

2025 proved to be an impactful for NJ ACS. The local section continued to deliver on its core outreach initiatives (e.g., Project SEED, Chemistry Olympiad, and NCW ChemExpo), to engage the scientific community through its active topical groups and programming, and completed a strategic planning retreat to reenergize our leadership and align on the most critical strategic goals moving forward. Highlights from this year are as follows: 1) NJ ACS hosted an incredibly successful mid-Atlantic regional meeting largely due to the effective leadership of Cecilia Marzabadi and the MARM planning board. The meeting was held at Seton Hall University from May 28th through May 31st and was attended by > 650 attendees. The theme of this meeting was Celebrating 100 Years of the NJACS. A range of technical, professional, and social programming was available for attendees. The NJ ACS was also proud to host a Nobel Laureate, Morten Meldal, for the meeting's plenary address on "Chemistry is everything; presented through the journey of molecular click adventures." His talk was followed by a reception to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the section. 2) The NJ ACS celebrated National Chemistry Week (NCW) with our annual ChemExpo event in collaboration with the Liberty Science Center. The event was a resounding success wherein more than 1000 children were able to visit and participate in demonstrations highlighting "The Hidden Life of Spices". More than 90 volunteers participated in this event with academic teams from 7 colleges and 2 high schools participating in the demonstration contest. 3) The NJ ACS held a third-generation strategic planning retreat on September 12th / 13th at Fairleigh Dickinson University to reenergize our leadership and align on our 5-year strategic plan. The retreat was attended by 11 local section members representing the various aspects of our section, including our topical groups, board of trustees, committee leaders, and past chairs. The team aligned on 3 high-level goals to ensure the continued success of our local section, including the following: a) Increase membership and engagement through enhanced programming activities b) Strengthen community connection by inspiring curiosity and appreciation for science among the public c) Redefine our governance and support structures to ensure organizational effectiveness and the sustainability of our section 4) The NJ ACS continued its long-standing tradition of providing stellar programming for the local scientific community in North Jersey. NJ ACS engaged in programming through its topical groups (Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group, North Jersey Chromatography Group, Organic Topical Group, and NMR Topical Group) and communities (YCC and WCC) leading to a total of 21 engaging events throughout 2025. I was incredibly impressed by the engagement of our topical group and community chairs this year. Their ability to support one another via knowledge sharing, advertising, and attendance was certainly a pleasure to witness as the chair. 5) The NJ ACS engaged in a highly successful Chemistry Olympiad in 2025, wherein 471 local students were supported. The coordinators from NJ ACS also took the opportunity to provide proactive feedback on the Chemistry Olympiad process to ACS national to ensure even greater success in future years. Lastly, I was incredibly proud to see the NJ ACS 2024 Chemistry Olympiad organizers recognized with a ChemLuminary award at the Fall meeting. 6) NJ ACS continued to participate in Project SEED and is happy to report that seventeen students participated in the 8-week program in 2025. The program culminated in the annual poster presentation on August 14th at Seton Hall University. Students were given certificates and the Reverand Gerald Buonopane, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Seton Hall University, was recognized for his years of mentoring students in the Project Seed Program. Another feature of the evening was the presentation of NJACS Pro Bono Award to Professor Frieder Jaekle, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, Rutgers, Newark for his mentorship and promotion of the

Project SEED Program. This year national Project SEED Committee offered travel grants to students to present their research at the National Meeting in Washington, D.C., on August 18. Seven students from our program attended. 7) The section continued to be active in various smaller community-oriented outreach events, including our longstanding tradition of exhibiting at Edison Day in West Orange, NJ. Additionally, the NJ ACS continued to support science fairs aimed at exciting the next generation of scientists. Efforts in this area included participation as judges in the Terra North Jersey Science Fair and organization of the Fair for Emerging Researchers. 8) The NJACS had a notable presence at the Fall National Meeting in Washington, DC, where the team participated in the Local Section Showcase. In this event, the NJ ACS took the opportunity to survey various other local sections concerning their innovative strategies to increase membership and engagement in their sections. Additionally the section engaged in some fun activities to promote chemistry, by making custom chemistry-themed buttons. The buttons proved to be a hit with attendees and drove considerable traffic to the NJ ACS table for our survey. 9) Marilyn (Bobbi) Gorman was selected as an ACS Fellow in 2025! For her contributions to the Science/Profession, Bobbi has been recognized for excellence in teaching, exceptional mentoring of youths and adults, and engaging in programs that enrich their learning both inside and outside the classroom. The section is incredibly excited to have Bobbi acknowledged for her dedication to Outreach and Chemistry.

Responses to be provided by the Chair-elect for the annual reporting year.

13. Chair-Elect's Goals *

a . Please list first of top three goals

Increasing Membership Engagement: Expanding opportunities for participation through enhanced programming, interdisciplinary events, and new partnerships with neighboring local sections.

b . Please list the second for top three goals

Strengthening Community Outreach: Deepening our connection with students, educators, and the broader public by promoting curiosity and appreciation for science through visible, accessible, and inspiring initiatives.

c . Please list third of top three goals

Advancing Leadership Development and Governance: Reviewing and modernizing our governance structure and bylaws to ensure that NJACS remains a strong, inclusive, and sustainable organization for decades to come.

To be completed by the Chair-elect for year following the annual reporting year.

14. Next Year's Chair-elect's Goals *

a . Please list first of top three goals

Organize Science Café at Local Brewery to engage public.

b . Please list second of top three goals

Help to orchestrate cos-disciplinary event involving 2 or more topical groups.

c . Please list third of top three goals

Increase involvement of ACS student chapters in NJACS Programming.

15. Does the Local Section have a Vision and/or Mission Statement *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

16. What was the month and year of the last Local Section strategic planning session?

09/13/2025

17. If your section had a strategic plan, what has been your success in implementing the plan?

- ( ) Very Successful
- (●) Somewhat Successful
- ( ) Not Successful

18. What obstacles if any, have you had in implementing your strategic plan?

The second-generation strategic plan (formed in 2018) was largely shelved at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local section leadership is confident that our 3rd-generation strategic plan from 2025 will be more successful and have identified the chair succession to be responsible for providing periodic monitoring of plan objectives at our monthly executive committee meeting.

19. By submitting this form, the Chair acknowledges that they have seen and understand the ACS Youth Protection Policy found at www.acs.org/ypp, and represents that it has been communicated to individuals responsible for ACS Youth Events.

- [x] Yes

Organization

1. Did your local section have active coordinators for the following?

Activity	Coordinator Names
Awards	Diane Krone
Budget/Finance	Luciano Mueller
Chemistry Olympiad	Elizabeth M Howson
Community Activities	Sandra K Keyser
Educational	Elizabeth M Howson
Newsletter/Publications	Kathleen M Gilbert
Nominations	Justyna Sikorska

Project SEED	Marilyn D Gorman
Strategic Planning	Robert Menger
Women Chemists	Siqi Sun
Younger Chemists	Tiffany Rocio Olivera

2. How many subsections were active in your local section? *

0

3. How many subsection meetings were held? *

0

4. How many topical groups were active in your local section? *

7

5. How many topical group meetings were held? *

21

*A person who is not a member of the SOCIETY shall not become a member of any Local Section, but Local Sections may provide in their bylaws to have Local Section Affiliates, not members of the SOCIETY, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership in the Local Section, as provided in the Local Section bylaws, except that of holding an elective position of the Local Section, or voting on Articles of Incorporation and bylaws for the Local Section, or serving as a voting member of its Executive Committee or equivalent policymaking body, or voting for Councilor(s) or Alternate Councilor(s) from the Local Section. In their bylaws, Local Sections may either provide or withhold the privilege of voting by Local Section Affiliates for an elective position (other than Councilor or Alternate Councilor) of the Local Section. Local Section Affiliates may be appointed as Committee Chairs, if allowed by the bylaws of the Local Section.

6. How many dues-paying local section affiliates* were there in the local section? *

0

7. Did your local section support (financial or otherwise) an existing Technician Affiliate Group (TAG) *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

8. What was the approximate number of active volunteers in your local section? *

466

9. Please estimate the number of volunteers that were new. *

72

10. Please indicate all the ways that your local section recognized volunteers? *

- [x] Awards
- [x] Certificates
- [x] Letter to Volunteer
- [ ] Letter to Volunteer Supervisor
- [ ] Recognition at Event
- [x] Recognition in Newsletter
- [ ] Recognition on Web
- [ ] Other

Communication

Please input your responses to all questions based on the annual reporting year (unless otherwise instructed.)

1. Did your local section have a representative on your Regional Meeting Board or Steering Committee? *

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

2. How did Councilors report to your local section members about national ACS matters? *

- [x] At an Executive Committee Meeting
- [ ] At a Section Meeting
- [ ] In an email

- [x] In the newsletter
- [ ] On the local section website
- [ ] Other

3. On average, how many members attended a local section meeting? *

20

4. How many local section meetings were held? *

8

5. How does the section's leadership communicate information to its members (including social media channels)?

a . General description of communication:

Newsletters and our online publication, The Indicator

b . How Often do these communications occur? Number of newsletters published:

10 Indicator issues and 10 Newsletters

c . How Often do these communications occur? Number of meeting notices:

10 Indicator issues and 10 Newsletters

6. What social media does your local section use? (If selected, the link is required.)

- [ ] Facebook
- [ ] Instagram
- [x] LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/company/njacs

- [ ] Snapchat

☐ TikTok

☐ Twitter

☐ Other

7. Did your local section have a website? *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

If the answer to above question is YES, what was the URL for your website?

www.njacs.org

8. Did your local section post its Annual Report on the website? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Nomination

The Local Section (LS) Outstanding Performance (OP) ChemLuminary Award is given annually to a local section in each section size category by the Local Section Activities Committee. This award recognizes the most outstanding performance of a LS in a particular size category in supporting ACS, its section members, students, the public, the education enterprise, industry, other ACS sections, other professional societies, and partnering organizations. The review is based solely on the LS FORMS annual report (AR), considering primarily the summary self-nomination statement below and the summary descriptions contained within Events, Activities, and Meetings. Other performance indicators may include administrative (e.g. participation in elections) and financial (e.g. sound budgetary policy) aspects. Timely submission of your administration and financial forms is a major factor in the evaluation of your LS for the Outstanding Performance Award.

1. Our Section would like to self-nominate for the Local Section Outstanding Performance Award *

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please provide a summary self-nomination statement of 500-word or less. The summary statement should highlight local section's activities to support your nomination.

In 2025, the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society (NJACS) delivered an exceptional year marked by impactful outreach, strong scientific programming, and forward looking strategic leadership. Across its initiatives, the section strengthened its role as a scientific and educational leader in the region while celebrating a century of service to the chemistry community. A major highlight of the year was NJACS's role as host of the Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM), made successful by the outstanding leadership of Cecilia Marzabadi and the MARM planning board. Held at Seton Hall University from May 28–31 and attended by more than 650 participants, the meeting celebrated "100 Years of NJACS." Programming spanned scientific symposia, professional development, and community building events. The section proudly hosted Nobel Laureate Morten Meldal, who delivered the plenary lecture, followed by a centennial celebration reception. The section's flagship NCW celebration proved to be a significant success. More than 1,000 children engaged with hands on demonstrations themed around "The Hidden Life of Spices," supported by 90 volunteers and student teams from seven colleges and two high schools. This event continues to be one of the region's most impactful public science engagement activities. NJACS held its third generation strategic planning retreat at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Eleven section leaders, representing topical groups, section leadership, and committees, aligned on a renewed five year vision. The team identified three core priorities: (1) expanding membership and engagement through enhanced programming, (2) strengthening community impact by cultivating public appreciation of science, and (3) optimizing governance structures to ensure the long term sustainability of the section. Throughout 2025, NJACS's topical groups and communities delivered 21 high quality scientific and professional events. Collaboration among group leaders was particularly notable, with strong cross promotion and shared support that enriched programming across the section. The Chemistry Olympiad program remained a cornerstone of NJACS educational outreach, supporting 471 students. The section also provided constructive feedback to ACS national to strengthen the program's future implementation. NJACS was also proud to see its 2024 Olympiad organizers honored with a ChemLuminary Award at the Fall National Meeting. Project SEED continued its meaningful impact, supporting seventeen students through an eight week summer research experience culminating in a poster symposium at Seton Hall University. The section recognized Reverend Gerald Buonopane for years of mentorship, and awarded the NJACS Pro Bono Award to Professor Frieder Jaekle for his dedication to the program. Seven students received national travel grants to present their work at the ACS Fall Meeting in Washington, D.C. Additional community outreach included longstanding participation in Edison Day, support for regional science fairs, and organization of the Fair for Emerging Researchers. At the ACS Fall Meeting, NJACS contributed to the Local Section Showcase, surveying innovative practices from peer sections and engaging attendees with custom chemistry themed buttons that attracted significant interest. Finally, the section celebrated the selection of Marilyn ("Bobbi") Gorman as an ACS Fellow, recognizing her exceptional contributions in teaching, mentoring, and STEM outreach. Her dedication exemplifies the spirit of the North Jersey Section.

Supporting Materials

Brief Description	File Name	File Size	Date Uploaded
NJ ACS Strategic Plan	1. NJACS Final Report Slide Deck.pptx	8.61 MB	2/14/2026