



**Minutes of the  
ACPA Annual General Meeting  
2:00 PM, 28 May 2011  
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, Alberta**

**Members Present:**

Ismail Ahmed, Frank Bachelor, Stan Backs, Wes Bell, Ron Brockbank, Donald Burke, Emy Chan, Edith Cook (Public Member of the Board), Roger Cowles, Darren Crichton, Kevin Dunn, Catherine Evans, Brad Gimbel, Sally Hanearin, Shane Harnish, Maqsood Hassan, Kathy Janzen, Elena Kanevski, Atosa Kavousian, Abdel Kharrat, Markus Li, Wen Lin, Xiaoting (Sam) Luo, Leslie May, Tom McCartney, Jesse Meints, Mosuro Olatunde, Luke Oparah, Trent Parks, Dean Parson, Anis Rehman, George Ruddock, John Schelske, Ken Schmidt, Dave Schwass, Maurice Shevalier, Frances Sutherland, Chris Swyngedouw, Brian Tsang, Ancy Zacharia, Jose Zacharia.

**Guests:**

Lydia Chen, Breanne Kamenz, Sita Kashanian, Michael Obermojer, Adrian Pritchard (Guest Speaker), Igor Volochtchik, Stephen Zielke.

**1. Call to Order**

- Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

**2. Introductions (and Expressions of Thanks)**

- Board of Directors
- Executive Director; ACPA representative on the Joint Environmental Professional Practice (JEPP) Board of Alberta; ACPA representatives on the National Advisory Committee on the Profession of Chemistry in Canada (NACPCC)
- Registration Committee
- Discipline Committee
- Practice Review Committee
- Awards Committee
- Technical Seminar Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Student Liaisons

**3. Celebration of the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) and the Tenth Anniversary of the ACPA – Kathy Janzen**

- On December 19, 2001, an Order in Council was passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta giving royal assent to the Professional Chemists Regulation. Thus, 2011 is the tenth anniversary of the ACPA as a regulated professional association in Alberta. By happy coincidence, 2011 is also the International Year of Chemistry.



- The successful 2011 ACPA Short Course on Scaling Chemistry was registered as an event celebrating the IYC.
- The ACPA has also sponsored a series of IYC chemistry outreach events across Alberta presented by Dr. Lucio Gelmini (Grant MacEwan University).
- Special ACPA anniversary/IYC pins were distributed by the student liaisons to those attending the AGM and will be mailed to all members who did not attend the meeting.

#### **4. Review of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM**

- *Motion* to Accept: Frank Bachelor. Second: Catherine Evans. Motion carried.

#### **5. President's Report – Kathy Janzen**

- Current membership levels of other professional associations in Alberta: APEGGA (engineers and geoscientists) – 60,000, AIA (agrologists) – 3500+, and ASPB (biologists) – 1000+. The ACPA is now at only about 400 members of all types.
- The ACPA may be the smallest association in this group, but we need to stand up and claim our rightful place in the professional landscape in Alberta before others fill that space. For example, the Faculty of Engineering at the U of A is one of the top five largest engineering schools in the world, and Chemical Engineering is its fastest growing Department. Some schools in the USA are already offering degrees in “Engineering Chemistry”. On the other hand, undergraduate programs in Chemistry Departments across Alberta are far smaller and often have difficulty attracting students.
- The challenge to ACPA members:
  - To increase our membership to 500 by our AGM 2012.
  - Do you know people who really should be members of the ACPA? We estimate that about 3000–6000 chemists now working in Alberta would qualify as ACPA members.
- The ACPA has already grown past the point where it can function as a purely volunteer organization. ManageWise Inc. has been contracted to provide administrative and reception services to the ACPA for over six years, and we now need a part-time Executive Director as well. Former Board member Stan Backs has agreed to serve as interim Executive Director until a formal executive search process can be completed by the Board.
- Our current webmaster, Eugene Dakin, has done an outstanding job designing and maintaining our website. However, he cannot reasonably be expected to continue to provide such large numbers of volunteer hours to the website. We also wish to provide further functions on the website: e.g., a members-only section of the website where members can pay their fees, register for courses and submit PDC information conveniently online. A members-only chat page would also be useful: it would be confidential (restricted to members) and could be used to discuss common problems and to distribute confidential posts from the RCMP (e.g., regarding chemical used for illicit drug production). We also hope to reduce some of our administrative costs by interfacing the registrations, renewals and payments section of the website with existing management and accounting software at ManageWise. We have therefore hired a professional web developer to provide these features in a new version of the ACPA website.
- However, hiring an Executive Director and a website developer costs money, and we cannot run the ACPA on good wishes.



- Current annual fees: APEGGA – \$295, AIA – \$475, ASPB – \$250, and ACPA – \$150.
- We propose to raise the annual fee for Professional Chemists to \$195 for 2012 to help cover these costs and to provide members with more services. Please recall that ACPA fees are tax deductible.
- Fortunately, the hard work of the Technical Seminar Committee, of ManageWise and of the speakers in the recent ACPA Short Course on Scaling Chemistry has resulted in an unbudgeted surplus of about \$18,000 for this course. This surplus will help to pay for much of the new expenses of the past year. A repeat of this course will be held in Edmonton on November 2 and 3, and it is also expected to turn a profit for the ACPA.
- We hope to provide a new member benefit soon: group rates for home and auto insurance with TD Meloche Monnex (as has long been available to members of APEGGA and of other professional organizations in Alberta).
- The National Action Committee on the Profession of Chemistry in Canada (NACPCC) is working on a nation-wide definition of the scope of practice of chemists as well as standardized practices for professional chemist organizations, including membership criteria, codes of ethics and discipline procedures. Nationwide standardization will particularly benefit ACPA members who wish to practice elsewhere in Canada. Ken Schmidt will be attending the June meeting of the NACPCC in Montreal on behalf of the ACPA.
- The NACPCC also is negotiating to provide group errors and omissions insurance coverage for chemists who are members of the ACPA, ACPBC (British Columbia), ACPO (Ontario), NSCS (Nova Scotia) and the Canadian Society for Chemistry. Dave Schwass provided the following details. Two types of coverage would be offered: (a) lower-level coverage primarily intended to discourage frivolous suits against individuals (including academics) who consult for pay or for free, and (b) higher-level coverage (in the millions of dollars) intended to cover actual damages as well as legal costs. Commercial general liability insurance and pollution insurance would also be offered. Negotiations are proceeding well, but nothing is finalized as yet.
- The PRO6 comprises APEGGA (engineers and geoscientists), AIA (agrologists), CAPF (foresters), CAPFT (forestry technologists), ASPB (biologists) and ACPA (chemists). This group has been meeting and communicating regularly to foster cooperation and to deal with common issues, particularly in environmental work. The ACPA is the smallest of the six, but we have been encouraged by their respect of our association and their offers of support (especially from APEGGA and AIA).
- Because we want graduating chemistry students to be involved in the ACPA and to provide us with their input, we needed to attract their attention. Accordingly, we developed an electronic information brochure aimed at them and loaded it onto attractive flash drives labelled with the ACPA logo and web address. These flash drives have been delivered to the U of A, the U of C and the U of L for distribution to all eligible chemistry graduates. The Department Chair at the U of C will be presenting them in person during their convocation ceremony.
- Kathy has met with the Department Chairs, chemistry faculty members and students at both the U of L and the U of C, and hopes to schedule a meeting soon with the Chemistry Department Chair and the Dean of Science at the U of A. The reception at both the U of L and the U of C has been quite encouraging. APEGGA and the Faculties of



Engineering at the U of A and U of C work as a team. We need to do the same with the Faculties of Science and the Departments of Chemistry in Alberta.

- In Saskatchewan, a threat to the scope of practice of chemists is being posed by the professional engineers, but they have no professional organization to protect them in that province. A group of concerned Saskatchewan chemists is encouraging chemists there to become members of ACPA for now, but also to form a separate society in Saskatchewan and develop it into a professional association similar to the ACPA.
- Professional practice exams for ACPA members are now on the horizon. First up will be an ethics course and exam to be developed in time for its first presentation at the CSC national meeting in Calgary in 2012. Ken Schmidt and the Technical Seminar Committee will be taking on this task. We intend that this course and exam be developed in conjunction with the members of the NACPCC and standardized for use across Canada. Passing this exam will eventually become a requirement of membership in the ACPA. The course will be generally based on the ethics requirements of the OCQ (Quebec), which already has this in place. After the ethics exam is in place, we will develop courses and exams in other areas of professional practice, including quality assurance, laws and regulations, and legal liability.
- The Technical Seminar Committee is also working to organize a new course on flow assurance (for pipelines and petrochemical transport) to be presented by Abdel Kharrat, a senior chemist at Schlumberger in Edmonton.
- Our goal is to have 500 members in ACPA by this time next year. Who do you know that should be a member and is not? Does your employer or organization ask for P.Chem. designations in their job ads? We need your help.

## **6. Treasurer's Report – Darren Crichton**

- 2010: Net income was approximately \$9000 greater than net expenses, which agreed well with the surplus budgeted for 2010.
- Income items for 2010 included member dues, fees, investment returns and website ads. Expenses included administration fees (ManageWise), awards, meeting costs, conference calls, bank charges, and office expenses.
- For 2011, the expenses and revenues listed above are budgeted to be similar (with allowances for increasing membership levels). Additional revenues have already been received from the short course on the Chemistry of Scaling earlier this year in Calgary, which made a profit of about \$18,000 (\$13,000 more than budgeted). A repeat of this course is planned for Edmonton in November. Additional expenses include a one-time expense of \$9000 to develop an updated website with members-only features and an ongoing expense of \$25,000 for a part-time Executive Director to assist the Board with the increasing workload. Given these extra expenses, a deficit had initially been budgeted for 2011. However, the profit from the first short course and the expected profit from the second may erase this deficit and balance the budget.
- Gratitude was expressed to the volunteer auditors, Nancy Cyr and James Leblanc. Since Nancy was retiring as an auditor, Catherine Evans volunteered to take her place for 2011.
- A question from the floor asked why no sponsorship revenue had been obtained. Unfortunately, it could be regarded by the public and the government as a possible conflict of interest for a professional organization to accept direct industrial sponsorships. However, we can get advertising sponsorships for individual events such as short courses.



- A comment from Dave Schwass suggested that taking a managed approach to ACPA investments might be better than just investing in GICs.
- A member suggested that the fees be raised to \$200 instead of \$195 so that a further increase in 2012 could be avoided.
- *Motion* to accept the Treasurer's report: Kevin Dunn. Second: Dave Schwass. Motion carried.

## **7. Registrar's Report – Trent Parks**

- 334 Full P.Chem. Members (322 in 2010)
- 18 Chemists in Training (16 in 2010)
- 11 Retired members (11 in 2010)
- 4 Associate Members (5 in 2010)
- 23 Student members (16 in 2010)
- 401 members overall (370 in 2010; 345 in 2009; and 321 in 2008.)
- 45 new members were approved and 14 memberships lapsed, for a net gain of 31 over the past year.
- Results of the special election of two members to the Board after the 2010 AGM):
  - Sally Hanearin
  - Julius Pretorius
- Results for the 2011 election of four members to the Board:
  - Shane Harnish
  - Patrick Kalita
  - Atosa Kavousian
  - Chris Swyngedouw
- *Motion* to accept the Registrar's report: Ken Schmidt. Second: Ismail Ahmed. Motion carried.

## **8. Report on the National Advisory Committee on the Profession of Chemistry in Canada (NACPCC)**

- Previously covered under the President's report.

## **9. Scholarships and Awards**

- Science Fair Awards:
  - Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta Award: Eric Xu and Ashlee Yang (Old Scona School) in Edmonton and Chang Su and Rose Sun (Western Canada High School) in Calgary.
  - ACPA Rick Dillen Memorial Award in Chemistry: Michael Gras and Brennon Grohn (Aurora Charter School) in Edmonton and Anna Svikhnushin and Madeline Blondal (Branton Junior High) in Calgary.
- Scholarships (presented by Sally Hanearin):
  - ACPA Undergraduate Scholarship in Chemistry: Breanne Kamenz (U. of Lethbridge)
  - Arthur Bollo-Kamara Graduate Scholarship: Lydia Chen (U. of Alberta)



## 10. Frank Bachelor Award – Frank Bachelor

- Awarded to Roger Cowles.

## 11. Chemist's Ring

- Two members elected to receive their Chemist's Rings at the AGM: Kosta Kollias (absent) and Ishkmandeep (Mini) Boparai.

## 12. Proposed Motion to Add Chemical Technologists as a Non-regulated Category of ACPA Membership

- The following was the original proposed motion to add chemical technologists as a non-regulated category of ACPA membership:
  - It is moved that the ACPA provide a place for chemical technologists within the ACPA by establishing the non-regulated category of Provisional Registered Chemical Technologist (PRCT). This unregulated membership category will allow the formation of a core group of technologists to work towards an eventual transition to regulated status as the Registered Chemical Technologist (RCT) category of ACPA membership.
- Kevin Dunn suggested that the words "Provisional Registered" be struck from the motion and simply call the membership category "Chemical Technologist," because this is a membership category and not a title. The category will have to be carefully defined by the Registration and Legislative Committees.
- Dave Schwass said the inclusion of chemical technologists in the ACPA was an excellent idea, and that this inclusiveness was envisioned when the ACPA was first formed as a society 20 years ago. It fills a gap in Alberta and aligns with the professional chemists' legislation in Nova Scotia.
- Technologists are also aligned within other PRO6 associations in Alberta (e.g. AIA).
- Frank Bachelor noted that the Registration Committee will need to be expanded, and that this committee will eventually need to include chemical technologists.
- ACPA will need to talk to the curriculum committees of NAIT and SAIT to help determine membership criteria for the Chemical Technologist category and to get buy-in from these committees (which include some primary employers of chem techs).
- The final wording of the motion was as follows:
  - *It is moved that the ACPA provide a place for chemical technologists within the ACPA by establishing the non-regulated category of Chemical Technologist.*
- *Motion:* Trent Parks. Second: Luke Oparah. Motion carried (unanimously).

## 13. Other Business

- *Motion* to destroy the ballots of the 2010 Special Election of Board Members: Trent Parks. Second: Dave Schwass. Motion carried.
- *Motion* to destroy the ballots of the 2011 Election of Board Members: Trent Parks. Second: Edith Cook. Motion carried.

## 14. Adjournment

- *Motion* to adjourn: Trent Parks. Second: Ken Schmidt. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.