

# 2019 AIChE Virtual Local Section Elections

## Candidate Statements

(Polls Open Oct 15 to Oct 28, 2019)

### Chair Nominee: Dam Lambert



Dan Lambert is a Fellow Engineer at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL; Aiken, SC), where he specializes in process development for stabilizing high-level radioactive waste generated from nuclear weapons production. His current research focus is to improve processing efficiency by developing a new antifoam and to increase process safety by eliminated the production of hydrogen and ammonia.

Dan received his BS in chemical engineering from Ohio State Univ. and began his career with the U.S. Air Force's Space Div. (Los Angeles, CA). He has spent 33 years at SRNL, where he leads research for the only active nuclear waste vitrification facility in the United States.

Dan is a 36-year member of AIChE; an AIChE Fellow; founding chair of AIChE's Virtual Local Section; former chair of the Career and Education Operating Council (CEOC), the Central Savannah River Local Section, and the Nuclear Engineering Div.; the Webinar Advisory Editor; an advisor to the and served on AIChE's Board of Directors (2014–2016). He is a recipient of the Nuclear Engineering Div.'s Robert E. Wilson Award, the Local Section Shining Star Award, and two Gary Leach Recognition awards for service to the Virtual Local Section and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Local Sections.

Dan is married to Nancy, a nurse and they live in Aiken, SC. They have two sons, Mike and Eric. Mike is a Plant Manager for SI Group in Bay Minette, AL and Eric is pursuing his PhD in pharmaceuticals at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Both Mike and Eric have a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. Dan enjoys working out at the Y, teaching an adult Sunday school class, and hiking with Nancy.

### Vice-Chair Nominee: Paul Adamson



It has been an honor serving as the programming chair for AIChE VLS during 2019. In this capacity, it's been a real joy to work with others on the VLS leadership team to bring our membership some exciting and interesting webinar topics such as an exploration of the chemistry of bourbon and a comparison of Python and fortran programming languages.

I've also worked to establish a documented workflow for managing communications for programming, and as Vice-Chair, I would build upon this effort to improve overall efficiency of VLS operations.

**Secretary Nominee: Laura Gimpelson**



Ms. Laura Gimpelson, P. E., is President of LG Environmental Engineering, an engineering firm specializing in the design and implementation of sustainable environmental and safety compliance programs and remediation plans. With over 40 years in the environmental and safety fields, she specializes in using sustainable processes and technologies to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater.

She is a life member and Fellow of AICHE and SWE and ASTM. Ms. Gimpelson has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award from AICHE and SWE local sections and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2010 Central Florida Engineers Week Committee for her work in environmental engineering.

**Director Nominee 1: Scott Clarke**



Hi VLS members, my name is Scott Clarke and I am hoping for your support to represent you as a Director on the Virtual Local Section's Executive Committee. I am currently working as a Graduate Chemical Engineer with the Scottish company Forsyths, working on design, fabrication and commissioning of processing equipment for the alcoholic beverage distilling industry. I have been a member of the VLS for only a year now but I have really enjoyed and valued the support and engagement it has given me with the Chemical Engineering community all over the world. This has motivated me to post more regularly on the VLS discussion forum and stay in the meeting after the second replay of the webinar to try and spark some more conversations and valuable connections with, and between, other members of the section.

I am hoping to help extend this feeling of engagement and support to more of the VLS membership in a member care or publicity role on the board of Directors. Some positive steps I would like to build on are:

- Regularly sending out short surveys or asking questions on the discussion forum to gauge the opinions and interests of members like you, to ensure you're getting webinar and discussion topics that interest and excite you and provide the value you're looking for from your membership of the VLS.
- Increasing the amount of conversations (and connections) happening on the discussion forum by regularly posting about the webinars and topics we find VLS members are interested in and asking you to share your own experiences/learnings in the jobs you've had.
- Help VLS members to contribute to shaping the section by raising awareness of the smaller time-commitment volunteering opportunities and the committee members they can contact if they have ideas they'd like to see the section implement.
- Further encouraging members to join meetings early and stay on after the presentations to foster more personal connections with your fellow Chemical Engineers in the section

**Director Nominee 2: Paul Wissmann**



I would like to run for a Director position for the AIChE Virtual Local Section (VLS) Executive Committee. I graduated from the University of Illinois in 2003 with a BS in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and then went to Georgia Institute of Technology and received my PhD in 2008. For the past 10+ years I have been with various chemical companies in process engineering roles working in Ohio, Alabama, and now in the Hudson Valley of NY with BASF Colors & Effects. I have been a member of AIChE for most of my career and have been excited to be a part of the VLS for the past few years. I enjoy being able to stay connected to the chemical engineering community although there is no local section for me to be a part of and I enjoy the flexibility of “attending” meetings at different times or seeing an archive of the meeting.

I would like to serve as a Director on the Executive Council of VLS. I am intrigued with the virtual chapter concept and I see the many benefits. I also see the opportunities to broaden our reach and perhaps create regional “sub-sections” where it would be possible to have an occasional in person meeting or event. I will attend the board meetings to the best of my ability and contribute to the management and program decisions of the group. I would also like to chair one of the committees or serve as Secretary of the Advisory Council, wherever my skills can be most useful.

**Director Nominee 3: Shrikant Vempati**



Growing up, I was good in math and science, so I wanted to become an engineer since middle school. During my high school years, I happened to see my cousin, who was a chemical engineer - working with some operating company in India, who inspired me to pursue chemical engineering. I was impressed the way the chemical engineering field was so broad, and its contribution to the mankind in day to day life.

After High School, I completed my Bachelor’s Chemical Engineering before I moved to the U.S.A. for my Master’s. I completed my Master’s in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2003. Since 2003, I have been working as Process Design Engineer, mostly in the oil & gas industry. Currently I live with my family in Houston, TX.