

DALLAS SECTION AIChE FEB. 28, 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

A Dallas Section AIChE Executive Committee meeting and general meeting was held on February 28, 2012 at Two Guys From Italy Restaurant.

A) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The attendees were as follows:

Chair: José Ramiro Rodríguez Perazza
Vice Chair: Donald Miller
Treasurer: Fernando J. Aguirre
Secretary: Fred Eisen
Director: Nancy Garnett

Excused absence for business reasons were Directors M.W. (Neal) Abernathy and Keith Miller. Director Derek White-Stephens was also absent. Director Abernathy delegated his proxy to the chair.

Below is a brief summary of the meeting.

- 1) New Bylaws – The latest version of the proposed bylaws were reviewed. Several possible minor revisions were discussed. The Chair will incorporate agreed upon changes and reissue. Target date for presentation of proposed new bylaws to the membership is still April.
- 2) Section Membership – The Chairman prepared a statement informing National that the Section supports the proposal that local section dues be automatically charged to all national members when they are billed for their annual national dues. If this proposal is not adopted by National, the Section requests that National continue to include local section dues on all their annual membership renewal forms (with members having the option of crossing it out) every year without regard to previous years' selections. The statement was approved.
- 3) Other Business – The Chairman and Treasurer are planning to attend the Local Section Leaders Workshop in Houston on March 31 & April 1. This is held at the AIChE Spring Meeting scheduled for April 1-5, 2012. A request for a grant to help defray the cost to attend will be submitted to National. Also, the minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting were approved.

B) GENERAL MEETING

Attendance at the general meeting was 18.

The Chair made some welcoming remarks and briefly discussed recent events including the redoing of the bylaws. The Vice Chair pointed out that several firms were hiring ChEs and introduced their representatives. He also announced that next month's meeting will be about the new NESHAP and MACT regulations for oil & gas. The Treasurer gave a brief report which was approved. Currently we have \$10, 643 in the bank. A drawing was held for those who made an advanced reservation for the meeting. ??? won a \$40 Pappadeaux's gift card.

The speaker for the evening was Frank Prokop of Lexington Group International. His topic was "Plant Uptime Improvements Are Possible Via Advanced Diagnostics Instruments". He discussed the newest evolution of smart valves and transmitters and how they can play a key role all the way up to top management where device functionality directly impacts the bottom line. He reviewed these new instruments' capabilities and gave some process improvement examples.

Contrary to older valves and transmitters, these new instruments have memory capabilities that, with the proper software, are used to detect performance degradation because of wear, allowing timely preventive maintenance to optimize their continued performance.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9 PM.

Fred Eisen
Secretary

3/11/12