

# Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers, Inc.



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## MINUTES

### Virtual Council Meeting of March 10, 2020

**ATTENDEES:** David Manuta (President), Steve Duerr (Treasurer), Charles Leonard, Dick Schauer, Bernie Ennis, Richard Goodman, John Wetzel, Tom Vichroski, Tom Borne. Charlie has Joe Porcelli's proxy. David appreciated the good turnout and it was agreed that the meeting had met quorum requirement.

**AGENDA AND CHANGES:** Meeting was called to order by David at 7:05 PM EDT. No agenda changes were requested.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:** The Minutes of previous council meeting were circulated by Koki and minor changes were made before finalizing. The Motion to approve the Minutes was moved by Charlie and seconded by Tom Vichroski. The Minutes were now approved unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** by Steve Duerr: The bank balance has increased by receipt of one membership fee (Kamesh Upadrashta). Four members' dues are still outstanding (Dave Armbruster, Mike Blumenthal, Tom Snyder, Bill Swartz). Of these, at least two are expected to pay even if late. Dave Armbruster's USPS address has changed. Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously after the motion to accept was moved by Tom Vichroski and seconded by Dick Schauer.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:** David remarked on the effect of Corona virus on professionals' activities. The meeting of the American Chemical Society has been cancelled and this is unprecedented. This is because of the vulnerability of older members to the threat of infection.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Program:** The matter of ACS's request referred to in the last month's council meeting has not been expanded according to Richard Goodman. There being no update from ACS, another speaker will have to be brought in which is difficult as the local chapter had also cancelled their award ceremony meeting where Richard could have met with and possibly sourced another speaker. With the uncertainties hanging around due to the pandemic threat, ACS will also be busy sorting out the fallouts from cancelled meeting. Richard suggested that somebody from ACC&CE could give the talk, especially new members who can enlighten us on their activities. Richard will reach out to new members and try to schedule something in a couple of weeks.

**Newsletter:** David mentioned that since Joe is not with us here tonight, he is sure that he (Joe) will have something out in next couple of weeks.

**Membership:** Inquiry was received from Roger Tietze in Conroe, Texas for membership. Acceptance letter was sent with invoice. The name of his company is PART Consulting LLC. Charlie asked about LinkedIn inquiry. David mentioned that following the interest generated by potential new members on LinkedIn, we should get more news. Charlie will send a list of LinkedIn reach outs (many of these are also ACC&CE members) to Dick Schauer for follow-up. David thanked Charlie for taking an initiative on this to which Charlie gracefully responded that actually Dick was going to do most of the work!

**Website:** Charlie mentioned that the website does get brute force attacks periodically. Some processes are updates. David mentioned that more vigilance might be necessary.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** David mentioned the first item being improved attendance at presentations, followed by possibilities of changed council meeting times to avoid conflicts with other meetings attended by members, especially the chemical engineers. A discussion followed on viability of first or second Tuesdays of a month for council meeting or presentation. It was suggested that the council meeting is held on second Tuesday and the speakers are persuaded to make the presentation on the first Tuesday. Tom Vichroski also suggested that Wednesdays are also good for various reasons.

**Key members and succession:** David suggested that Tom Borne and Tom Vichroski can volunteer and assume more formal activity in executive leadership aspects of the association. Tom Vichroski said he cannot due to his health situation.

David mentioned the quality of brochures at the Chem Show. Tom Vichroski has problem with his printer printing card stock. Charlie suggested if we can get somebody to do the work for us.

David said that by consultation ACC&CE and AIChE meeting conflicts should be avoided.

O\* Net: DOL has taken special interest in the Chemical Engineering profession and input from ACC&CE would be useful.

David invited Tom Vichroski to elaborate about his problematic printer under New Business. He said HP have not responded to him yet regarding the malfunctioning printer.

David will be in contact with J. Rose to create a knowledge based database of chemical engineers. This may or may not translate into monetization of the work through EOI for government work. Tom said that Ch. Engineering and Bio-Chemical engineering was now overlapping. Tom asked David if anybody other than Joe has responded to the documents circulated regarding the DOL request. Discussion followed about sending out these to the Chemical Engineers only and asking for their response by a blanket email to the association's members. Another way was to separate the Ch. Engineers from the Chemists in the Association. Charlie volunteered to do that.

**Next meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 14 April, 2020 at 7:00 pm. EDT

Motion to adjourn this meeting was proposed by Dick and seconded by Charlie. The meeting was adjourned by common vote at 7:50 pm EDT.

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