



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

May 15, 2015

Younger Chemists Committee



Virginia Section Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) in 2015:

On March 3, 2015 the YCC hosted a dinner and lecture event at Sine Irish Pub in Richmond, VA. The title of the event was "The Chemistry of Cannabis" and we were fortunate to have Aron Lichtman, from VCU Pharmacology and Toxicology, speak about his research. Aron spoke about the endocannabinoid system and the role of cannabinoid receptors, medicinal uses of cannabinoids, and the effects on the human body and brain. We had about 40 students and professionals attend the event. The YCC provided a free dinner to all attendees. It was a great opportunity for young chemists to socialize, network, and learn about current research. This event was extremely successful because we gained a lot of new interest, new volunteer mentors, and potential members for the ACS/YCC. The total cost for the dinner was \$656.71.

The YCC also helped out with launching the Mentor Program Trial, YouTube Contest, and Earth Day event.

The YCC would like to host more events in 2015:

- Tour a local company's lab in the fall
- Career panel and discussion for young professionals: "*How to advance your career in chemistry*"

ACS Membership Idea for Young Chemists:

Based on recent discussion about ACS membership, there seems to be a number of young chemists (professionals, not students who are eligible for the great student discount) interested in getting involved in the ACS/YCC, but can't afford the \$160 ACS national dues. Some employers do not pay for the professional society membership. Other young professionals are just starting new jobs at entry level salaries and cannot afford the annual dues.

The YCC proposes that we offer a program which allows those young chemists to volunteer a certain number of hours for an ACS VA Section event (i.e. Kristine's Earth Day event) and earn a one-time only 1 year ACS membership (or discounted membership) sponsored by the VA Section. This allows the young chemist to try out the benefits of joining ACS for a year, and then they would be responsible for the following years' membership dues. This could be a great way to get new young chemists involved in the VA local section.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Sink