

To our EC members and guests -- welcome to ["sunny"] San Diego!

We've got an extensive and very interesting program this meeting (*just take a look at "CHAS-at-a-Glance" – & as to CaaG thanks to Debbie/Thor for putting it together!*). I hope we have gotten the word out and can look forward to a room with filled seats throughout our technical program! Also, our new sub-division (CANN) has been active with workshop/programming and a networking social. CANN is helping to drive a small but growing tide of new members.

Several DCHAS-EC members [Harry Elston, Ezra Pryor, Timothy Black, Frankie Wood-Black and "I"] went to the "ACS Leadership Conference" in Dallas at the end of January. Our larger than normal presence was "felt" by both the ACS Board of Directors and by the many other society leaders in attendance. We had a lot of networking opportunities as well as having the opportunity to attend ACS leadership courses and brainstorming sessions. We all got to bend a few ears and twist a few arms -- but we were also able to pass-along thanks to the many ACS staff, fellow leaders, and Board/Executive Staff members who have been helping us. We are seeing progress in our quest to make it a "Society" tenet that safety is a core value associated with the chemistry profession [*as it should be for all scientific professionals*].

Speaking of "Safety as a Core Value", Neal (along with Debbie, Frankie and Joe) has been hard at work pressing our 2016 society President (Donna Nelson) to have her help in clarifying our belief that (all) scientific professions should recognize the fundamental nature of Safety in education and professional behavior. To that end Donna has agreed to hold a Presidentially sponsored symposium on Safety, Ethics, and Diversity (we're calling it a "Town-Hall Meeting") at the Philadelphia Meeting in August. You'll hear more about this in short order.

We are starting to make headway in implementing parts of our new strategic plan. We should be hearing about that progress as well as associated near-future efforts later this morning. We've even got an IPG submitted for funding (thanks to Ralph and Leah).

Let's all thank our Past Chair (Debbie Decker) for her exemplary service and continuing dedication to our division. Debbie had an especially jam-packed year in 2015 with strategic-planning, sub-division creation, beaucoup programming, and an ACS President, Diane Schmidt (and fellow DCHAS divisional member) helping to insure that she did not get a moment's rest... We'll continue to try and keep her wide awake this year too! THANKS!

From my perspective I feel the state of our Division is good indeed. Our annual report is in and the journal's pipeline is full and flowing. We've got a slew of dedicated EC members and officers and we even walked away with a ChemLuminary Award in Boston thanks to Ralph/Leah et al and their efforts in 2014!

Also, my personal thanks to all here in person or in spirit – now let's get the show on the road...

John Palmer, Chair (2016)