

# LOCAL SECTIONS COMMITTEE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Email: [localsections@aiCHE.org](mailto:localsections@aiCHE.org)

## Letter from the Chair

By Sidney Haig Biddle, Local Sections Committee Chair

Welcome everyone to the summer edition of our Quarterly Newsletter! June is just behind us with graduation celebrations everywhere. I have been reflecting recently on Commencement day at Villanova University last month where I received my Master's degree in Biochemical Engineering. It was the culmination of a 3 year process in determining that I wanted to continue my education in Chemical Engineering as a student in the "over 40" crowd with a mainly 20-something year old student base, working full-time and juggling my evening and weekend hours as well as my work travel schedule to complete coursework and take exams, to finally marching slowly through the campus with my classmates and professors with bagpipes playing in the warm morning sun to the podium to receive my degree. While the experience was wonderful, I realized that I had gained a whole new set of technical skills, including not just the design and process of a biopharmaceutical facility, but a knowledge of modelling systems that now have the capability of actually being solved through newer computer software such as MatLab. It also brought me up to date on the technological advances in genetics and biology that were theoretical dreams 20 years ago. It was also a great opportunity to work with my younger peers in the field, giving them mentoring advice as most of them were just on the early road in their careers.

I want to encourage everyone to think about the benefits of expanding your horizons and furthering your education. This would include anything from taking a leave of absence to return full time to school, to pursue a completely different field of expertise that you have been dreaming about, to just taking that extra evening class at the local University to gain more knowledge in a particular area of expertise. You can usually enroll in up to two classes in a chemical engineering curriculum without being matriculated, and often your employer may pay for part or all of your coursework, if it is related to your field. In addition, AIChE offers the [AIChE Academy](#) which brings a full array of education and training resources to Chemical Engineers. You'll find

courses, webinars, as well as conference presentations. You can search by topic, delivery method, skill level - even location. So use this summer to plan for the fall!

The second topic is to congratulate our winners for the past quarter's Project Connect Grant:

- ❖ New York Twin Tiers Section: "Transitioning and Thriving in the New Work Environment"
- ❖ Western SC Section: "Clemson's Annual Spring Pig Roast"
- ❖ North Jersey Section: "Student Scholarship Awards Night"

Great job! We would also like to send congrats to the Program Planning Grant winner:

- ❖ Kansas City Section: "Eat, Drink, and be ChemE" Speaker Series

Thirdly, I'd like to let you know that AIChE will be voting on some by-law changes that will modernize and update the by-laws to be in conformity with New York's legal system on non-profits. Keep a lookout for email announcements, which you should see sometime in August. It is very important that all members participate in this election.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to read the following pages of our Newsletter. I would like to highlight the article submitted by the East Tennessee Local Section describing their recent events where a technical topic was paired with a tour. Not only does one gain factual knowledge, they get the opportunity to see the hands on application of that knowledge. Two examples of the locally focused programs were (1) Boone Dam, a nearby dam undergoing repair, and (2) Bellafina Chocolates, a local chocolate company run by a Chemical Engineer. I would encourage all sections to submit your successful Section activities, as they provide ideas for others to copy and learn.

Thank you for your efforts in making AIChE a success! Have a restful summer and see you next quarter.

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## REMINDER OF NEW FINANCIAL BEST PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL SECTIONS

By: Monica Mellinger, AIChE Staff

Thank you to those of you who have already completed these forms for your local section! This article is a reminder to those who have not yet sent us their information to complete their forms as soon as possible.

As a reminder, in the past few months the AIChE Board of Directors, the Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC), and the Local Sections Committee (LSC) have reviewed current best practices for local section financial processes across associations, and would like to adopt a few new requirements to ensure that financial safeguards are in place within all AIChE sections. Each local section is responsible for its own finances and record keeping as autonomous entities; therefore we would like to ensure that best practices are being put in place to protect local section members as well as local section leadership. We hope that these new processes will make your role as Treasurer easier, more clearly defined and more secure for your members.

To improve financial protections and coordination of dues distribution to your Local Section I have outlined below three new best practices that will be required for each AIChE local section.

- 1) **All sections must complete the AIChE treasurer's report.** It is truly critical to document the great work the section is doing and at the same time understand the financial health of each section. In recent years, we have had some difficulty retrieving these reports from all treasurers. Unfortunately, this is not best practice and opens up Local Section Leaders to potential liability.

As a result, we are now requiring the submission of the Treasurers Report **by May 31<sup>st</sup>** of each year (or two weeks after your section is legally required to file their taxes with the IRS). Here is a [link to the treasurer's report](#). Any LS needing assistance with this report should contact me at [monis@aiche.org](mailto:monis@aiche.org). Please note: These reports are separate from the Local Sections Annual Report.

- 2) In an effort to modernize and reflect current practice, AIChE will no longer be sending printed checks to our section treasurers. All payments will be sent electronically. Each quarter the local section treasurer will be emailed the dues summary report for their local section, which was previously mailed along with the check. To facilitate this new procedure, **all sections must submit their bank account information to facilitate direct deposit of quarterly dues monies (ACH payments)**. AIChE will not be able to process any payments without this information. Using [this form](#) (clicking link will start a Word doc download), please **submit your account info as soon as possible along with your most recent annual bank statement to [monis@aiche.org](mailto:monis@aiche.org)** (original deadline was May 31). Submitting this information is a onetime request unless the section changes bank accounts.
- 3) Lastly, **all sections must have at least two AIChE member signers on their bank account**. Contact information for all signers will need to be submitted to AIChE headquarters as soon as possible (original deadline was May 31) using the [Signer Form](#). Should these people change over time, the local section is expected to inform AIChE staff by completing the Signer Form again.

We hope you will agree that these requirements will make each local section more financially secure, up to date, and in keeping with current regulations. We truly appreciate your commitment to your local section and to AIChE as a whole. Should you have any questions regarding these new procedures, or need help completing any forms, please let me know. I look forward to receiving all of your materials soon.

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June 2016



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## HIGHLIGHTED LOCAL SECTION – EAST TENNESSEE LOCAL SECTION

By: Rachel McLendon, Vice Chair, and Andi Huffman,  
Chair

The East Tennessee Local Section has a history of active member involvement. Over the years this has included regular monthly lunch programs, short courses and PE review courses, among other things. Lately the section has experienced success in locally-themed events, pairing technical topics with follow-up tours. Two examples of the locally focused programs are that on Boone Dam, a nearby dam undergoing repair, and Bellafina Chocolates, a local chocolate company run by a chemical engineer. The program planning committee sought out to learn more about topics that were of interest to the local community as a whole. Since our members have a highly technical background, speakers were able to provide a new perspective on these commonly discussed topics.

In December of last year Patrick Kiser, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) project manager for the Boone Dam repairs, presented on the seepage remediation plan. Mr. Kiser had previously spoken about the dam repair at a community meeting to address concerns with the damages as well as the water level for homes and marinas downstream while the dam is under construction. This was necessarily a high-level overview due to addressing the general public. We invited Mr. Kiser give our members a deep dive into the Boone Dam project. His presentation was highly technical, providing insight into the extensive work done to define the failure mechanism and the ongoing process to repair the dam in a safe and timely fashion. Plenty of time was allotted for a question and answer session to help address specific concerns or interests. As a follow-up to the December program, Mr. Kiser led a group of AIChE members on a tour of the dam site. The tour was attended by engineers ranging greatly in age and work experience, providing an excellent networking opportunity while simultaneously allowing attendees to see firsthand the ongoing work which had been discussed at the program. Mr. Kiser enjoyed the community engagement and positive interest in the project.

If you are interested in contributing to future newsletters, being a highlighted local section or have general updates for the good of all local sections, please email [localsections@aiche.org](mailto:localsections@aiche.org).

In January Dr. Brenda Barnicki, owner of Bellafina Chocolates in Kingsport, TN, gave a presentation on the science of chocolate. Dr. Barnicki has a chemical engineering background and recently left a position at Eastman Chemical Company to work full time on her chocolates business. Her presentation provided technical insights into the chemical components of chocolate, emulsion properties, and the tempering process required for ideal crystallization. She was able to provide pictures showing the different tempering stages as well as common mistakes and how to fix them based on the chemistry water and fat interactions. In the weeks following her presentation, AIChE members were able to tour the Bellafina Chocolates shop and see the chocolate making process which had previously been discussed. There was a demonstration of the equipment used, which requires unique, tailored solutions in order to automate the process of tempering.

Overall, the chapter found great success in the locally themed programs, which were some of the best attended events of the season. The chapter plans on arranging more local-theme joint presentation and tour programs in future due to the success of these two events.

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## UPDATING YOUR MEMBER PROFILE

By: Monica Mellinger, AIChE Staff

[AIChE Engage](#) Discussion Central launched earlier this spring. This new discussion platform, exclusively for AIChE members, allows you to find and connect with AIChE members and their chemical engineering communities and pose and answer questions related to your specific interests. You can also manage your profile and keep track of your member benefits.

To make the most out of this new platform, I encourage you to login and update your AIChE member profile with your up to date career information and upload a photo of yourself so your peers can put a face with your name (this can be imported directly from LinkedIn!). I look forward to seeing each of you on Engage!

[engage.aiiche.org](http://engage.aiiche.org)

## 2016 LSC CONFERENCE CALLS

August 9 - 2pm Eastern

September 27 - 3:30pm Eastern

November 14 - 12:30pm Pacific at [Annual Meeting](#)

All local section chairs, vice chairs, secretaries and treasurers are invited to attend these calls.

## Other Resources for Section Leaders

### Speaker's Corner

The [Speakers Corner](#) provides local sections with a list of experts and outstanding communicators who are interested in presenting on their work and the state of chemical engineering. This is a great tool for planning programming at your section's meeting!

### Funding for Sections Available

Apply today for a [Program Planning Grant](#) or a [Project Connect Grant](#)! Awards available to assist local sections with membership outreach efforts. Next deadline is for the Project Connect Grant is June 30, 2016. Next deadline for the Program Planning Grant is September 30, 2016.

### Shining Star Award

Recognize outstanding volunteerism within your local section by nominating someone for the [Shining Star Award](#). Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2016.

### Update Your Officer Roster

You can see who AIChE has listed as officers of your local section by clicking on your section name in the [Find a Local Section website](#). If this listing is out of date, [complete the officer update form](#).

### Website Platform Available at No Charge

Whether you're using AIChE's old platform or are using a third party platform, learn more about [AIChE's web platform](#), [see examples](#) of sections already using them, and [request your new, free website today](#).

More resources available at the [Resources for Local Section Leaders](#) website.



# Calendars

## AICoE Meetings Calendar

For information and registration details, visit [www.aiche.org/conferences](http://www.aiche.org/conferences) or call Customer Service at 1-800-242-4363 or 1-203-702-7660 (outside the U.S.).

<b>JULY 14–15, 2016</b>	<b>Sustainable Packaging Symposium '16 — Waste Valorization: Using Renewable Co-Products as Feedstocks (Sponsored by IfS)</b> UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center • Lowell, MA
<b>JULY 18–21, 2016</b>	<b>2016 Synthetic Biology: Engineering, Evolution &amp; Design (SEED) (Sponsored by SBE)</b> Hilton Chicago • Chicago, IL
<b>AUG. 22–23, 2016</b>	<b>7th CCPS Latin American Conference on Process Safety</b> Lima, Peru
<b>SEPT. 13–16, 2016</b>	<b>2nd RCN Conference on Pan American Biofuels &amp; Bioenergy Sustainability (Sponsored by IfS &amp; SBE)</b> Buenos Aires, Argentina
<b>SEPT. 18–22, 2016</b>	<b>61st Annual Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium</b> Grand Hyatt Denver • Denver, CO
<b>SEPT. 19–21, 2016</b>	<b>Council for Chemical Research Annual Meeting</b> Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Convention Center • Bethesda, MD
<b>OCT. 5–6, 2016</b>	<b>CCPS European Conference on Process Safety and Big Data</b> DECHEMA-House • Frankfurt am Main, Germany
<b>OCT. 6–7, 2016</b>	<b>8th Southwest Process Technology Conference</b> Moody Garden Hotel & Convention Center • Galveston, TX
<b>OCT. 23–26, 2016</b>	<b>International Conference on Stem Cell Engineering</b> Marriott Bloor Yorkville • Toronto, Ontario, Canada
<b>OCT. 24–27, 2016</b>	<b>5th International Congress on Sustainable Science and Engineering (ICOSSE '16)</b> Soochow Univ. • Suzhou, China
<b>NOV. 12–13, 2016</b>	<b>Translational Medicine and Bioengineering Conference</b> Hilton San Francisco Union Square • San Francisco, CA
<b>NOV. 13–18, 2016</b>	<b>2016 AICoE Annual Meeting (Student Conference, Nov. 11–14)</b> Hilton San Francisco Union Square • San Francisco, CA
<b>DEC. 16–18, 2016</b>	<b>International Conference on Plant Synthetic Biology and Bioengineering</b> The Palms Hotel and Spa • Miami, FL
<b>MAR. 26–30, 2017</b>	<b>2017 AICoE Spring Meeting and 13th Global Congress on Process Safety</b> San Antonio, TX

## AICoE Academy Calendar

### Public Courses

For more information, and to register, visit [www.aiche.org/academy](http://www.aiche.org/academy).

<b>JULY 25–28, 2016</b> CHICAGO, IL	<b>CCPS' Process Safety Boot Camp</b> Course # CH900 • Instructors: Jerry Jones, Albert Ness
<b>SEPT. 19–22, 2016</b> PITTSBURGH, PA	<b>CCPS' Process Safety Boot Camp</b> Course # CH900 • Instructors: Steve Eason, Ellen Lenz
<b>SEPT. 20–21, 2016</b> NEW YORK, NY	<b>AICoE's Project Management for Chemical Engineers</b> Course # CH138 • Instructors: Gwenn Carr, Gary Englehardt
<b>SEPT. 20–22, 2016</b> PHILADELPHIA, PA	<b>AICoE's Essentials of Chemical Engineering for Non-Chemical Engineers</b> Course # CH710 • Instructor: Jack Hipple
<b>SEPT. 27–28, 2016</b> HOUSTON, TX	<b>AICoE's Crystallization Operations</b> Course # CH110 • Instructor: Wayne Genck
<b>SEPT. 27–29, 2016</b> ORLANDO, FL	<b>AICoE's Distillation in Practice</b> Course # CH004 • Instructor: John Farone
<b>SEPT. 27–29, 2016</b> NEW YORK, NY	<b>Combo Course: AICoE's Flow of Solids AND Pneumatic Conveying (CH032 and CH033)</b> Course # CH757 • Instructor: Eric Maynard
<b>OCT. 17–21, 2016</b> ATLANTA, GA	<b>Combo Course: CCPS' HAZOP Studies and Other Hazard Evaluation Procedures AND Advanced Concepts for Process Hazard Analysis (CH157 and CH754)</b> Course # CH759 • Instructor: Robert Johnson

### Webinars

Register and view live and archived webinars at [www.aiche.org/webinars](http://www.aiche.org/webinars).

<b>JULY 13, 2016</b> 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Engineering and Science Publication Practice and Ethics</b> Presenter: Michael Domach
<b>JULY 27, 2016</b> 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Sponsored Webinar: The Importance of Understanding Process When Implementing Your Mechanical Integrity Program (Sponsor: Provenance Consulting)</b> Presenter: Vipin Vijayakumaran
<b>AUG. 3, 2016</b> 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>Fundamentals of Applied Project Management</b> Presenter: Eldon Larsen
<b>AUG. 10, 2016</b> 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>The Chemistry of Ice Cream</b> Presenter: Richard Hartel
<b>AUG. 17, 2016</b> 2:00–3:00 PM ET	<b>AICoE and North American Membrane Society Webinar: Membrane Materials Perspectives</b> Presenter: Benny Freeman