

More information on July's meeting can be found on the [VLS Events Website](#)

FROM THE CHAIR: PROGRESS !

Amanda Scalza



The Virtual Local Section may have a short history compared to the nearly one hundred years of The Institute, but I am proud of the VLS progress thus far.

We have grown to over 525 members in 30 countries. Our programming has covered everything from Institute issues to emerging technology, industrial history to the basics of finances. We've had some success, some failures, and learned and grown from it all. I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of our progress in the past year, and reflect on the goals we have yet to achieve.

Some of the major goals of 2015 are to secure and advertise speakers further in advance, create a greater sense of inclusion within the organization, and increase active involvement.

Overall, there has been greatest success in this first goal. I attribute this to a high level of involvement and commitment by our Board of Directors. As I hope you have seen, we have mostly been able to advertise, at minimum in our newsletters and meetings, upcoming programming significantly far in advance. This is a benefit to allow members to plan ahead if there is a speaker they are particularly interested in viewing. We have also been increasingly

successful advertising on our VLS webpage, LinkedIn, and within the Local Section community. Unfortunately, this has not increased attendance as much as we hope, a goal we will continue to work on throughout the year and beyond.

One of the unique challenges of being a virtual local section is creating a sense of community and ensuring members have a personal connection to the club. Three specific meetings have been created this year in attempt to solicit interaction by members and work to meet this second goal. We kicked off the year with a talk by Dan Lambert to celebrate our five-year anniversary and solicit feedback on how to improve service to our members as one idea to accomplish this second goal. In addition, our July meeting will be hosted by John O'Connell, past Fellows Council Chair, who will help a panel of fellows answer questions by members and solicit feedback and stories by active fellows in the audience. Lastly, our September meeting will be a Student Industrial Internship Contest.

One of our biggest struggles as an organization has been to create active involvement within the organization. This local section, and this professional organization, would not be possible without the dozens of volunteer faces behind it. From assisting roles with smaller time commitments, to elected positions, each is vital in its own way. Next month, we will begin forming our nomination committee to

fill 2016 positions. You may think about running, or about assisting on the committee. Some other tasks we are always looking for assistance on are Young Professional activities, advertising, and programming. As the saying goes, what you get out is what you put in.

I hope you have enjoyed your experience with the Virtual Local Section, and that you plan on continuing your membership in 2016. As always, you can help make the experience better simply by sending some feedback to virtualaiche@gmail.com, visiting our website on aiche.org or sending a note on our [LinkedIn](#) page. Thanks for tuning in!

SPECIAL NOTICES

Meeting on Tuesday Next Month!!!!

The VLS continues its popular tradition of hosting an Institute-wide forum for the candidates for AIChE President-Elect. As in the past, to accommodate schedules for these busy candidates, we often move the meeting from our regular fourth Thursday schedule. 2015 is no exception – please join us on Tuesday, August 25th, as candidates [T. Bond Calloway](#) and [Wendy Young Reed](#) discuss their visions for AIChE and the profession.

Submit Questions for the Candidates

Readers are encouraged to submit questions to be asked of the candidates for President-Elect at the VLS meeting on Tuesday, August 25. Please submit your questions to Chair Amanda Scalza at virtualaiche@gmail.com.

The deadline for question submission is Friday August 7, 2015.

Get More Involved in VLS!

As Amanda notes, think about nominating yourself or another VLS member for director or chair-elect. The rewards are working with a great group of people and learning about the Institute, successful virtual operations and AIChE.

SEPTEMBER STUDENT SHOWCASE

Co-op and Summer Internship Presentation Competition

Students, did you enjoy your time as an industrial intern or co-op, and work on a unique or exciting project? Want to share your work with a broader audience?

Enter the Virtual AIChE Presentation Contest for a chance to share your experience, practice your presentation skills and win great awards!

Participants must be *undergraduate chemical engineering students* (graduating Dec 2015 or later). The work presented must have been done this year as part of an *industrial co-op or summer internship*. Teams of 2 students are permitted if both meet qualifications.

Students should present their original work done during the co-op or summer internship. *Before submitting an abstract*, obtain the required written approval from your supervisors, and mentors and anyone else required by the regulations of your

your industrial sponsors. Students whose abstracts are accepted must be available for live virtual presentations at the VLS Meeting on September 24, 2015 at 8:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time (USA) with a microphone and internet connection.

Presentations should be less than 10 minutes and will be judged by practicing chemical engineers using the following criteria:

- Application and demonstration of chemical engineering principles in the students' work
- Understanding of the process and underlying chemistry and physics
- Clarity and appearance of slides and presentation
- Understanding how the student's work could be used, applied, or extended into other applications and industries
- Ability to answer questions

Timeline

7/24 - abstracts due (300 words or less)

8/24 - students notified of acceptance; announced at meeting Aug 27

9/17 - Presentations due

9/22 - Recommended "dry run" to test WebEx connections

9/24 - Presentations

The [online submission form for the abstract](#) is on the VLS website. For any questions, email virtualaiche@gmail.com or Noah Meeks, Past Chair, at NoahChemE@icloud.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VLS Meetings are USUALLY the fourth

Thursday of the month:

--- **Thursday, July 23rd** ---

AIChE Fellows: Who, Why, and How?

--- **Tuesday, August 25th** ---

AIChE Presidential Candidates

--- **Thursday, September 24th** ---

Student Showcase (Paper Competition)

--- **Thursday, October 22nd** ---

[Vice Admiral Joseph Dyer, USN \(ret\)](#)

2015 is European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year

ATTENDING A VLS MEETING

- **Join by internet:**
 - <https://aiche.webex.com/aiche/j.php?MTID=m8a0766c5d03559acce05542a78513954>
 - Meeting number 276 141 101
- **Join by phone:** Access code: 276 141 101
 - 1-866-469-3239 Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada)
 - 1-650-429-3300 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)
 - [Global Call-in numbers](#)
 - [Toll-free calling restrictions](#)

Attendance at a Virtual Section Meeting is open to AIChE Virtual Local Section Members, AIChE members and other interested people.

PDH CREDIT FOR VLS MEETINGS

LAURA J. GIMPELSON, P. E.

Attendees of the Virtual Local Section Meetings can receive up to 1 hour of professional development credit that meets the continuing education requirements of most state professional engineering registrations. To receive the certificate documenting your attendance, send an email to the VLS secretary, Laura Gimpelson, at virtualaiche@gmail.com.

Include the following information in your email:

1. Name of the Presentation and Speaker
2. Attendee's name as listed on the registration certificate
2. Attendee's registration number and state/providence of issuance

The certificate, in pdf format, will be issued within 30 days of the receipt of the request.