American Chemical Society
ACS Fall 2026 Meeting
Chicago, IL
August 2026

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections, Divisions, and Zones on key actions from the ACS Council meeting held on August 26, and the Board of Directors' meetings held on August 21 – 23, 2026.

Actions of the Council

Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Council Policy Committee (CPC): **Rodney Bennett, Martha Hollomon, Veronica Jaramillo**, and **Sheila Murphy** for a three-year term (2027 – 2029).

*Rodney Bennett	199	*Veronica Jaramillo	211
Mark Cesa	170	Michael Kenney	135
Barbara Hillery	162	*Sheila Murphy	239
*Martha Hollomon	219	Despina Strong	163

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Committee on Committees (ConC): **Jeanne Berk, Anna Cavinato, Thomas Gilbert, Michelle Rogers,** and **Laura Sessions** for a three-year term (2027 – 2029); **Janet Asper** for a two-year term (2027 – 2028); and **Mary Ann Meador** and **W. Matthew Reichert** for a one-year term filling vacancies.

*Janet Asper	216	Dale LeCaptain	86
*Jeanne Berk	225	*Mary Ann Meador	193
Eric Bosch	126	John Pochan	88
*Anna Cavinato	313	*W. Matthew Reichert	197
Gregory Ferrence	165	*Michelle Rogers	223
David Germack	101	*Laura Sessions	270
*Thomas Gilbert	228	Pete Smith	143
Timothy Hanks	126	Mark Thomson	135

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected to the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E): **Amber Charlebois, Milagros Delgado, Arlene Garrison, Patrick Gordon** and **Jennifer Maclachlan** for three-year terms (2027 – 2029); **Jingbo Louise Liu** for a two-year term beginning immediately (2026 – 2027); and **Erin Dotlich** for a one-year term (2027) filling a vacancy.

Mary Anderson	175	*Patrick Gordon	215
Brian Brady	117	Rabin Lai	124
*Amber Charlebois	252	*Jingbo Louise Liu	212
*Milagros Delgado	265	*Jennifer Maclachlan	241
*Erin Dotlich	195	Martha Morton	95
Lori Ferrins	185	Stephanie Watson	171
*Arlene Garrison	227	Edward Zovinka	115

Other Council Highlights:

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- In response to a test electronic vote at the start of the meeting, Council voted the following as the top seven from among the C&EN's list of "Most Consequential ACS Presidents:"
    1. Helen M. Free
    2. Glenn T. Seaborg
    3. Anna J. Harrison
    4. John W. Draper
    5. Ira Remsen
    6. Henry Aaron Hill
    7. Harvey W. Wiley

- Members of the Presidential Succession delivered oral reports on their current activities and initiatives.

- Board Chair Wayne Jones reported on actions and discussions that occurred during the ACS Board meeting as reported later in this document.

- ACS CEO Albert Horvath provided an organizational update. He highlighted 150th anniversary proclamations received from AISES, American Physical Society, Materials Research Society, NOBCChE, the Royal Society of Chemistry, EuChems, the Chinese Chemical Society, and SACNAS. The ACS financial position remains strong, with the five financial guidelines set by the Board all met for Q2 2026. The information services and publications remain strong with CAS celebrating the addition of the 300 millionth substance to the CAS registry. CAS Newton, an agentic AI platform, has received widespread adoption and acclaim; and ACS Publications has improved the user experience with its migration to a new delivery platform for article downloads. ACS also welcomed a new Senior Vice President of Inclusion, Pamela Fisher.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

- Brian Mathes, Chair of the Committee on Committees (ConC) gave an oral report thanking the Committee Chairs who completed their term of service:

Name	Committee
Tom Tyner	Analytical Reagents
Dan Fonseca	Chemical Technical Professionals
Partha Basu	Chemists with Disabilities
Brian Mathes	Committees
Steven Moss	Environment and Sustainability
Glenn Larkin	Ethics
Michael McGinnis	International Activities
Comfort Boateng	Minority Affairs
Kevin Edgar	Nominations and Elections
Ashley Mahoney	Professional Training
Young-Shin Jun	Science
Joseph Houck	Younger Chemists

The following 2027 Committee Chair appointments made by President-Elect Chris Bodurow were announced:

Committee	Name
Analytical Reagents	Robert Kramer
Chemical Technical Professionals	Michelle Rivard
Constitution and Bylaws	John Adams
Divisional Activities	Jarrod Cohen
Economic and Professional Affairs	Bhaskar Venepalli
Ethics	Mark Cesa
Local Section Activities	Luke Roberson
Meetings and Expositions	Varnika Roy
Membership Affairs	Jennifer McCulley
Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols	Ivona Sasimovich Macor
Project SEED	Emily Smith

- Kevin Edgar, Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E), reminded Councilors of the Fall Elections for President-Elect, Directors-at-Large, District 3, and District 6. The Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) will partner with N&E to present a "Catalyze the Vote" webinar featuring the President-Elect Candidates on September 10, 2026. The ballot will open on September 14 and close on October 9. Members are encouraged to check their spam folder if they do not receive an electronic ballot on September 14. For 2027, N&E has voted to begin conducting virtual town halls for the district director election races.

- Jennifer McCully, Chair of the Membership Affairs Committee (MAC), reported on the launch of an ACS Lifetime Membership pilot, priced at $2,000 and with limited availability during the pilot phase. A reciprocal membership discount program was announced with the German Chemical

Society (GDCh). Through this three-year pilot program, eligible ACS members in the United States and GDCh members in Germany can receive a 30% discount on membership in the reciprocal organization. MAC is supporting an ACS Graduate Student mentorship program; undergraduate and industry programs will launch in 2027. As of May 31st, 2026, the Year over Year comparison of the ACS Community Growth Rate was 13% with just over 277,000 vs. 246,000 individuals in 2025. As the Community Associate population continues to grow, MAC remain invested in engagement with this population with the ultimate goal of bringing them back to the Society as a Member or Society Affiliate. While ACS remains at a steady membership core count of approximately 99,000 Members and Society Affiliates, there is a noticeable decline in 2026 to the Regular member population, primarily in the United States. MAC continues to monitor the impact and gather data and feedback on why this is occurring. Through May 2026, four MAC Market Tests had been in circulation, all of which helped to ensure membership growth and retention. These tests continue to allow MAC to collect valuable insights and make data-informed decisions for the future. Thus far, these efforts have helped acquire or retain ~4,100 members.

- Varnika Roy, Chair of the Meetings & Expositions Committee (M&E), reported on highlights of the Fall 2026 meeting, which exceeded 13,000 as of the time of her report. Participants from 84 countries were represented at the Fall meeting. The deadline for abstracts for Spring 2027 is September 28, 2026. The ACS Spring 2027 meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA, from March 21 – 25, 2027.

- Bhaskar Venepalli, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), provided highlights from their recent Strategic Planning Retreat. Goals include increasing awareness of offerings, developing effective content, and delivering impactful programming.

- Jarrod Cohen, Chair of the Division Activities Committee (DAC), reported on a new Division Liaison program to increase interconnection between DAC and Divisions. DAC is evaluating updates to the Division Allocation formula for potential consideration by Council in 2027. DAC will host information and feedback sessions with division leaders in the coming months to gather input and help shape the final proposal.

- Ann Kimble-Hill, Chair of the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA), highlighted the increase to 10 public policy fellow positions. Councilors are encouraged to: 1) connect members to Act4Chemistry and the Government Affairs webpage; 2) help identify rapid-response chemistry experts across divisions, Local Sections, and other ACS networks; and 3) bring forward local stories to district directors and the Government Affairs team to help ACS communicate to legislators how federal policy affects ACS members, research programs, students, institutions, companies, workforce development, communities, and regional economies.

- John E. Adams, Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of seven unit bylaws since the spring 2026 meeting. They include five Local Sections: Cornell, Illinois-Iowa, Michigan State University, Philadelphia, and Western Michigan; one Division: History of Chemistry (HIST); and one International Chemical Sciences Chapter: Sri Lanka. The petition deadline for Council action at the Spring 2027 meeting is December 2nd.

- Sam Brunclik, Chair of the Committee on the Advancement of LBGTQ+ Chemists (CALC), reported on their new strategic plan with goals to: develop resources, both physical and digital, for LGBTQ+ chemists and allies; internal and external collaborations to build ties within the Society and in the greater scientific community; and establishment of awards and funds to help recognize and

embrace LGBTQ+ scientists, especially those who struggle to attend meetings due to funding concerns.

- Glenn Larkin, Chair of the Ethics Committee (ETHX), was recognized from the floor to reflect on the 20th anniversary of that Committee, with applause.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- Honoring the 150th anniversary of the American Chemical Society
- In memory of deceased Councilors as reported since the Spring 2026 meeting
- In sincere appreciation of the Chicago Section, host Local Section for the ACS Fall 2026 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Rigoberto Hernandez

Council Meeting Attendance

The Council Meeting attendance was 442 out a possible 470 eligible Councilors. There were 298 Councilors in person, and 144 participating online.

Highlights of the ACS Board of Directors Meetings

The ACS Board of Directors met on August 21-22, 2026, at the Marriott Marquis Chicago in Chicago, IL.

Board Actions

- Upon recommendation of the National Awards Advisory Board, the Board voted to approve the ACS nominee for the 2027 Perkin Medal and updated the criteria for the Charles Lathrop Parsons Award and the ACS Volunteer Service Award.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs, the Board voted to approve the advance member registration fee for the 2027 ACS Spring and Fall meetings at $649 for in-person and approved the associated pricing for all other registration fees.
- The Board endorsed $1 million in funding for ACS Graduate Student Success Grants supporting Masters and Ph.D. students within one year of degree completion and facing unforeseen circumstances. Applications will be accepted between September 15 and October 2, with one application permitted per institution. Submissions will be reviewed in the order they are received, and funding decisions will be communicated later in October. All awards will be distributed by December 31, 2026.
- The Board approved merit and inflation assumptions for purposes of the 2027 budget planning process.

- On recommendation of a task force comprised of members from the Committee on Ethics (ETHX), the Committee on Younger Chemists (YCC), Board members, and Executive Leadership Team members, the Board approved a restatement of the Volunteer and Participant Code of Conduct policy, now presented as the ACS Code of Conduct. The Code will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

- Upon recommendation from the Committee on Executive Compensation, the Board approved renaming the committee as the Committee on Talent and Executive Compensation. The Board also approved a formal charter for the committee.

Board Discussions

- The Board engaged in strategic discussions on a variety of topics, including feedback Board members have received from the ACS community.

Reports

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Albert Horvath and his staff provided organizational updates on current affairs and new initiatives. He highlighted:
  - ACS ongoing efforts to advocate for science;
  - ACS rebranding updates; and
  - Ongoing celebrations for the ACS 150th anniversary.

- ACS Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Emily Kunchala reported on the strong financial health of the organization. The report highlighted ongoing work in risk assessment, scenario planning, and cost optimization and productivity. For Q2 2026, the ACS financial guidelines have been met.

- Members of the presidential succession provided reports on their 2026 initiatives and activities.

- In his capacity as Chair of the Governing Board for Publishing, Al Horvath provided an update, along with Tim Wahlberg (interim CAS President) and Jim Milne (ACS Publications President).

- Paul Jagodzinski, Chair of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs, reported on the Strategic Planning Retreat the committee held in Chicago.

- Written reports were reviewed from the General Counsel, Human Resources, and the Committees on the Board of Trustees for the Group Insurance Plans, Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists, Strategic Alignment, Audits and Risk Management, Chemical Safety, Chemists with Disabilities, Chemistry and Public Affairs, Communicating Chemistry, Community Activities, Education, Environment and Sustainability, Intellectual Property, International Activities, Minority Affairs, Science, Women Chemists, and Younger Chemists.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

Officers	
Rigoberto Hernandez, President	acs-hernandez@jh.edu
Dorothy J. Phillips, Immediate Past President	dwphillips@comcast.net
Christina Bodurow, President-Elect	chris.bodurow@gmail.com
ACS Offices	
Office of the Secretary	secretary@acs.org
Resources	
Committee Preference Form	www.cmte.acs.org
N&E Nomination Form	nominations.acs.org
N&E inquiries	nomelect@acs.org
Election Candidate Information	www.acs.org/elections
ACS Governing Documents	www.acs.org/govdocs