

# Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers, Inc.



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## MINUTES

### Virtual Council Meeting of February 18, 2020

**Attendees:** David Manuta (President), Joe Porcelli (Past President), Charles Leonard, Koki Doshi (Secretary), Steve Duerr (Treasurer), Richard Goodman, John Wetzel, Marvin DeTar. Bernie sent his proxy through Steve Duerr. David also received a proxy by email from Al Sagarese. Bernie also has other events coinciding with our Tuesday meetings.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**Agenda and changes:** There were none.

**Approval of previous council meeting:** Joe kindly circulated the previous Minutes. Steve suggested a change in the reporting of the bank balance being 29000.00 and change and to insert "Steve Duerr plans to run as Treasurer". This will be incorporated for approval in the next meeting, where two Minutes would be presented for approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** No change from the previous status. Steve reported that a few members have still not cleared their dues as March deadline is nearing. David remarked that they would have to be dropped from the roll. Upon e-mail reminders, three did not respond. Charlie requested for an updated paid-up membership list. It was reported that Tom Borne's email was not going through, and if he remains delinquent, a vacancy might be created on the council. David said that it would be important to know his current status and that he would call him. Motion to approve Treasurer's report was moved by Richard Goodman and seconded by Marvin. The Report was approved.

#### President's Remarks:

- David mentioned that Richard was currently working on an exciting initiative originating from the ACS through their executive VP, a Ms. Garrison.
- David talked of his work in San Francisco involving improved delivery methods for fire retardant chemicals keeping in mind the fire season coming up in North America. An investor is on board and that bodes well for the association as well. Upon Charlie's question if this project was his or association was involved, David responded that this was from 2 CHI's that were initiated 3-4 years ago. First one was developing the fire retardant and the second one is to finance the deployment. At any stage, now that investors are in, if need be David would involve other consultants.

- Additionally David talked about his recent work with a client where radio activity from a federal facility had caused death in violation of federal law. The law suit filed in Columbus, OH, should pierce the veil of sovereign immunity enjoyed by federal agencies. The discussion followed about the need for accountability and enforcement of safety that the judge in the case would have to look into awaiting response in 60-90 days from the defendants namely Departments of Energy and Labor. Also to address willful violation of fed laws by senior executives and need for total accountability considering the fact that theoretically there should not have been any contamination and hence a fatality outside the fence of the facility at all.
- David referred to Richard's emails regarding the ACS initiative. This would entail ACS creating a professionally formatted pilot project for qualifying and validating a Consultant with certification. Also that currently we as Council do not have a major project to work on in several years and if there was need for less frequent meetings. Richard has been invited to be a part of this pilot project as an expert for formulating the program. He then invited Richard to elaborate on this. Richard said he had tried to work on similar project 3-4 years ago which had fizzled out. Recently he had met with the business development executive of the ACS, a Ms. Garrison, who gave statistics of self -declared consultants who are members of ACS but ironically not of ACC&CE! She wanted to target these, some of who may be entrepreneurs with a product to sell. The project can be of focused and topical interest; training and educating how to set up business. Richard said that his proximity to Washington enabled him to accept their invitation to be an "expert" in developing this project.

Further discussion ensued regarding the ACS initiative for certifying consultants; what role would ACC&CE will play in it and how it would benefit it. David remarked that most of the ACC&CE consultants evolved from long experience in topical areas of expertise and have financial interest in their work by selling their brains. It was possible that new generation of consultants were created by downsizing or loss of opportunities or simply, choice. Richard said that in many cases track record of an expert is lost when he leaves employment either by choice or otherwise. His academically professional work ceases to be his, having been owned by the employer. No track record of work remains after being laid off. Next person may not have either the credibility or knowledge of these values. Some would- be consultants may oversell their service and who do not perform as expected or lack competence. David said in any case, clients are smart enough to gauge the competence of the consultant they have engaged. He suggested input to be obtained from Bill Carroll, a former president of ACS. How many members of ACC&CE are currently active ACS members? According to Marvin, the certification project seems more like a business for money grab than offering value. David also remarked that ACS meetings/conferences are expensive to attend. Charlie remarked that it was not appropriate to discuss this since everybody has a different take on it. We should see if the program gives any benefit to our membership. Possible cooperation may be good according to Joe and hence diplomatic discussion can be maintained.

According to David, we used to get the booth free at Chem Show. We get the free booth by conducting seminars. It would be worthwhile to have Chem Show continue the practice.

**Newsletter:** This is interim period between last and next newsletter and so there was nothing to report by Joe.

**Membership:** New member application from Nigeria for review after establishing credibility of professional membership details of the applicant. Feedback necessary to verify if this was a bona fide application, diplomatically maintaining integrity of our association at same time. An email query sent to the applicant had no response.

**Official Business:** David remarked that attendance at council meetings should be a priority to all councilors. Council business is a collective effort rather than individual. Tom Vichroski normally attends, and so does Cathy but were not in today.

**Reports of Committee Chairs:** Nothing was reported.

**Website:** Charlie said he is still looking for assistance with some website issues and he hasn't found someone yet. There was possibility of broadcasting our activity on other platforms, including schedules for facilitating participation. This broadcast could be limited to presentations but not council meetings.

David remarked that he had got emails from the Research Triangle Institute regarding O\*Net. Federal Department of Labor wants to define what a Chemical engineer is. Charlie said some attachments looked like templates and the ultimate objective was not clear. David said he would respond to the email and try to learn what was expected of any chemical engineer who volunteered. The "templates" were forms of letters that were required of ACC&CE.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled on March 10, 2020.

Motion to close the meeting was moved by Marvin and seconded by Steve. The meeting was closed at 8:03 p.m. EST.

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