

Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers, Inc.



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MINUTES

Virtual Council Meeting of August 13, 2019

Attendees (all on-line) – David Manuta, Steve Duerr, Dick Schauer, Charlie Leonard, Bernie Ennis and Joe Porcelli.

Proxies – Richard Goodman

The meeting was called to Order at 7:00 PM EDT by President Manuta. The members present confirmed the Agenda did not require changes.

Minutes of the July 9, 2019 Minutes were approved, with a motion being made by Leonard, seconded by Duerr and carried.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Duerr reported that as of July 31, there were no changes in any of the figures (membership and finances) since the last month, with some website-related bills to be recognized in August.

The Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by Porcelli and seconded by Leonard.

President's Remarks

President Manuta, having heard just before the meeting stated that Goodman had agreed to be a candidate for Vice President, remarked that Richard would get support from all, and might help inspire other members to get involved in the Association's governance.

On another subject, Manuta stated that he has been getting mail from the Chem Show and that we are close to the time when we need to assemble a list of speaker and topics. Manuta said that Goodman had said he could give a talk via GoToMeeting, relieving him from the need to travel to New York City, and he suggested the next newsletter should emphasize that all members, no matter their locations, could effectively participate in the Association's activities. Manuta mentioned that he had agreed to give a talk to the Metro Section of AIChE, at their Monday evening, October 21 meeting at the Pfizer headquarters and that it was fortuitous that he was able to combine this with his trip to the Chem Show for Tuesday – Thursday, October 22 – 24. There was a long side discussion about Manuta's search for less-expensive places to stay in New York. Manuta

stressed that our participation at the Chem Show was important for our visibility, building on our original efforts years ago led by the late John Bonacci.

Manuta asked Ennis whether he could take care of the setup for having a GTM connection at the Javits Center and he agreed to do this. Manuta asked Porcelli whether he could give a presentation remotely, since he did not expect to be able to attend physically and he agreed to consider it.

The next item on the agenda was "Consolidation Working List of Candidates, and Porcelli, as chair of the Nominating Committee reported that with the addition of Goodman as a candidate for Vice President, and with Doshi having volunteered for the Secretary slot, our main focus would be on getting at least six candidates that would be willing run for election for the six Councilor slots, although we would also welcome other members who might be interested in being on the ballot for any of the three executive slots.

It was agreed that we would seek at least six candidates by contacting at least eight of the members we judge would be most likely to accept by a combination of email and a follow up phone call. Porcelli will circulate to the attendees of this meeting a new version of the message to be sent to those eight members. Manuta suggested we stress the flexibility of using GTM, so that all can participate without having to come to a physical meeting.

There was a long discussion about how the winning candidates for councilor would be chosen for the various "years", and the letter to the prospective candidates would be reviewed by the attendees at tonight's meeting. It was recognized that the bylaws require the slate of candidates to be published no later than two months before the annual meeting, and since the meeting will likely be the Wednesday of the Chem Show, that gives us a deadline of August 23 to have the candidates in place.

In the absence of Program Chair Goodman, there was nothing new regarding programming, and Editor Porcelli said there was nothing new regarding newsletter, with the next issue scheduled for the end of September.

Membership Chair Schauer reported that he was waiting for a response from a candidate in India to his questions, and that if he receives satisfactory answers, he will proceed with moving towards accepting him. There was some discussion of the difficulties due to time difference across the globe, but use of email should allow reasonably prompt responses.

There have been a number of other applications for membership from various locations, mostly foreign, and Manuta requested Leonard to assemble a file of the communications which may have not survived Schauer's spam filter. Schauer was reminded that he could obtain our brochures on our website to send to prospects.

Website

Webmaster Leonard mentioned that the technician from New Orleans has been working on our website and has upgraded our WordPress and probably 90% of our plug-ins, but that the remaining are not compatible with the newest version of WordPress. He is working on some other things for Leonard, and Leonard has spent \$500 so far for what has been done, and believes he has another \$350. Duerr said there is \$500 more in the budget, but that more is also available for marketing.

Porcelli said that he was expecting a proposal from someone he knows who specialized in marketing with deep knowledge of LinkedIn. He said he will submit a request for funds if he finds the proposal to be useful.

Regarding marketing, Leonard has had contact with Google Ads, but so far, they seem to be focused on local small businesses. Leonard was appointed the “point person” to follow this up.

Official Business

It was agreed that the issues regarding back-up for key members, and increase in participation would be ongoing. There was some discussion on the continued low-level of participation in our GTM Council meetings. It was suggested that this be addressed in the next newsletter.

Leonard described an email received from member Hoffmann suggesting we should have a feature in our newsletter recognizing contributions by other members. Specifically, he had asked another member Richman for help and in the email to ACC&CE, Hoffmann expressed appreciation. Duerr noted that we have not seen a CHI contribution. That led to Leonard introducing the request for help from member Fuschetti, who was trying to put together a project, which he would fund at the start. He was interested how the CHI payment should be structured. This generated a lot of ideas and discussion, but it was decided that the deal concept should be better defined and then a discussion on compensation could be carried out.

The next Council meeting is planned for September 24, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM EDT after motion to adjourn was made by Porcelli and seconded by Leonard.

Joe Porcelli, Secretary.