

# The Chemical Consultant

# Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.

Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants
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January—April, 2014

### FUTURE MEETINGS

To Be Announced

## **ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers (ACC&CE) is a network of senior-level consultants with a broad range of functional expertise and many years of experience in the chemical and allied industries.

The purposes of the organization are:

- To offer prospective clients a "clearing house" which they can use to find the most qualified consultants or team of consultants whatever their particular problem may be.
- To furnish support to its members as they conduct their consulting practices.

This newsletter is intended to support those purposes as well as to educate prospective new members and prospective client organizations about ACC&CE, and how we can be most helpful to them.

The ACC&CE has an interactive website – <u>www.chemconsult.org</u>, that allows prospective clients either to input their problem or to search for those consultants most skilled in their area of concern.

#### ACC&CE Officers

Joseph V. Porcelli, President jvpii@jvporcelli.com

Tom Borne, Vice-President tslbrn@verizon.net

VACANT, Secretary

J. Stephen Duerr, Treasurer <a href="mailto:chemlabconsulting@gmail.com">chemlabconsulting@gmail.com</a>

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David Riley Emeritus President drdavidwriley@msn.com

John Bonacci Executive Director accce@chemconsult.org

## IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue, we again have letters both from our President, (also your editor), Joe Porcelli (page 2) and by our Executive Director, John Bonacci (page 3). We are also welcoming a new member. You can learn about him on page 5. On page 6, you will find an article on simple consultant-client contracts by the leader of our Mentoring group, Dave Riley. On page 8, you will find a review of a recent report on climate change by Dick Schauer, and there is a special surprise on page 12!

You will note that the ACC&CE Council has lost its Secretary, with Dan Kruh having retired from that function. Dan has been a very active member and is continuing as a Council Member and takes care of our Membership function. I want to thank him for his continued, long dedication—he has been a great help.

As always, your editor is seeking feedback and if appropriate, alternative views on issues of interest to our readers. We'd like to hear from you. If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, we'd be interested in that as well. Please Email <a href="mailto:jvpii@jvporcelli.com">jvpii@jvporcelli.com</a>. Joe Porcelli, Editor

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Joseph V. Porcelli, (Certificate #906), President of ACC&CE and Editor of our newsletter, "The Chemical Consultant".

I find that once again, I have to apologize for the lateness of this issue of our newsletter, due to a continuing merry-go-round of consulting and traveling, terminating on May 1 when I returned from a second one-week trip to China. During the first few months of the year, my wife and I visited my younger daughter, her husband, and three grandchildren in Syracuse for a week. Then, after a short stay at home, we traveled to Dublin, Ireland to visit my older daughter, for two weeks. She has been living there for 20 years, ever since she left the US after graduation for a "summer in Europe". Then, three days after returning from Ireland, I found myself on a plane once again to Beijing.

The organization is continuing attracting interesting inquiries regarding possible consulting projects, with the types of projects varying widely. We are very encouraged by this trend, and we hope some of our members are benefiting from these while assisting those folks who have contacted us for consulting help. I am sure there are many other consultants or potential consultants who might find some of these assignments attractive.

Our latest council meeting was on May 13, followed by an extremely interesting talk by Phil Eisner on Sustainability. The speaker was extremely knowledgeable on this subject, and interestingly, he had given a talk to a joint meeting of our organization and two New Jersey AIChE sections in the fall on Fracking. This retiree from Exxon has a very broad knowledge and interest in many of the technology-based issues facing society today.

The May event was sparsely attended, and it led Council to discuss the possibilities of using internet technology to try to have "virtual" Council meetings in the future, and to allow presentations to be transmitted to viewers who cannot attend our live presentations. You will hear more about that in future newsletters.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned our plan to continue to participate in collaborative presentations with other organizations of engineers and chemists, to further broaden the recognition of ACC&CE, both as a source of potential financial benefit of our member consultants, but always as an increasing body of reputable and effective technical and business skills that could be of use to potential new clients. This latest presentation would have been of great interest and possible benefit to many of those of you who could not attend our meeting. Incidentally, we have tried out a new location for our live meetings, the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ. We were able to use a private room which is part of the Hat-Tavern.

Please contact me with comments at (917) 912-9804 or at jvpii@jvporcelli.com.

Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Joe Porcelli

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# John C. Bonacci, Ph.D. P.E., U.S. Patent Agent (Certificate #821) and the Executive Director of ACC&CE

I'm happy to report that the organization is doing well with our new dues structure - \$25 for first year new members and \$75 for members. For those readers who are not yet members but who attended the ChemShow we had a great interest expressed by potential new members. If you are one of those, please follow-up.

I'd like to remind you that ads in our newsletter do bring in requests through the website and directly via email. All members should consider the annual \$50 payment for a business card size ad, or one of the larger ads at \$90 or \$200.

CHIs (Clearing House Inquiries) are the inquiries that come into the website for referral to all members as possible projects We are at CHI—2014-052 now, and the rate of receiving CHIs seems to be increasing. I hope all our members are trying to get these referrals. The fees we receive as an organization are 5% of the net consulting income received by our members through the website. The people who get helped are always quite pleased with the work product of our members. I always send out the old inquiries for reference and members should feel free to re-contact those that still appear to be open. Our successful consultants know that it takes patience for some of these to get completed due to funding problems, etc.

We have a New Jersey meeting venue; the Hat Tavern in the Summit Grand Hotel where they provide us a private room with a table set-up for 22 seated members and some other space plus a screen.

The May 13, 2014 meeting was our first at this site and Dr. Phil Eisner made an excellent presentation on Sustainability including extensive information about climate change...

About 2/3's of us are from outside the NYC-NJ area, these members being able to avail themselves of all the benefits of membership except being able to attend our New Jersey meetings. We get great speakers but like so many other professional organizations we don't get the attendance. Please let us know your thoughts on this subject.

I would personally encourage any and all of our members to contribute 500 word or so essays or commentaries on pertinent technical subjects which we can print in the Newsletter. Please share your expertise and get a publication listed. Some great topics are: consulting, then and now; energy supply-demand; professional case histories; pay scales; legislative needs; patent issues; and commercialization practices. I can tell you the feedback from our CHEM SHOW Seminar was excellent. Our six speakers were well received by the 15 attendees who asked for slides, etc.

Edward Richman, Ph.D. President



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## **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION**

Dr. Vijay S. Bhise, Certificate #960 Bhise Consultants LLC vijaybhise@optonline.net

Vijay Bhise, who recently retired from Scientific Design Company in New Jersey, is a senior Chemical Engineer with over 35 years of experience in the petrochemical, environmental and fragrance industries, with a strong background in project management, R&D, and technology development.

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

#### **Technologies**

Air separation units, Amination (reactions with ammonia), Bio-Chemicals and Bio-Fuels, Carbonylation (reactions with carbon monoxide), Catalyst Research, Production and Manufacture, Dehydration of Alcohols to Olefins, Fixed bed and Fluid Bed Reactor Design, High Temperature Inert Atmosphere and Oxidation Furnaces, Oxidation of Olefins and Alkanes, Precious Metals Processing and Recovery, and Supercritical Extraction

#### **Products**

Acetaldehyde, Acetic acid/ Acetic anhydride, Acrolein, Acrylonitrile, Aniline, Ethylene from Ethanol, Ethylene Oxide/ Ethylene Glycol, Ethanolamines, Ethoxylates and Glycol Ethers, Hydrogen Peroxide, Olefins, Phthalic Anhydride, p-Phenylene Diamine, Propylene Oxide, Styrene and Vinyl Acetate.

#### **Recent Consulting Assignments**

National Science Foundation and Department of Energy (DOE and EERE)
Evaluation of Proposals in Bio-Chemicals and Separations Technology
Evaluation of Proposals for Automobile Exhaust systems

Developed New Catalyst Opportunities for a Ceramics Manufacturer.

Replace Homogeneous Catalysis with Heterogeneous Catalysis

Multi-client studies for Catalytic Applications

# The Word "Mentoring"

Dr. David W. Riley, Certificate # 591, who leads the group of consultant members who offer mentoring to our membership, particularly new members, has contributed some thoughts on keeping the contract between consultant and client SIMPLE.

One of the most important items between a consultant and his client is the agreement between the two about the cost and meaning of the relationship. Therefore, frequently, a multi-page document is developed by lawyers on one side to assure that everyone is in agreement. This is not necessary. As long as everyone understands the real conditions of the problem solving function, that will stand forever.

Therefore, as a consultant, we need to state it simply and completely on one page.

Certainly, things can become very complicated. This must be stated for the benefit of both parties. If there are more than two persons involved, that can be a different story, but usually, two people can agree simply.

To meet the need, the one page should state the purpose of the relationship between the two entities (or persons) and the direction of any solution to the problem. This includes all of the people involved and the ability of each to work together.

Naturally, the next item is the outline of the problem solving method.

And a final statement by the consultant that he will **not reveal any items about the client unless the client agrees to it.** 

This discussion above is one of the methods of Mentoring!!!!

**Why** is this so important to the members of the Assoc. of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers?

The basis on which we stand depends on our giving constructive advice to our members, particularly, to our new members. Their whole future can depend on first-hand action to introduce their marvelous knowledge to their clients. If the clients are so obsessed with the legal aspects of their contract, they will quickly go somewhere else for advice and action.

# Take an Opportunity to Advertise your Business or your Company in this Newsletter

This newsletter issues three times and for special situations, four times a year, and advertising is sold on an annual basis, with ads appearing in each issue. Advertising is open to all members, and nonmember ads will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The price list for advertising is as follows:

Business Card Size (2.0 x 3.5 inches— \$50/year \$100/year
Larger Size (3.0 x 6.0) - \$90/year \$180/year
Half-page— \$250/year \$500/year
Custom size and features— pricing upon request

To discuss advertising with us, please contact --

John Bonacci—accce@chemconsult.org

Or

Joe Porcelli—<u>jvpii@jvporcelli.com</u>

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# Climate Change Reconsidered: Biological Impacts

Richard L Schauer, Ph.D., Certificate #811 has contributed the following article, commenting on a recent report on climate change.

The Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) recently released a 1,062 page report titled CLIMATE CHANGE RECONSIDERED: BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS. This report contains thousands of citations to peer-reviewed scientific literature.

#### Among the findings are:

Atmospheric carbon dioxide is not a pollutant. It is a non-toxic, non-irritating, natural component of the atmosphere. Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels actually have beneficial effects on terrestrial and aquatic environments.

There is little or no risk of increasing food insecurity due to global warming or atmospheric  $CO_2$  levels. Rising temperature and  $CO_2$  levels produce greater plant growth/crop yields. The positive direct effects of higher  $CO_2$  levels in future crop yields are likely to dominate any hypothetical negative effects associated with changing weather conditions.

Rising temperatures and atmospheric  $CO_2$  levels do not pose a significant threat to aquatic life. Many aquatic species have already shown considerable tolerance to temperature and  $CO_2$  levels predicted for the next several centuries. Projected adverse effects of acidification will largely be mitigated by phenotype adaptation during the long time period over which the pH level is expected to fall.

A modest warming of the planet will result in a net reduction of human mortality. More lives will be saved by global warming (GW) via amelioration of cold related deaths than are lost due to excessive heat. GW will have a negligible influence on human morbidity and the spread of infectious diseases.

The overall conclusion is that rising temperatures and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are causing "no net harm to the global environment or to human health and often finds the opposite net benefits to plants including important food crops and to animals and human health."

The complete report in digital form (PDF) can be downloaded at the Climate Change website: <a href="mailto:climatechangereconsidered.org">climatechangereconsidered.org</a>.

NPICC is an international panel of scientists and scholars who came together in 2003 to provide an independent review of the climate science cited by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has produced 5 major scientific reports. These reports have been endorsed by leading scientists, been cited in peer reviewed journals and are credited with changing the global debate over climate change.

## **Professional Liability Insurance for Chemical Consultants**



As a chemical consultant, can you afford a \$65,000 lawsuit? That is the average cost of defending yourself for a single professional liability claim. Even if a claim is false or fraudulent, the related time and costs can be devastating to a private practice. You deserve peace of mind.

The ACS endorsed Professional Liability Program covers your defense costs, liability settlements, and includes unique coverage enhancements such as:

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√ Competitive Group Pricing

✓ Part-Time Option

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If you would like the answer to the above Sudoku, please email me at: <a href="mailto:jvpii@jvporcelli.com">jvpii@jvporcelli.com</a>

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