

# 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHEMISTRY IN VIRGINIA

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## Where Have We Been?

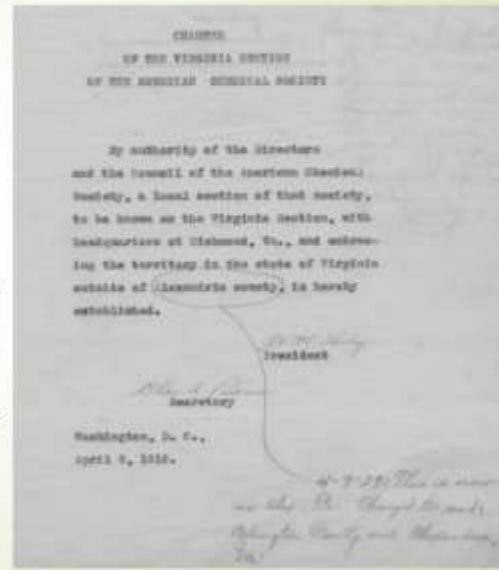
- It was 300 years after the landing at Jamestown that the Virginia section had its beginning and at that time it was dominated by agricultural chemists rather than industrial. In 1907 chemists from the Virginia department of agriculture, Virginia-Carolina chemical corp., Tobacco by-products corporation, and Froehling and Robertson met with professors from Randolph-Macon and Richmond college to discuss the formation of a Virginia chemists club. During their discussion it was decided that it would not be feasible to form a section of the American Chemical Society as there were many chemists unable to pay the \$8.00 ACS Dues.
- As a result of the interest shown during their first meeting, a second meeting was called on January 15, 1907 at 8:00 p.m. in the Corporation Court room of the state capital at which time the Virginia chemists club was organized.



Dr. E.B. Carpenter  
One of the Founders of the Virginia Chemist's Club  
Chairman of the VA Section, 1909

## A Club Becomes a Section

- A committee was named to draw up the constitution and the by-laws of the new Virginia Chemists Club. Elected officers were: Dr. E. W. Magruder, President; Dr. H. Froehling, Vice-President; Dr. E. C. Bingham, Secretary-Treasurer. Dues were set \$1.50. Dr. W. D. Harding presented the Club with a year's subscription to the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.
- Later observers would agree with Section Historian, Garnett Ryland, that "...the sociability developed that evening has ever since proved one of the most valuable assets of the Club."
- Thirty-one Chemists became charter members of the Club. In 1915, The Virginia Section was the 49th Section of the Society. Its thirty-one charter members constituted 0.4 per cent of the total of 7,417 members of the parent Society. On November 30, 1915, there were 59 paid members of the Virginia Section.



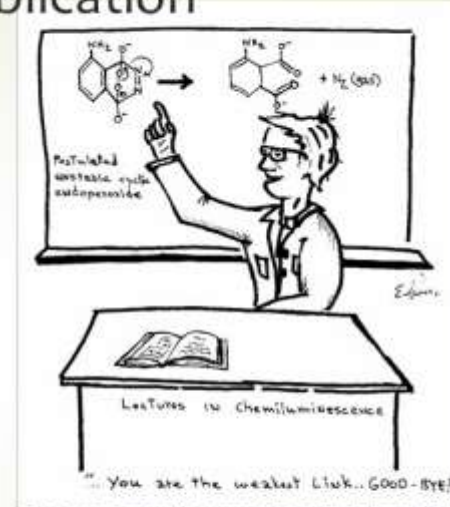
## The Section shrinks and grows

- On January 22, 1909, petition was made to the American Chemical Society for the formation of a Virginia Section that would include in its territory most of the state. The request was turned down on December 17, 1909, by the Society, which gave as its reason the large territory involved.
- After six years, on February 12, 1915, a second petition was signed by nine members of the Club and presented to the Council of the American Chemical Society. This application was approved, and on April 9, 1915, a charter was issued to the Virginia Section, signed by President Charles H. Herty and Secretary Charles L. Parsons. The territory included all of Virginia except Alexandria County (later called Arlington County & the city of Alexandria).
- The area of the Section has been twice reduced. In 1931, twelve counties in Southwest Virginia were included in the Virginia-Blue Ridge Section and in 1944, thirteen counties were released to the Hampton Roads Section.



## A History of Publication

- During the course of its history the Virginia Chemists' Club published two volumes of proceedings and thus established precedent for *The Bulletin* which began publication in 1923.
- The section publishes *The Bulletin* nine times each year.



The cartoon on the cover of *The Bulletin* published Summer 2001 was done by Eddie Thomas, Councilor for the Virginia Section (at that time). Drawing is one of Eddie's hobbies. He has done cartoons for the covers of over 12 issues of *The Bulletin*. Eddie served as Chair of the Virginia Section in 1998 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 1993. He was a Section Councilor from 1993 through 2005. He worked in R&D at Philip Morris USA retiring in 2005.

## The First Chairman

- The first chairman of the Virginia Section was J. Bernard Robb, a beloved member of the section. At the time of his chairmanship, he was a member of the staff of the Virginia Department of Agriculture who later formed the firm of Robb and Moody, a private testing laboratory. He passed away in late August 1965.

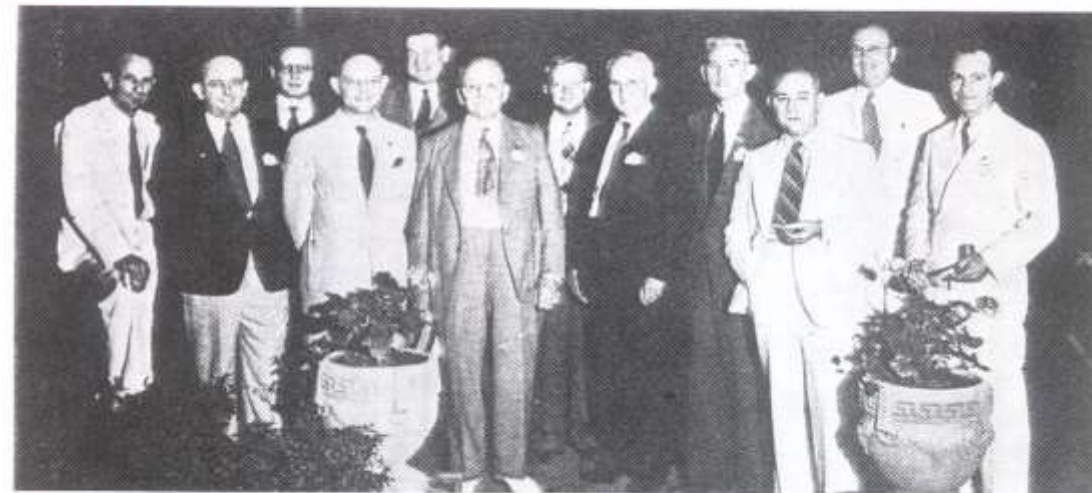


J. Bernard Robb  
Chairman of the VA Section, 1915

## 1951, the Section celebrates 75 years of the American Chemical Society



## Past Chairs of the Section



Left to Right: Dr. Sidney S. Negus (1927), Mr. William Clift (1926), Dr. J. C. Forbes (1938), Dr. John H. Yoe (1936), Mr. Edwin Cox (1929), Dr. F. B. Carpenter (1909), Dr. W. G. Crockett (1930), Major W. Cateby Jones (1920), Mr. J. Bernard Robb (1915), Mr. Thomas A. Ballhis (1935), Dr. Ira A. Updike (1937), and Mr. Rodney C. Berry (1939)

## 1967, Reflections of 50 years

- Dr. H. Rupert Hamner, Assistant Director, Virginia Institute for Scientific Research and Chair-Elect presented before the History of Chemistry Division on September 14, 1965 a reflection of the Virginia Section's First Fifty Years. In the end of his talk he quoted:

"It would seem as if the 1930's were years of political activity for the Virginia Section—and not too often successful activity. The forties brought promises of better things as a life-long member of the Section. Lloyd C. Bird, was elected to his first term in 1944 as State Senator from the district just south and east of Richmond. Senator Bird continues to serve in the Legislature and is very active in the Section.

As we look back over these highlights of early Virginia Section meetings, our current meetings seem rather dull. Perhaps in our local section activities we are prone today—as we are in many walks of life—to look to Washington for our ideas and for too much of our thinking. It is a pity, for my predecessors were 48 men and one lady of action. In its first fifty years the Virginia Section has had only 49 chairmen, one having served two years. When I take over the gavel in January I shall be the 50th chairman. I join this group with honor, humility, and a great feeling of being a part of an organization which has had fifty wonderful years. I trust I can make it 51."

## The Section Becomes the Host

- THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY - APRIL 1927
- THE SEVENTH NATIONAL ORGANIC SYMPOSIUM - DECEMBER 1937
- THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE - DECEMBER 1938
- THE A.C.S. SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 1959
- Southeast Regional Meeting of ACS (SERMACS)- 1969, 1991 & 2011



The ACS National meeting attendees, April 1927 in front of the train station later to become the Science Museum of Virginia.

## THE VIRGINIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS



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## Education and Community Service

- The Virginia Section has long been interested in and identified with improvements in the field of chemical education.
- The section established a Prize essay contest in chemistry, 1924, for high school students to create an interest in chemistry.
- The section hosted chemical education by radio - 1930
- The first broadcast from W.R.V.A. was conducted by Dr. Sidney S. Negus, former professor of biochemistry at M.C.V. The broadcast dealt with scientific current events. A second series was broadcast by W.D.B.J. in Roanoke the same year. The section has continued to broadcast for several years now in cooperation with the National Society Supplies "Men And Molecules".
- Further recognition of the importance of chemical education was initiated in 1947 with the establishment of the Virginia section awards. Mr. Lawrence W. Jarmen, Head of the Science Department at Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond received the first award in 1948. The section renamed the high school chemistry teacher award after Frank Kizer who was the only person to win two Virginia Section Awards.



Larry White, the first high school chemistry teacher to serve as Chair and Frank Kizer, 2001.

## The Awards Given

- Dr. Worthy F. Rudd, Dean Emeritus was presented the first Distinguished Service Award in 1948 for his "outstanding contribution toward improvement of the professional standing of chemists."
- Mr. Lawrence W. Jarmen received the Distinguished High School Chemistry Teaching award in 1948.
- Jeannie Shepherd was presented the first Middle School Science Teaching award in 1990.
- Judy Fitzpatrick, Short Pump Elementary School, received the first Distinguished Elementary Science Teacher Award in 2010.



## The Awards Given

- In 1997, the Virginia Section began presenting special Industrial awards. These are for industrial innovation or process engineering by individuals or groups, and for environmentally significant products and processes. Special awards are given for outstanding research or other accomplishments. Winners of the Virginia Section Industrial and Special Awards:
- Dr. Lamberio Crescentini (Allied Signal) - Outstanding Innovator Award
- Dr. David Hutchison (Ethyl Corporation) - Outstanding Innovation Award
- Dr. Arnold Francis (the DuPont Company) - Outstanding Innovation Award
- Mr. John (Barney) Boyle, Mr. Lindley E. Jones, and Mr. Leonard J. Aberle (Allied Signal) - Process Engineering Award
- Dr. Hamid Ghorashi, Dr. Michael W. Bowen, and Dr. Steven R. Allen (DuPont Advance Fiber System) - Team Innovation Award
- Albright and Wilson - Environmentally Significant Products Award

## Section Firsts

- Dr. Mary Kapp, Chair of the Chemistry Department at Virginia Commonwealth University (previously Richmond Professional Institute) from 1952 until her retirement in 1972, was the first female chair of the Virginia Section in 1952.
- Larry White was the first high school chemistry teacher to serve as Chair of the Virginia Section in 1996.
- Phyllis James Wyeth, was the first African-American to serve as Chair in 2001.



## Awards for Service

- Phoenix awards for National Chemistry Week, 1993, 1994 and 1995.
- Outstanding Section Awards 1969 and 1988
- ChemLuminary Awards. The Virginia section has been nominated for multiple awards mostly for their activities during NCW and CCED but also as an outstanding section since 2006. These are just some of the awards that were received. In 2012 and 2013, the section received
- Outstanding Local Section Career Program, 2012
- Outstanding Community Involvement in Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, 2012
- Outstanding Program Aimed at Retaining Women in the Chemical Enterprise, 2013
- Chemists with Disabilities Inclusion Award, 2013
- Outstanding NCW Event for a Specific Audience, 2013
- Outstanding On-going NCW Event, 2013

