

# Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers, Inc.



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## MINUTES

### Virtual Council Meeting of January 21, 2020

#### Members in Attendance:

David Manuta, Steve Duerr, Tom Vichroski, Catherine Byrne, John Wetzel, Dick Schauer and Joe Porcelli joined in by phone or audio. Proxies were sent by Charlie Leonard, Bernie Ennis and Koki Doshi.

The meeting was called to order by David Manuta at 7:00 pm EST.

The agenda for the meeting was approved by all present after motion to approve by Vichroski and seconded by Porcelli.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Duerr gave a short report. All 10 ads have been paid for, and we have in excess of \$29,000 in the bank. There are 34 paid members including one honorary, and 5 as yet unpaid. Duerr has spoken to two, but three others have not yet responded. These have until the end of March before they become delinquent.

Treasurer's report acceptance after motion by Vichroski and second by Porcelli.

#### Previous Minutes

Minutes of previous meetings (annual plus first of new fiscal year) were approved, with motion by Vichroski and second by Duerr.

Schauer volunteered to contact Greg Sherman and to urge him to attend next GTM.

#### President's Remarks:

President Manuta began by remarking on the very successful presentation by Pete Sibilski a week earlier, with 7 or 8 attendees. He noted that Ennis was attending an AIChE meeting and perhaps he could find another speaker for a future GTM presentation for which we could have even higher attendance.

Manuta then mentioned that he has been corresponding with a gentleman in the Research Triangle who has a contract with the Department of Labor "targeting" the Chemical Engineering profession for a survey. Manuta has distributed the correspondence to some of our members, suggesting we might be able to help him out by explaining how those of us who are ChEs have made successful careers, with possible benefits to both his

organization and ours. Manuta will resend the information to our members, and those of us who are Chemical Engineers could correspond individually with him.

Manuta next discussed one of our recent CHIs which is an update of the search for environmentally-friendly fire suppression chemicals. Manuta mentioned having worked on this a number of years ago for the Paul Newman Foundation, and that it had been very profitable for ACC&CE at that time. The current CHI is for a gentleman who is looking to finance the full-scale manufacturing of these chemicals for the up-coming fire season. Part of the financing is going for the use of drones that will be able to quickly get chemicals to the source of fires before they have spread. Manuta hopes this to be a very profitable project for his firm and for ACC&CE.

Manuta also discussed his work on a class-action lawsuit in the nuclear weapons industry involving workers who have gotten sick and passed away. The suit, if successful would give assistance to families of works who have died as well as others who are still alive.

### **Reports from Committee Chairs**

**Programming:** In the absence of Program Chair Goodman, Vichroski mentioned that he felt that with a longer notice, his promotional material could have resulted in more attendance, but time was very short this time. Manuta said that we had no presentations currently scheduled. Porcelli reminded the meeting that Goodman at some point had mentioned that he might make a presentation himself. It was emphasized that we needed to move more quickly as soon as a future presentation is scheduled.

**Newsletter:** Porcelli announced that the last newsletter of 2019 had gone out just before New Year's Day, and the next one was scheduled for the end of March so that there was time before we need to get started soliciting content.

**Membership:** Membership Chair Schauer reported that there are no new applications at this time, but that the latest new member, Greg Sherman from Lewes, DE, has good experience in the chemical industry and should be a great addition to the association.

### **Official Business:**

#### **Improved Attendance at Presentations**

Manuta and Vichroski discussed how getting the notice out earlier would be effective in gaining more attendees. It was also agreed that getting someone fairly well known to speak on their projects might also be a way to generate presentations. Manuta thought that presenters would discover that "it is really a lot of fun".

#### **Backups for Key Members/Succession Planning/Committee Chairs**

This discussion included noting the need for backups, with Duerr backing up for Leonard on the GTM arrangements and how it would be advantageous to have other members outside of the core members to step in. Manuta mentioned the desire of Porcelli to have a backup for the Newsletter and Porcelli noted that he was backing up Doshi on the taking of minutes for this meeting.

Manuta suggested that we should begin to plan for the next election of officers and council, as Goodman would probably be moving up to President, and we would need someone new for Vice President. Manuta made the point that in a small organization such as ours, newer members have an opportunity to help governing the organization right away.

Manuta noted that Duerr would have to make a decision regarding running again for Treasurer, and Duerr said he had no plans at this time.

**Other Business:**

Porcelli brought up the subject of the requirement for Councilors to be present (or send proxy) for a certain number of meetings during a fiscal year, and that we should start keeping track of Councilor attendance. There was some confusion as to which is the first meeting of the new fiscal year. Since the councilors are not designated until the annual meeting, the count for 2020 should start with the meeting after that one. Porcelli volunteered that he and Leonard would accumulate the information on councilor attendance. Manuta noted that there are business reasons that sometimes prevent attendance at meetings, so we have to encourage all members to attend, in case emergency backup is needed.

Manuta noted that three of the six councilors are in attendance at this meeting.

Manuta made the point to Goodman that when he succeeds to the Presidency, he will not be alone, since he will be Past President and be available to him as Porcelli has been to him these last years. Also, Ennis and Leonard have contributed greatly, and so the management of ACC&CE is very much a team effort. Manuta noted that Duerr would have to make a decision regarding running again for Treasurer, and Duerr said his plan was to run again for Treasurer as always. Porcelli stated that the core of members who will contribute to the management of the association will grow with time.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of posting meeting announcements in The Indicator. Porcelli described the problems we encountered in the past with their very long lead time for items. being when we had our live meetings at a restaurant. It was agreed that this was a good opportunity for publicity.

There was also some discussion on the idea of cooperating with local sections of AIChE and ACS, specifically regarding Ohio. **Vichroski or Wetzel** volunteered to follow up to learn about the geographical information on the various local sections.

The next meeting was scheduled on Tuesday February 18, 2020.

Council meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm EST after motion to close was moved by Vichroski and seconded by Schauer.

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