



Spring 2021 Newsletter

It has been a year of adaptation for all of us, learning to live, work and be students and educators within the constraints of a world-wide pandemic. The local section has also adapted and though we have done fewer events than pre-Covid, volunteers from the section have put together some unique events for the local section members. I do want to give a shout out to those who have kept the wheels turning behind the scenes:

Mindy Dodge 2020 and 2021 chair

Brian Zacher 2020 and 2021 chair-elect

Chris Cabello 2020 secretary

Wendy Hyatt 2021 secretary

Grazyna Zreda Community outreach chair

Laura Stratton Awards chair

Pedro Flores Gallardo Alternate councilor (2020-2022) and webmaster

Steve Brown Treasurer

Charles Weidner Councilor (2020-2022)

Trina Shartsis Womens Chemistry Group chair

Brooke Beam Massani Communications chair

Iman Daryaei Chemistry Olympiad coordinator

Ashleigh Dahlstrom Younger Chemist chair

Pat Schumann, CJ Pommier, Ben Zarin and Amy Graham

SAZACS 2020 events

Though the events were few, they were all well received by members

Science Advocacy Workshop (Feb 2020)

In conjunction with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the March for Science, the section hosted a Science Advocacy workshop. This workshop was run by one of our own member volunteers, CJ Pommier, and presented techniques to better communicate with our elected officials on Science Policy Issues. The end result was drafting of a letter to Sen. Kyrsten Sinema on science legislation pending before the US Senate.

December Holiday and Awards Reception

Early in December the section held a joint Holiday and Awards Reception. For this event members were asked to choose from among three holiday snacks that were delivered to their doors (thank you Prime!). The event itself consisted of a virtual social time like we normally used to do live, followed by presentation of awards for High School Teacher of the year- Ty White, High School Chemistry Teacher at Willcox High School received the 2020 High School Chemistry Award from SAZACS and the Regional High School Award to the Rocky Mountain Region of ACS. College Educator of the year went to Duane DeSpain, Chemistry Faculty from Eastern Arizona College. Brooke Beam-Massani received the H. Wayne Adickes Service Award for her years of service to the section and the 50, 60, and 70 year members of the section received their certificates from ACS. The awards ceremony was followed by presentations of National Chemistry Week poems/art done by elementary and high school students as well as a demonstration of making an ehrlenmeyer flask Xmas ornament. On top of all that, a scientific presentation on shielding materials from radiation in space (think van Allen belts) was given by a Raytheon scientist to top off a very full evening.

2021 Elections

We used electronic voting again this year which increased participation by local section members. The results of the election were

Mindy Dodge, Chair

Brian Zacher, Chair-elect

Wendy Hyatt, Secretary

SAZACS 2021 events

Womens Chemist Group

Once again the young ladies of our WCG helped with a virtual SARSEF event this past spring. This was organized by Trina Shartsis, Sharon Gardlund and Ellen Caldwell, as well as others.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week

Our community outreach chair, Grazyna Zreda, led a collaborative effort with the Childrens Museum to host a virtual Earth Day event. This was highly successful and is featured at this URL:

<https://www.childrensmuseumtucson.org/earthday/virtual/acs-virtual-earth-day/>

The section hosted a poetry/art contest for elementary grade and high school students at several Tucson schools and there were many great entries. I especially liked the use of Haiku that some students utilized. The winners were:

- The winner in the 3-5 grade category is Cienna McKee from Agua Caliente Elementary School.
- The winner in the 6-8 grade category is Andrew Smith from Emily Gray Junior High School.



Dinner Meetings

Though not technically a dinner meeting, the upcoming section meeting on May 26 at 6 PM is going to be a presentation on brewing by the owners of Button Brew House,

followed by a Q&A session. Members who responded to our Google form will receive free beer from Button Brewery for this event. We are all looking forward to this event!



RMRM 2021



The local section is hosting the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting (RMRM) for 2021 on Oct 20-23 at the Marriot University Park adjacent to the U of A. After much discussion around the Covid issues and following the science, the organizing committee has decided to hold an in person/hybrid meeting. There is a lot of buzz around this meeting from both exhibitors and sponsors, but also amongst attendees. Everyone is ready to get out and attend meetings in person and present their scientific work, hook up with customers or just to see old comrades again. The theme is '**Diverse Chemistry in a Diverse Region**' and this theme of diversity and inclusion is woven throughout the programming. There will be a Spanish language session called Quimica, networking events for women, younger and senior chemists, the session chairs are being selected to represent a diverse cross section of the profession, and we are trying to sponsor as many student registrations as possible through donations from local section members and institutions. Speaking of which, if you are so inclined to help a student attend this meeting please visit

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/american-chemical-society-tucson-az/rmrm-2021-student-registration>

or

Text RMRM2021 to 44-321 where you can donate via a secure payment site.

If you cannot help monetarily, but still wish to help out, the organizing committee will need people to judge posters and help man the registration table during the meeting, as well as other tasks TBD. Please feel free to contact myself (chuck.weidner@gmail.com) or Laura Stratton (laura@polychemistry.com) if you are interested.

Please take the time to check out the website for the meeting for technical sessions, non-technical sessions, workshops and other events happening there in Oct:

<https://www.rmr2021.com/>

We would love to see a huge turnout from the local section at RMR 2021- we promise you won't be disappointed, and though we are somewhat biased, we feel this will be one of the highlight ACS Regional meetings of the year! Abstracts and Registration will be opening very soon, check the website for further info.