

2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election Candidates and Statements

Candidate Slate:

Vice Chair: Marc Clithero

Secretary: William G “Bill” Osborne, Rohit Pal

Director Positions 5 and 6:

Dhananjay Ghonasgi, Janaina Aguiar, Srikar Nemani

Candidate statements follow, along with the continuing
Executive Committee members.

2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election Candidates and Statements

Vice Chair

(4-year 2026-2029 Sequence)

Marc Clithero



I am fortunate to be a member of the highly active AIChE VLS as I live outside of the USA and can't join a local section. I know first-hand that VLS provides a valuable network for overseas AIChE members (we're never forgotten!). I feel that the VLS should continue its great efforts with all process / chemical engineers irrespective of location. If elected, I will contribute my best efforts on the Executive Committee with an insight from overseas.

Marc Clithero is an expert expat in process design / operational support of oil gas / refinery facilities across the Middle East and Kazakhstan / Uzbekistan region. He has over 30 years' experience mostly outside the UK and in countries he doesn't speak the native language!

2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election Candidates and Statements

Secretary

(2-year Term, 2026-2027)

William G “Bill” Osborne



Hello, I am William G. “Bill” Osborne, a retired Chemical Engineer and chemical business executive. I received a BS in Chemical Engineering (1962) from Texas A&M, an MS & PhD in Chem E. from Oklahoma State University (1964 and 1967, respectively), and an MBA from Emory University’s Goizueta School of Business (1996). Following graduation from OSU, I worked for DuPont (research), Kaiser Aluminum (engineering & business), and LaRoche Industries (business) from which I retired in 2002. At LaRoche, I served as Vice President with assignments in an alumina chemicals business, Purchasing & Logistics, Mergers & Acquisitions, Interim CFO, and President and CEO of LII Europe.

Following retirement, I worked for the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Habitat Metro Jackson (2002 - 2013). Since retiring from Habitat Jackson, I have volunteered in my church, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral, Rotary, Toastmasters International, and Boy Scouts of America Troop 1. I have been a member of AIChE since 1966. Currently, I am Treasurer of the High Noon Toastmasters Club and the Rotary Club of North Jackson. I became affiliated with the VLS in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and have remained a member since then. I live in Central Mississippi where there is not a local AIChE section.

Secretary

(2-year Term, 2026-2027)

Rohit Pal



Hello, I am running for the position of Secretary of the AIChE Virtual Local Section (VLS) Executive Committee. I am running for this position because I have experienced the impact that the VLS chapter has had on my personal growth and career. From stimulating thought provoking discussions to networking with the experts in the new and emerging fields of chemical engineering, I am truly amazed by the opportunities VLS has provided me. As your Secretary, I will foster stronger engagement within the leadership team, act as an effective liaison, and help ensure our chapter remains engaging, equitable, and accessible to all members.

I hold a Ph.D. and a Master’s in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto. I started my engineering career in the offshore oil industry in 2015 as a Process Specialist in the Projects and Technologies division at Shell UK. Since then, I have held positions within federal and academic research institutions across Canada. Recently, I led a study at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to simulate a pilot-scale Direct Air Capture system under sub-ambient conditions. Currently, I am leading an industrial project at Polytechnique Montréal to scale up multi-stage microwave reactors for polymer recycling. I love being at the forefront of innovation in Process Engineering and bringing it to the next generation of engineers. I have delivered lectures and offered Unit Operations laboratory course at the University of Toronto to equip the next generation of engineers with the tools to succeed.

As your Secretary, I will bring the same dedication to building connections, advancing knowledge, and strengthening our VLS community. I am committed to carrying out the specific duties of this position to ensure VLS not only fulfills its mission but also shapes a bold new vision for the future.

2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election Candidates and Statements

Director Position 5 and 6

(3-year Term, 2026-2028)

Dhananjay Ghonasgi



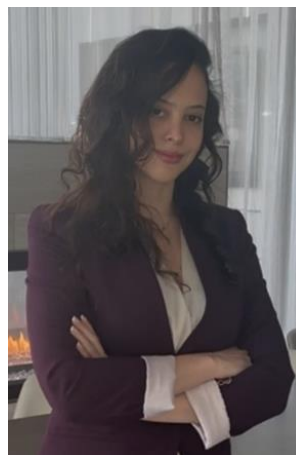
In today's fast paced technologically evolving World, it is important to be connected to a network of peers that can help us navigate. I think the AIChE Virtual Local Section (VLS) offers such a network. I have been a part of the AIChE VLS section for 3 years and have attended their webinars for even longer. I would like to continue in the role of AIChE VLS director for a 3-year term. Currently, I handle Publicity/Social Media/Website for the section. The role of director allows me to give back to a community and a profession that has provided me with knowledge, wisdom, and security. In this role I would like to continue my personal and professional growth. I humbly ask for your vote so that I can serve the Chemical Engineering Community.

Bio: Dhananjay Ghonasgi is a Lead Research Engineer at Chevron. Dhananjay has almost 30 years of experience in the Energy industry. He graduated with a PhD from Rice University, a M.S. From Louisiana State University, and a B.S. From University of Mumbai. Dhananjay has authored about 25 patents and 15 papers published in peer reviewed journals. Dhananjay lives in Bartlesville, OK, is married and has two children.

Director Position 5 and 6

(3-year Term, 2026-2028)

Janaina Aguiar



Hi! I'm Janaina Aguiar (dramatic pause) and I'm running for the Director position.

The first time I heard about AIChE was in 2013, back in Brazil, while I was a PhD candidate. I became an AIChE member and went on my first international trip for an international conference.

It was a huge event in San Francisco, and I was delighted. It wasn't my first international conference—I had already participated in FBPoI and Petrophase Conferences, for example—but the possibility of immersing myself in so many areas in just a few days was wonderful. I was truly impressed.

This is what AIChE represents to me: a way to stay aware of and updated on the different areas of chemical engineering, which are so diverse yet at the same time integrated.

As a chemical engineer with two master's degrees, three specializations, and a PhD—with papers published in conference proceedings and peer-reviewed journals such as Fuel, Energy & Fuels, the Journal of Applied Polymer Science, and the Brazilian Journal of Petroleum and Gas—and as someone who has volunteered in organizing national and international technical events and reviewing papers for conferences and international journals, I understand how important it is to have access to high-quality presentations without spending excessive amounts of money.

And this is what VLS means to me: a bridge between great professionals who are open to sharing their knowledge with the world. Helping to make this bridge longer and more well-known, so that more people can benefit, is what inspired me to apply today.

My main areas are pharmacy (long history), polymers, sustainability, and energy industry focused on oil & gas. I have experience marketing events, coordinating hundreds of people events, collaborating to determine full technical programming of events and I'm happy that I read the newsletter that summer day of 2025.

**2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election
Candidates and Statements**

Director Position 5 and 6

(3-year Term, 2026-2028)

Srikar Nemani



Hello, I am Srikar Nemani, a pre-final year Chemical Engineering student from Osmania University, India. I have been a member of AIChE for the past two years, and I see the Virtual Local Section (VLS) as a valuable platform for students and professionals to connect and grow together.

As a young and enthusiastic member, I believe I can bring fresh energy, new perspectives, and a student's outlook to the Executive Committee. My passion lies in safety and education, supported by my achievement of the Safety and Chemical Engineering Education (SACHE) Certifications (Level 1 and Level 2). In addition, my experience as an Operations Committee Member for TEDx Osmania 2025 has strengthened my organizational, teamwork, and event-management skills, which I believe will be valuable in supporting member care and feedback initiatives within the VLS.

I also see serving on the Executive Committee as an important step in my personal development. It will give me the opportunity to learn leadership, improve collaboration, and develop the skills needed to contribute more meaningfully to the chemical engineering community.

If elected, I will work to welcome and engage new members so they feel connected and supported in the VLS community and use my organizational experience to help plan and coordinate programs that benefit all the members.

**2026 AIChE Virtual Local Section Executive Committee Election
Candidates and Statements**

Continuing Executive Committee Members for 2026



Amir Razmi
2026 Chair



Paul Shuey
2024-2026 Director 1
(2025 Programming)



Arokiaraj (Raj) Alphones
2026 Immediate Past Chair



Fortune Adekogbe
2024-2026 Director 2
(2025 Newsletter)



Andrew Riederer
2026 Senior Vice Chair



Tricia Gillenwater
2025 -2027 Director 3
(2025 Member Care)



Jacob Matthews
2025-2026 Treasurer



Aramide Orimoloye
2025-2027 Director 4
(2025 Member Feedback)