



Report to the Executive Committee
of the
Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society

January 23, 2016

Women Chemists Committee

The Women Chemists Committee of the Virginia Section had an active year in 2015 holding both networking events for members and a career development event for undergraduate students.

A planning meeting was held on Friday January 23rd at Little Mexico Restaurant to plan 2015 activities. Six members attended. Volunteer information regarding science fair judging and reviewing papers for the Virginia Junior Academy of Science was shared with the group.

Networking lunches are valuable for women who do not have a lot of interaction with other women chemists during their normal work day. Seven members attended the first networking lunch for 2015 which was held on April 24th at Tarrant's restaurant in Richmond. Thanks to Renu Aggarwal for organizing this event.

Additional lunches were held on September 10th at Mekong restaurant and on November 20th at Chili's at VCU in November. These meetings were used for planning and networking between members. While attendance was not large, the attendees varied ensuring a good mix of old and new members throughout the year.

A summer networking event was held at the Ardent Brewery in Richmond Virginia on June 5th. This event provided an opportunity for members to learn more about the craft brewing process as well as to network with others in the section. The group was given a tour of the brewery by co-founder Kevin O'Leary. Mr. O'Leary provided an overview of the brewery's inception as well as the process they use to craft their beer. The participants had a chance to ask questions as well as sample the brewery's beers. The event was fun and educational and a great way for the ACS to engage with small businesses in the Richmond community. Thanks to Samantha Brock for organizing this event.

The WCC held its annual career panel jointly with the Minority Affairs Committee at VCU on October 29th. Speakers included Talitha Hampton-Mayo from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, Renu Agarwal from Honeywell, Bevin Parks from Afton Chemical, Kathy Goodson from The Potomac Institute of Policy Studies, and LaTrease Garrison from the ACS national office. The event was well received and drew a record number of student and member attendees. Thanks to Colleen Taylor and the members of the MAC for organizing this event.

Plans for 2016 include holding the annual career panel at the University of Richmond (Date TBD, Host: Emma Goldman), organizing an event for younger students (middle school/high school), holding a demonstration of glass blowing at Research Glass, and continuing to hold networking events for WCC members. A breakfast meeting will be planned for February.

The WCC respectfully requests that \$1000 be allocated in the 2016 budget for WCC activities.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Mabry