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Executive Summary

A survey was conducted of all local sections and the results of that survey were compiled into leading and lagging metrics to measure the health of the sections. Sections were analyzed overall as well as grouped by member sizes: small (<100), medium (101-200), large (201-300), and extra-large (>300).

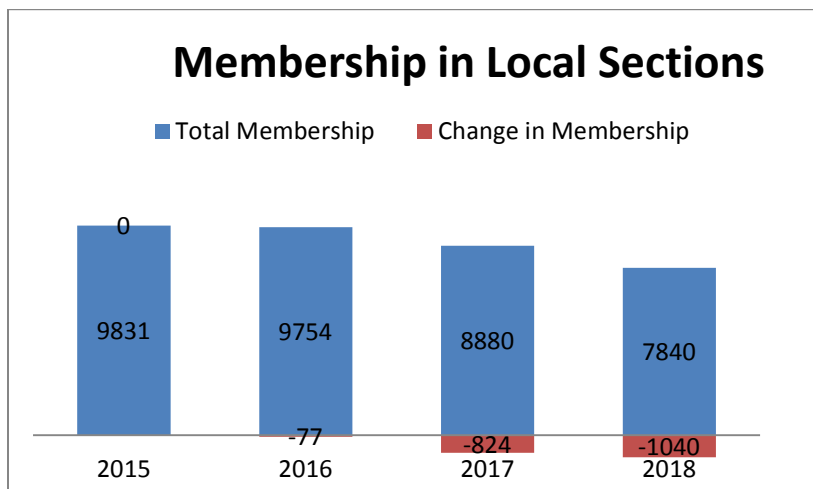
For definition purposes, leading metrics are performance indicators that peak before a local section declines and bottom before a local section improves. Lagging metrics are performance indicators that peak after a local section declines and bottom after a local section improves. **Having a high lagging metric indicates there is room to improve within the local section and a low lagging metric indicates a healthy local section.** The percentage of a section's board of directors over the age of 35 is an example of a lagging metric. Section activities such as the holding of elections and the filing of annual reports are examples of things local sections do that improve leading metrics. Downward drift in section membership is an example of something that contributes to lagging metrics.

The 2018 year generally showed a decrease in leading metrics for all current AIChE local section categories. Across the board, sections of each size saw increasing lagging metrics indicating that historic concerns remain. All four size categories of sections saw reduced leading metrics in 2018 showing that there are challenges that have arisen that have reversed a three-year trend from 2014 – 2017. The ratio of leading to lagging metrics decreased indicating an overall decline in the health of local sections.

The leading and lagging metrics were both found to be dependent of the size of the section. Based on these findings, the Local Sections Committee (LSC) has decided to focus its support on improving the lagging metrics across all sizes of local sections while local section leadership should focus on continued growth of their leading metrics. Additionally, focus should be toward supporting small and medium sized sections due to having weaker leading metrics.

Moving forward the LSC will continually evaluate the Annual Report regarding feedback from these groups in order to improve the report as needed. The LSC will also provide individualized feedback for each section based on their breakdown of leading and lagging metrics scores. Consistent survey design and high response rate will allow the LSC to determine effectiveness of the annual report and local section assistance programs. This year, the LSC took a hard look at the total membership in all the local sections and noted a significant trend downward in local membership. Membership data supplied by AIChE was used for this additional analysis, therefore only AIChE members who also were local section members were included. Many sections allow for local-only membership, which is not tracked by AIChE and was not used in this additional analysis. This analysis was completed because it was noted that a large number of local sections dropped down a size category from the preceding year.

The total number of members dropped by 1040 people from 2017 to 2018. This year to year drop was approximately 20% larger than the drop from 2016 to 2017.



Some Local Sections did see an increase in membership in 2018, but almost twice as many saw a decline.

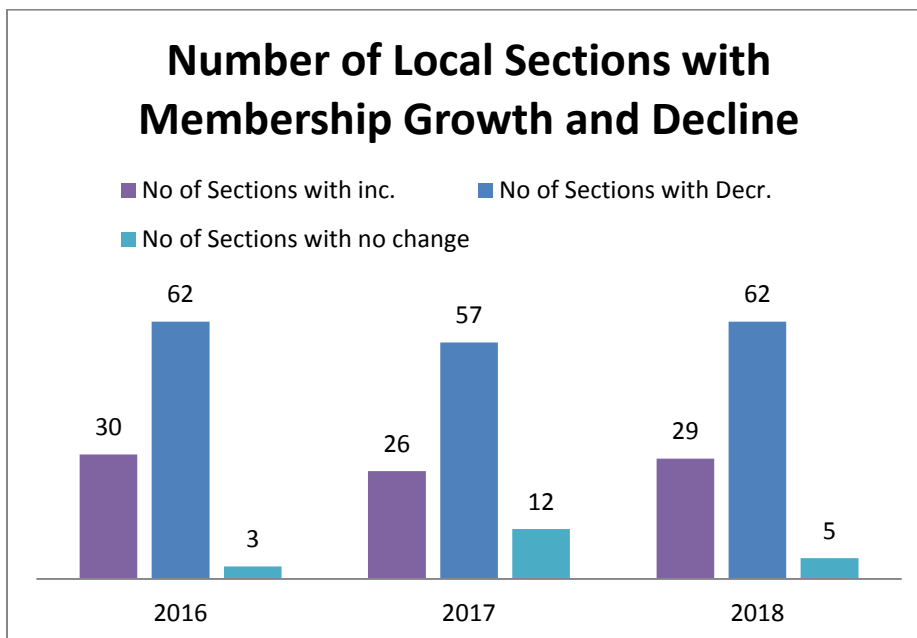


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Introduction

Local sections are instrumental for the success of AIChE as an organization because of their potential to exhibit the numerous benefits that come with being part of the Institute in a more frequent and personal way. Furthermore, the members of these sections can serve as a talent pool for developing a new generation of leaders for our Institute.

In 2014, a systematic and sustainable methodology was developed to measure of the health of the local sections. The survey and analysis helped to identify areas for supporting the local section executive boards in addition to measuring performance of initiatives and programs across AIChE.

Primarily, the health of a local section depends on its ability to:

1. Remain organized at the board level.
2. Remain relevant to its members.
3. Remain financially stable.
4. Recruit new members.
5. Maintain healthy member involvement.

Based on the above criteria, the 2014 Recommendations Report of the AIChE President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Local Sections (BRTFLS) defines the two major categories of metrics as follows:

Leading metrics: Performance indicators that peak before a local section declines and bottom before a local section improves. Having a high leading metric indicates a healthy local section, while a low leading metric means there is room to improve.

Lagging metrics: Performance indicators that peak after a local section declines and bottoms after a local section improves. Having a high lagging metric indicates there is room to improve within the local section and a low lagging metric indicates a healthy local section.

Beginning in 2016, the LSC committee added a new category of questions as a way to improve our understanding of how unfortunate event affect local sections. This was initially prompted by an extreme weather event in Tennessee where extreme flooding devastated that region. During 2017 and 2018 hurricanes devastated multiple regions where we have several sections. And some universities dropped their chemical engineering programs hurting some other sections.

We call this category "General Information." It includes a simple question about whether the sections would like some help, and it includes 2 open ended questions.

Completed section tasks such as the holding of elections and the filing of annual reports are examples of leading metrics. Falling section membership counts describe lagging metrics.

Despite the generality of these metrics, not all sections can be measured the same way. There are many factors that affect operations of the section, i.e. number of members, industry type and diversity, geographic extension, presence of other professional societies, etc. These considerations add another dimension of variability to any comparison of local sections. Nevertheless, the vitality of each section depends on its leaders and their creativity to advance our profession in all its shapes and forms.

In order for the Annual Report to be effective and beneficial in providing AIChE a better understanding of the health of local sections, data was collected via an on-line form filled out by a Local Section Officer. As was performed in 2017, diligent data collection and analyses were used in 2018 to ensure that the leading and lagging metrics can be used to predict a decaying situation for a local section and that the AIChE Local Sections Committee can render assistance as and when necessary. Feedback from local section leaders from 2017 was taken into consideration when designing the 2018 Annual Survey and Report. The sections had 30 days to complete the online survey. LSC encouraged all sections via email and via the quarterly phone calls, to answer the survey.

This report highlights the methodology created and used for developing metrics and the survey since 2014. It continues with the analysis of the data obtained through the annual survey and its comparison of results to data from prior years. Most importantly, the sections' health is compared to the results from the year 2017. Based on the 2018 data analysis, recommendations for improving the health of Local Sections and future annual surveys are then discussed. Finally, future work for advancing the annual survey is described so as to make the analysis and data-collection effort more effective.

Methodology

Question Development

BRTFLS provided a bank of potential questions for the survey based on target areas recognized by the Institute and from information exchanged with other professional organizations. In addition, some other questions were formulated with the insight of local sections leaders.

The question selection was based on two major considerations.

- 1) To have core questions simple enough so that section leaders could answer easily and/or LSC could gather data from existing databases.
- 2) The questions had to address the following: 5 focus areas:
 - Organization
 - Media Outreach
 - Involvement
 - Demographics
 - General

Survey

Fifteen closed-ended questions were identified and used in 2018 along with two open ended questions. All questions were sent to section leadership to gather statistical data that will measure the performance of each section's leading and lagging metrics or by peer comparison. The survey questions are presented in Table 1 and Appendix A has detailed descriptions of the algorithm used to evaluate the data input.

Table 1. List of survey questions. Sections 1-5 filled by sections' leaders.

#	Category	Description	Answer Choices	Metric Type
1.1	Organization	Did the section hold officer elections in accordance with the local section's by-laws?	Yes/No	Leading
1.2	Organization	Based on required officer positions detailed in your by-laws, what percent of all officer and board member positions were not filled?	0-100%	Leading
1.3	Organization	Over the last five years, have one or more of the elected officers repeated terms? If so, what is the average number of repeat terms.	Number	Leading
1.4	Organization	Did your section file a local section annual report within the last two years?	Yes/No	Leading
1.5	Organization	Has your section been filing the treasurer's report as requested by AIChE?	Yes/No	Leading
1.6	Organization	Did your section participate in at least 3 of the 6 bi-monthly LSC conference calls? If unsure, check back on the LSLC Engage's call notes (provided below) that were distributed after each meeting.	Yes/No	Leading
2.1	Media	Does the section operate and maintain an up-to-date webpage?	Yes/No	Leading
2.2	Media	Did the section publish a newsletter (physical or digital) periodically in the last year?	Yes/No	Leading
2.3	Media	Does the section actively maintain a social media presence for communications, advertising, event info etc.?	Yes/No	Leading
3.1	Involvement	Does the section have a Young Professionals group?	Yes/No	Leading
3.2	Involvement	Does your section wish to be contacted about improving Young Professional involvement in your local section?	Yes/No	Neutral
3.3		Question removed in 2016		
3.4		Question Removed in 2016		
4.1	Demographic	How many TOTAL members does the section currently have?	Number	Lagging if lower than the average for size grouping
4.2	Demographic	Does your section allow LOCAL ONLY membership? If so, how many local only members does your section have?	Number	Lagging if this number is high
4.3	Demographic	How many undergraduate student members does your section have?	Number	Lagging
4.4	Demographic	What percent of the section's board of directors/executive committee is less than 35 yr. of age?	0-100%	Lagging if less than 50%
4.5	General	What external factors may have affected your local section (political climate, universities/companies closed, natural disasters, etc.)?	Open ended	General information
4.6	General	Please describe the current and future state of your local section. Feel free to provide more details on any of the above responses.	Open ended	General Information

Results and Discussion

OVERVIEW OF LOCAL SECTIONS AND OF THE GENERAL QUESTIONS

In October of 2018, there were 80 local sections, which is 9 less than in the same month of 2017. This was due to several long inactive sections being closed by the AIChE leadership. The total number of Local sections closed since 2015 is 14. (Note: All dues paying members of a shuttered local section are transferred to the Virtual Local Section for the remainder of their dues year.) And the total paid up full memberships in local sections declined by 1040 people during this past year.

The open ended responses to question 4.5 and 4.6 indicate there are 3 known reasons for the membership decline. They are:

- Loss of manufacturing jobs in an area
- Loss of academic jobs in an area
- Competition from professional organizations that are better supported by large corporations

The third reason is limited to regions with a dominant industry. We heard that some pharmaceutical companies promote membership in pharmaceutical associations and that the oil and gas industry promotes membership in petroleum societies. For sections with only one or 2 employers, having a large dominant employer openly support a competing professional organization is crippling.

During our conference calls we heard occasional suggestions that other reasons for membership decline are lack of support and financial reimbursement from employers, and too many demands placed on employee time. Multiple sections located near colleges also said they once enjoyed considerable cooperation with chemical engineering faculty, but they have seen a decline in participation from local universities which has hurt their membership.

Not surprising, but interesting, multiple respondents mentioned the 2018 hurricanes being something that had a heavy impact on their region and section this year.

A new external factor mentioned this year is travel delays due to suburban sprawl and traffic congestion. In past years, we heard long travel times in excess of an hour, made it difficult to get good meeting attendance in rural regions of the country. This year, we heard long travel times in excess of an hour, make it difficult to get meeting attendance in urban/suburban areas. This same complaint came independently from every major region of the country. It is a problem in the Atlanta area, Houston area, Chicago area, North Virginia area, etc.

Statistical Analysis

To begin the statistical analysis of the data, local sections were grouped based on their sizes; the reason being that it would be statistically unfair to compare the performance of a large section that has more resources and funding, to that of a smaller section that may be facing budgetary and organizational constraints. Breaking down the sections based on their size also makes it easier to make recommendations for improvement. See Figure 1: Distribution of Local Sections by Size Category. 70% of local Sections have between 1 and 100 members and the number of sections in that size category increased during 2018.

Distribution of Local Sections by Size Category

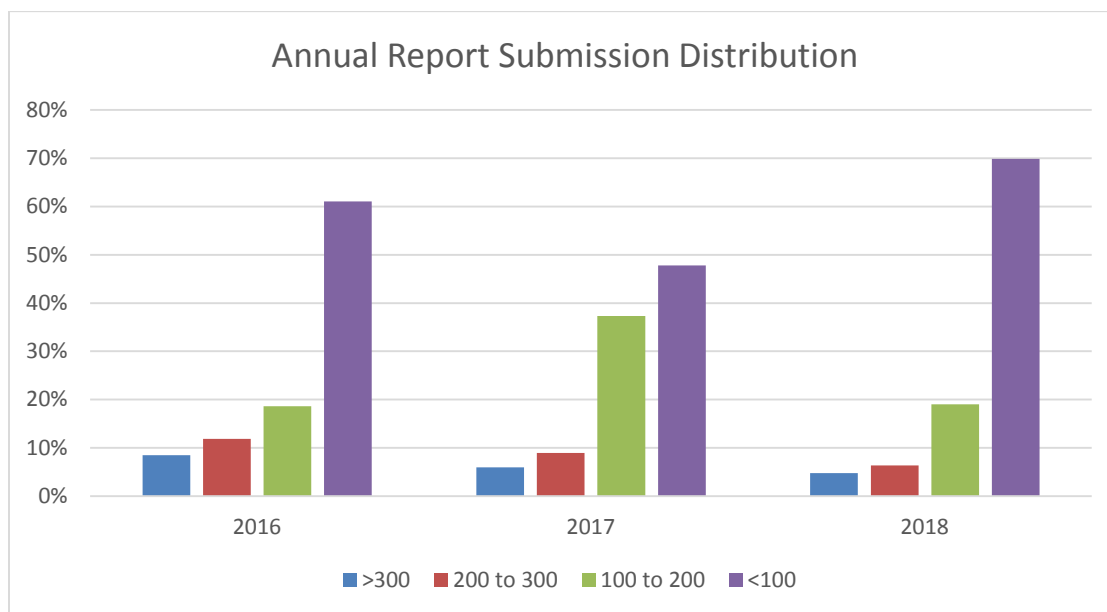


Figure 1: Percent of all local sections in each size category

Based on size classes, the sections were broken down into Small (<100 members), Medium (101-200), Large (201-300) and X-Large (>300) sections. Most local sections have fewer than 50 members. The distribution of membership size has continued to trend downward. More sections have 0 to 100 members, and the number of sections with 101 to 200 members also increased. Section categories Large and X-Large decreased in number from 2017-2018. (Note: Not all local sections from 2017 report participated in this 2018 report, which could affect these results.)

Local section health often depends significantly on the economic health of the geographic region it covers. Our local sections draw members from local industries and local universities. Some sections are fortunate to have major companies located inside their region while others are not. Figure 2 shows the geographical center of each local section in the United States excluding Alaska and Puerto Rico. International sections that are not shown in Figure 2 include: Alexandria, Egypt; Saudi Arabia; and Singapore.

There is a high concentration of local sections on the U.S. east coast, where the U.S. is most heavily populated and where there are the highest density of colleges. Many chemical corporations have a presence there. Larger sections can be seen on the gulf coast where many oil and gas companies operate.

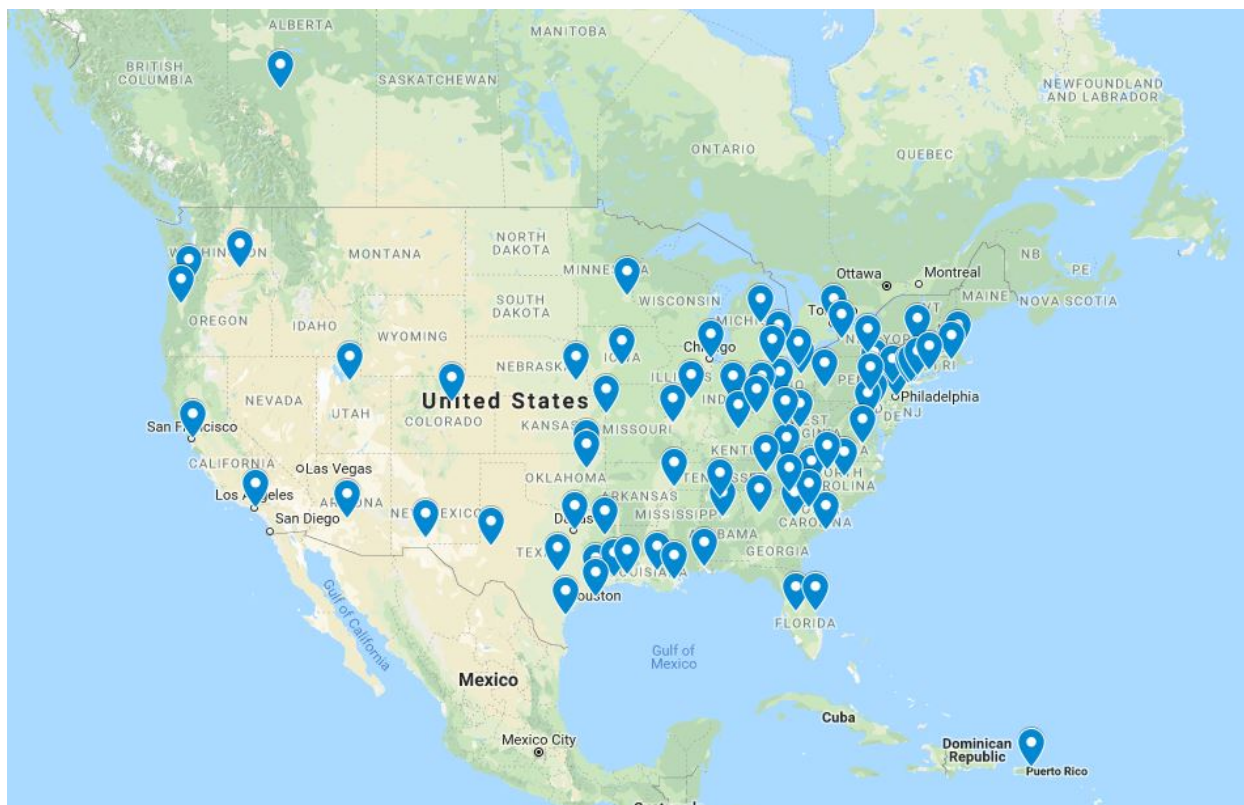


Figure 2: Geographic location of local sections in North America, excluding Alaska.

Survey Participation

The survey resulted in 79% of sections responding in 2018, a 15% increase over 2017. This is worth mentioning because for AIChE to make effective recommendations and effect changes, it must be aware of the health of as many local sections as possible. Those sections who have not participated the last few years will be contacted during the First Quarter of 2019 by phone and again in May in hopes of improving participation numbers for 2019

Leading and Lagging Metric Comparison

Based on the size distributions of the sections, the leading and lagging metric of all sections were determined using the aforementioned criteria. This year, the section sizes were obtained from AIChE staff. This was done because in some cases, the data supplied by the sections was very different from the official data. The data supplied by some of the sections may have included students or may not have included them. We couldn't be sure.

The average leading and lagging metrics for each of the four groups can be seen in Figure 3. Standard deviations of the metrics are included to highlight the variance in the responses. Predictably, small sections have the lowest leading metric and extra-large sections have the highest. Higher membership numbers may lead to better resources for higher performance. However, the large sections had a lower average leading metric than both the extra-large and the medium sections. The leading metric standard deviations are very wide showing that there was high variance in the responses from the sections within each group. This will be further explored in the breakdown by section size on page 11. The average lagging metric is about the same for small, medium, and large sections with tight standard deviations,

which means that they are similarly weighed down. The extra-large sections have a lower average lagging metric which indicates they are relatively healthy.

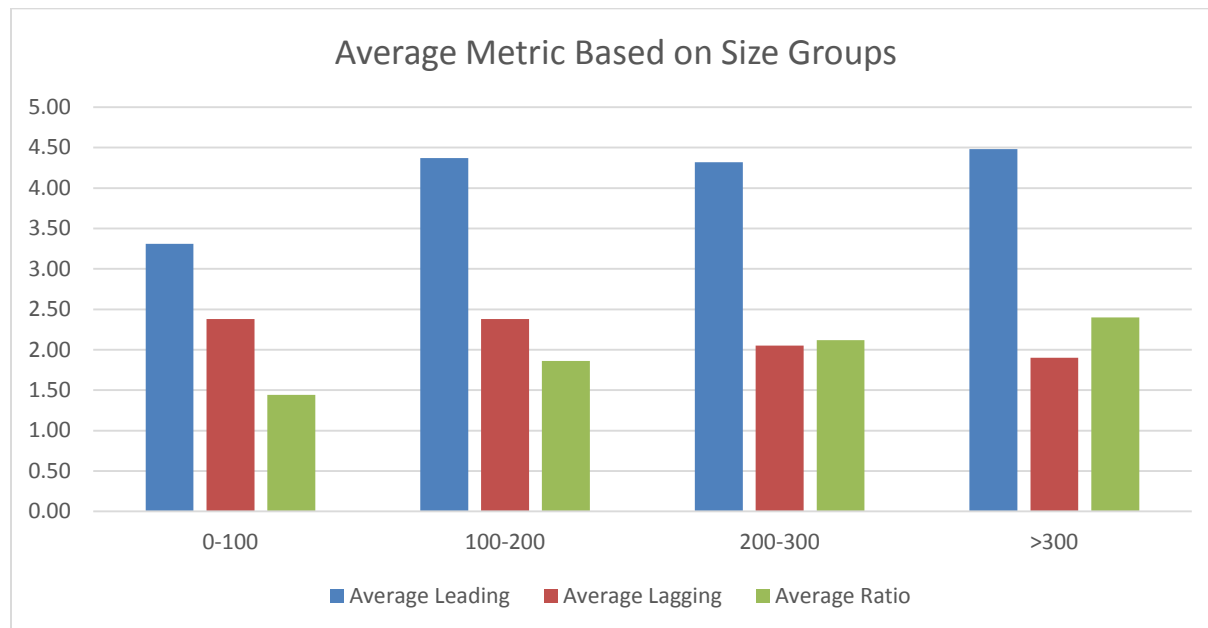


Figure 3: Average metric for each of the four size groups

Sections that have a leading metric score equal to the average or higher are healthy, especially if outside the standard deviation shown in Figure 3. **Sections that have scores higher than the average lagging metric for their group, face challenges that may present barriers to success**, especially if outside the standard deviation. These sections are encouraged to reach out to the LSC leadership to explore how the LSC can assist. There may be AIChE tools available that they may not be aware of. Small sections should look for leading scores above 3, medium sections above 4, large sections above 4, and extra-large sections above 4.5. Lagging metrics should be below 2.5 for small sections, medium sections below and large sections, and extra-large sections below 2.

Sections that have leading metric scores lower than the average have indications that there is room to improve, especially if outside the standard deviation depicted in Figure 3. **Sections that have lagging metric scores lower than average have indications that the health of the section may be suffering currently or in the near future as compared to peers** especially if outside the standard deviation. These sections should focus on improvement in 2019 to prevent declining success.

LSC has identified focus areas of organization, involvement, and media for leading metric measurement and demographics for lagging metric measurement. Sections should reference pages 14-19 for how these focus areas are measured for each survey question to help guide efforts to improve. Equations are provided to the sections in Appendix A to monitor current health and help assess various ideas. Specific recommendations for sections seeking to improve can be found on pages 14-19 broken down by focus areas and individual questions.

Breakdown by Section Size

Figures 4 through 7 depict the leading and lagging metric values for each section compared to peers of the same section size and the average leading and lagging metrics of those sized sections. The leading metric for small sized section category varied widely. Medium, large and x-large sections have more similar responses.

Lagging metrics were tightly grouped across all size groups, with slightly higher deviation in small and extra-large sections. This trend continues from past years.

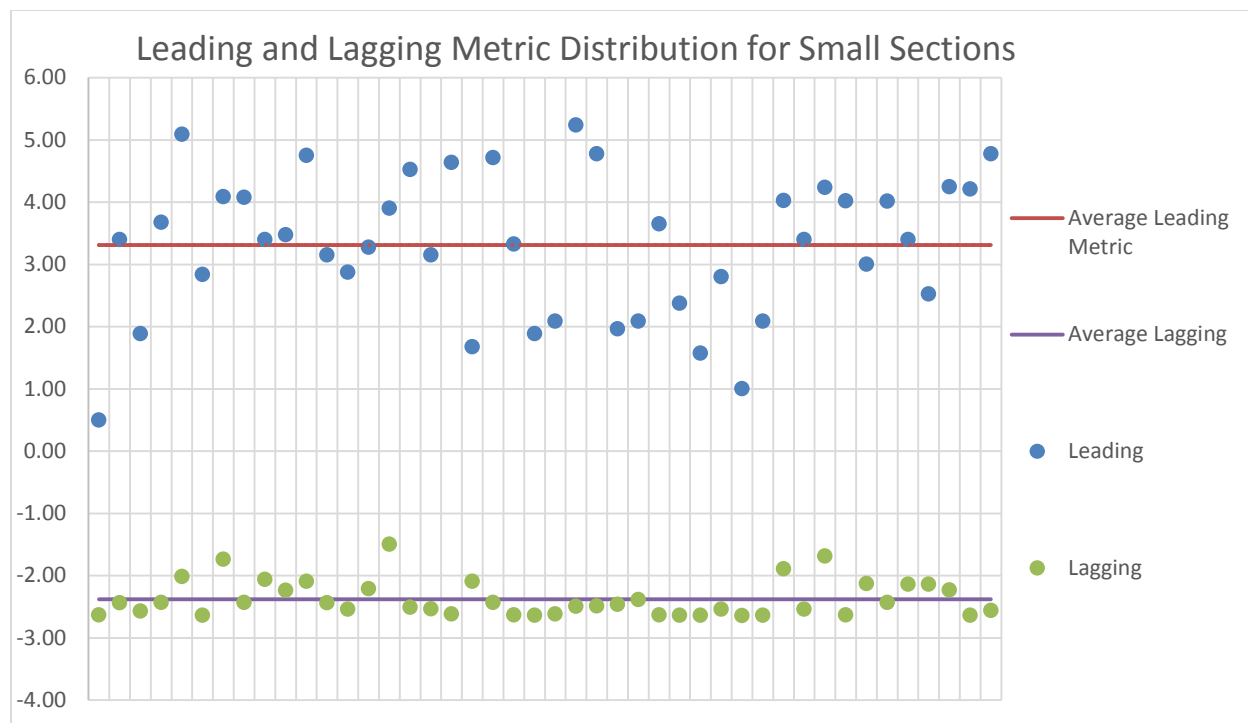


Figure 4: Leading and lagging metric distribution for small sized sections.

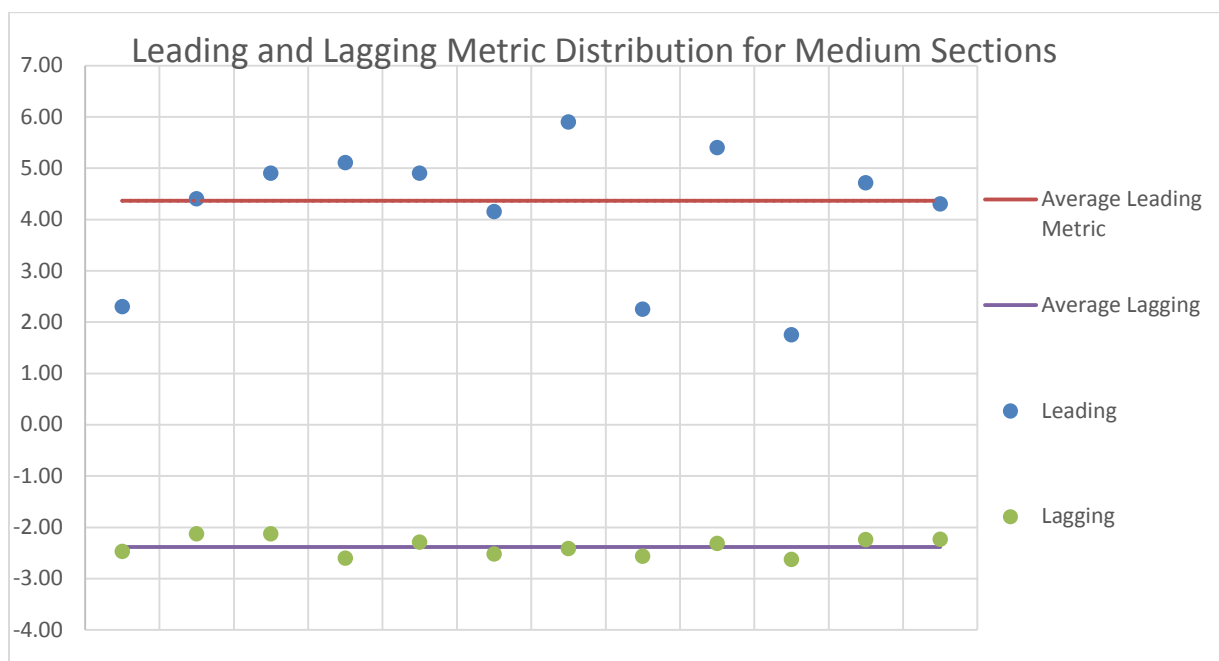


Figure 5: Leading and lagging metric distribution for medium sized sections.

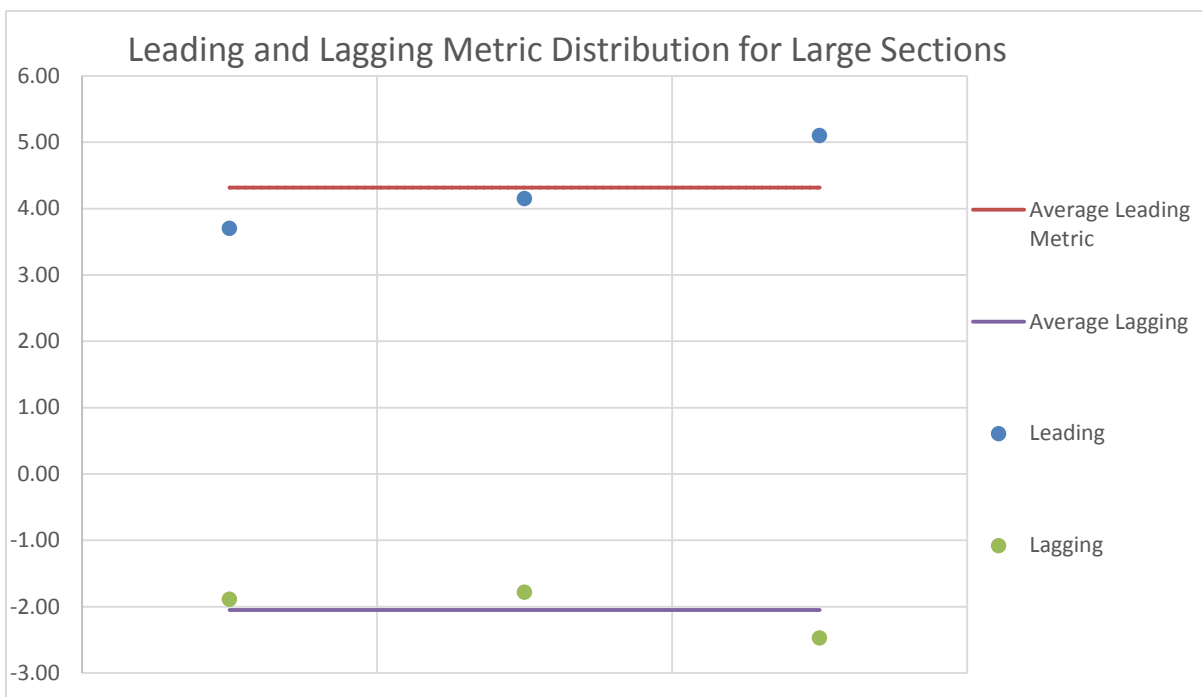


Figure 6: Leading and lagging metric distribution for large sized sections.

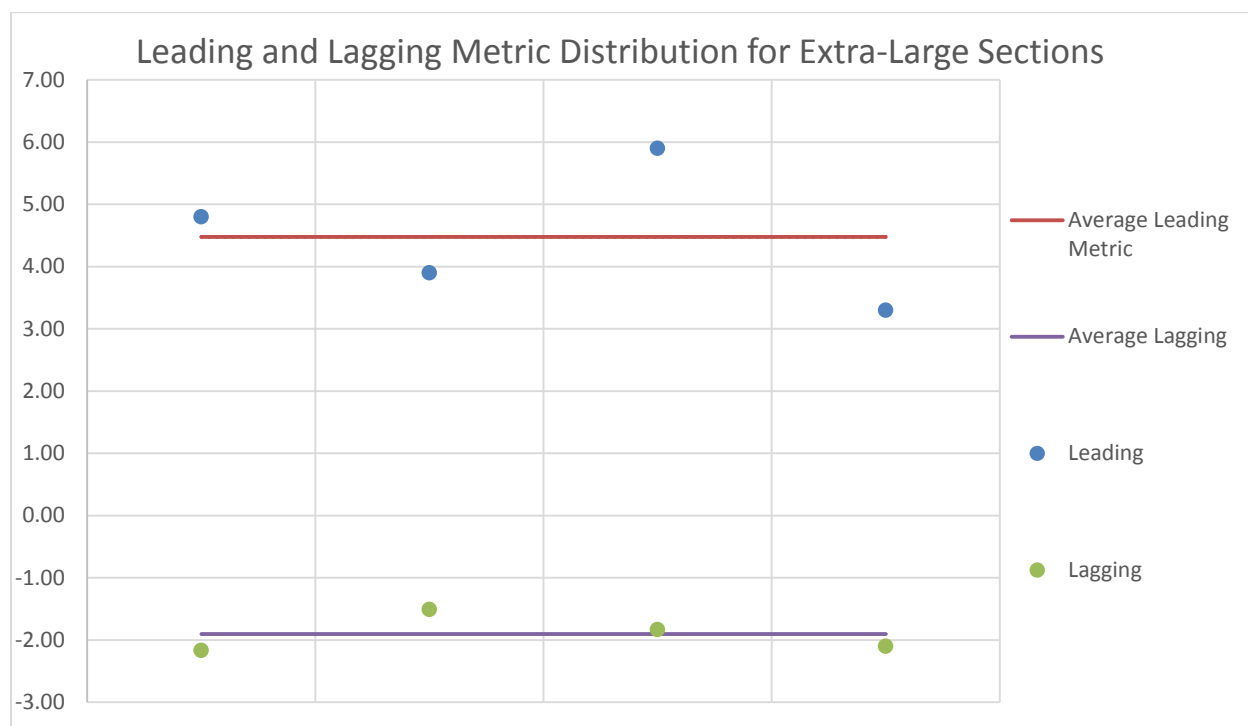


Figure 7: Leading and lagging metric distribution for extra-large sized sections.

Open-ended General Questions

The responses to the open-ended general question 4.6, “Describe the current and future state of your local sections” were recorded to provide a general understanding of the health of local sections. The full responses are included in Appendix B with identifying phrases removed. There was about an equal mix of positive and negative responses. Review of these comments is suggested for sections looking to improve their health since many helpful ideas were described by local section leaders of healthy sections. One of the insights that the LSC gained from these responses is the growing mention of excessive travel time to get to meetings. It is hoped that new web based meeting methods using video conferencing may alleviate some of the travel in the future.

Responses to the open ended question 4.5 provide insight of external factors that have had a heavy impact on local sections. Some common responses can be natural disasters and major industrial relocations from a region.

Comparison to Past Results

The 2018 year generally showed a decrease in leading metrics for all current AIChE local section categories. Across the board, sections of each size saw increasing lagging metrics with all four size categories of sections saw reduced leading metrics in 2018 showing that there are challenges that have arisen that have reversed a three year trend from 2014 – 2017. The ratio of leading to lagging metrics decreased for all except the medium category indicating a decline in overall health of the small, large and X-large categories.

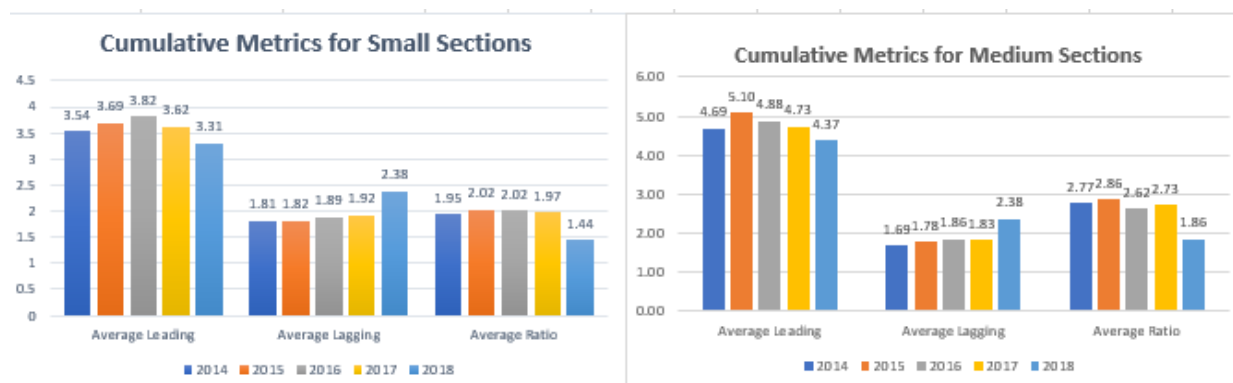


Figure 8: Yearly metric trends for small and medium local sections

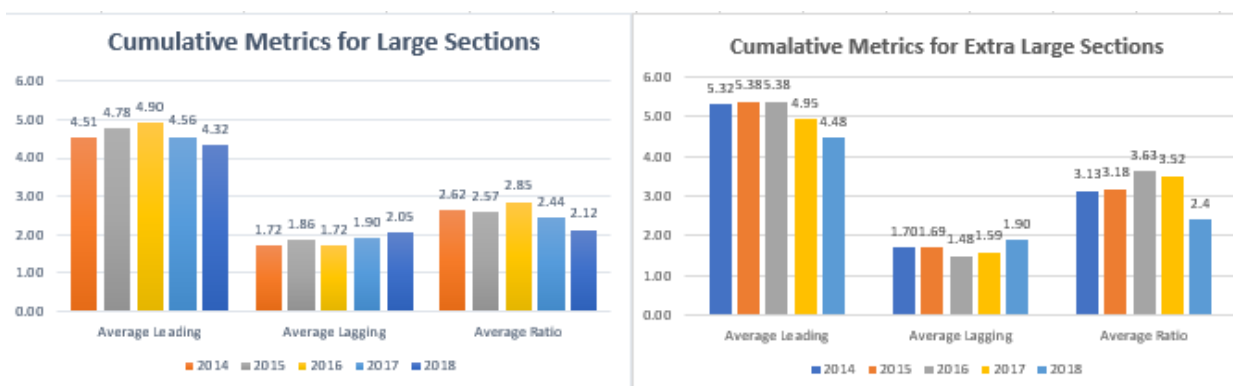


Figure 9: Yearly metric trends for large and extra-large local sections

Discussion of Organization Metrics and Recommendations

Questions 1.1 through 1.6 focused on organizational function, all of which measured leading metrics. The performance of the organizational structure highly affects the health of the section. Strong leadership sets the section up for success, and active, fresh leaders involved with the AIChE community receive higher scores. Lower scores show that sections are struggling, and higher scores shows sections are running smoothly.

Question 1.1 covered officer elections within the past year and awarded a score of 0.5 for “yes” and 0 for “no.” The average score for small sections was 0.3, meaning about half the sections held elections. This showed no change from 2017. Medium sections saw an increase in elections compared to 2017. Large sections and extra-large sections saw minor decreases. Sections with a score of 0 should consider their new officer recruitment efforts.

Question 1.2 asked what percent of all officer and board member positions were not filled. A higher percentage results in a lower score, with a maximum score of 1 for a response of 0% unfilled positions.

Small and large and x-large sections have seen an increase in this score compared to last year, showing less vacant positions among section leadership. Medium sections have decreased, showing some trouble finding officers. All sections should fill their open officer positions. Vacancies can be filled with appointed officers who complete the unfinished portion of terms that are vacated. Failure to fill open positions typically leads to heavier burdens on the remaining officers.

Question 1.3 examined the number of officers repeating terms through the average repeat rate. More officers repeating terms results in a lower score. A section's response is compared to the maximum of all responses, with the highest response resulting in the lowest score. All sizes showed a decline in this category, indicating difficulty obtaining new volunteers for officer positions. Sections with a below average score, especially if far from the center, should try to rotate new people into leadership positions.

All sections should be holding elections on a regular schedule. Sections seeking improvement on one or more of Questions 1.1 through 1.3 can consider alternate methods for conducting elections such as voting electronically via email. For very small sections, the election can be conducted via the telephone. Calling each member is an effective way of ensuring that everyone votes. Lack of elections can be an indicator of low membership numbers or lack of involvement. The LSC has prepared example by-laws for sections that includes information about elections, available on the [Resources for Local Section Leaders website](#). There is also a list of officer positions and suggested responsibilities. Individuals in a leadership position should take the initiative to find a candidate for their own replacement or opposition for the next election. The leaders know their role best and are the most capable of identifying good candidates. To fill long vacant positions, candidates may need to include members who are not very involved with the section or non-members that are encouraged to join. AIChE Engage is a great way to get in contact with members in the region that are not local members. Personal and online networking can assist with finding other professionals who are not in the AIChE listings.

Questions 1.4 through 1.6 deal with actions that the leadership of a section take, especially the communication with the LSC. Question 1.4 asks if the section has filed an annual report within the past two years. This is different from the annual treasurer's report in Question 1.5. The maximum score for question 1.4 is 0.5, which was the average for medium and large sections. All responding sections of these sizes completed an annual report within the past two years. This is important to the LSC to determine how best to assist the local sections. The small sections still averaged a high score at 0.47, but this means that there are some sections in this category are not filing an annual report. There are only 4 Extra Large Sections. Extra-large sections showed a score of 0.375. One of the 4 sections in this size grouping did not fill out their report. Sections with a score of 0 (did not file an annual report within two years) are encouraged to participate in the reporting. If assistance is needed in answering questions, sections are encouraged to contact the LSC leadership who can provide one-on-one support.

Question 1.5 for annual treasurer's report submission had high average scores as well across the categories. Sections with a score of zero (did not file a treasurer's report within the last year) should consider what will help them file a report in the future. The LSC recommends sections get their entire leadership team to assist with the report to make sure that all necessary information is available to the treasurer. Sections should be proactive whenever the first call for responses is requested so that issues with information are discovered early and are able to be solved. Treasurers and other officers are encouraged to contact the LSC with any difficulties encountered when filling out the annual report.

Completion of both the Annual Report and the Treasurers Report are requirements of each local section to remain in good standing with the AIChE home office and the LSC. If a section is unable to complete

these requirements the LSC wants to and is interested in helping these sections so that they might get to a point where they can complete these requirements. Failure to complete these requirements might result in a section not being allowed to apply for a local section grant until the reports are submitted.

Question 1.6 asks if at least 3 of the 6 bi-monthly LSC conference calls were joined. All categories of sections remained about the same as in 2017, which is still significantly lower levels than desired. Sections who struggle with this or scored 0 on question 1.6 are advised to use their entire leadership team to plan attendance to ensure coverage and participation in these calls. Perhaps LSC needs to re-evaluate the approach to find better value on these calls.

In addition to the bi-monthly calls, the LSC offers sections an opportunity to communicate directly to the committee as well as fellow section leaders. The LSC twice a year sends out teleconference invites based on size and geography to section leaders. These regional calls are for section leaders to discuss issues or successes of their section and get advice or support from the committee, AIChE staff, and local section peers. In addition, AIChE offers the online community on AIChE Engage, [Local Section Leaders Central](#), just for section leaders to use to reach out to other section leaders for support or advice. There is also a published guide that provides details on how to organize a local section. It is available on the [Resources for Local Section Leaders website](#).

Discussion of Media Metrics and Recommendations

Questions 2.1 through 2.3 focused on internet and social media usage, all of which measured leading metrics. Effective use of media increases the outreach to new and existing members and could help boost involvement through improved accessibility of information. Sections that have an active presence receive high scores, and lower scores show sections that are weak in this area.

Question 2.1 records whether a section has a webpage or not. The maximum score is 0.5 for sections that have webpages, and 0 is the score for sections that do not. The average score for large sections was 0.5, so all sections in this size groups maintain websites. Small and extra-large sections are the least likely to have updated websites. Medium sized sections took a step forward in increasing their online presence. Sections who scored 0 on Question 2.1 are encouraged to create a website. AIChE offers **free** web hosting to all sections. The design and interface are extremely simplified and little technical knowledge is necessary to set up and maintain a section website. Sections can find a [guide to entity websites](#) on the AIChE website where they can also request a web page for their local section.

Question 2.2 asks whether a section has published a newsletter in the past year. Newsletters show regular communication between section leadership and membership. A score of 0.5 represents a “yes” response, and 0 is the score for a response of “no.” Medium and extra-large sized sections have been the most successful at releasing newsletters. The number of newsletters has been increasing since 2014. Small and large sections had the lowest number of sections publishing newsletters. Both large and small size categories sections maintained since 2017. Sections with a score of 0 on this question should consider offering newsletters. If there is no current program for creating newsletters, sections are advised to develop a plan. We encourage sections to read the newsletters belonging to other local sections, which are often available on local section websites. No LSC resource is available at this time for creating newsletters. Sections that have a newsletter program but are struggling are recommended to create an editor position separate from the rest of the leadership team to reduce workload. It may also be helpful to have a newsletter committee with reporters whose sole responsibility is to create content for the

newsletter periodically. For sections located near universities with student chapters, ask the student chapters to forward items for the newsletter. For sections that partner with ASME, SWE, NSPE and other professional groups, include a listing of meetings dates for these partnering organizations. Other newsletter topic ideas could include a call for section volunteers, photos from previous events and highlights of upcoming events, etc.

Question 2.3 covers social media presence, including active advertisement, communication, and event information. This is again a way of keeping in touch with current members or reaching out to new members to grow the section. Large and extra-large sections all maintained an active social media presence in 2018. Sections that scored 0 on this question are encouraged to begin a social media presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, or another site. Having a dedicated volunteer working on online communication can be helpful, and this position does not have to be an officer. Sections may also find useful ideas on how to utilize social media in the open-ended responses listed in Appendix A by searching for “Facebook” or “LinkedIn.”

Discussion of Involvement Metrics and Recommendations

Questions 3.1 and 3.2 focused on Young Professional (YP) involvement in their local section, all of which measured leading metrics. Sections with low scores are struggling to engage YP members.

Question 3.1 asks whether a section has a Young Professional group. A score of 0 is “no” and 0.5 is “yes.” A group that specifically addresses young professionals is helpful when getting chemical engineers under the age of 35 involved in the section. Large sections are the most successful at YP engagement as evidenced by an average score of 0.5. Small, medium, and extra-large sections are less likely to have Young Professional groups. In the cases of small sections and some medium sections, young professional involvement is probably more concentrated within the executive board of the section than with a separate group, which can be just as effective. Sections with a score of 0 on this question are encouraged to consult the guide [Starting a YP Group Within a Section](#) available as a part of the Resources for Local Section Leaders on the AIChE website. There are also several examples of successful YP programs and involvement in the open-ended responses in Appendix B.

Discussion of Demographics Metrics and Recommendations

Questions 4.1 through 4.4 address the demographics of the local sections and are measured as lagging metrics. Local section leaders are asked for their input on question 4.1 through 4.3 regarding section membership numbers. Question 4.3 explores Undergraduate Student membership. Question 4.4 asks for a percentage of the Board of Directors/Executive Committee that is under 35 years of age.

Question 4.1 asks for the total section membership. Scores are assigned as a proportion of the total membership across all sections. The minimum score for this question is 0 for the section with the highest proportion of members, and the theoretical maximum score is 1 for sections with 0 members. The expected distribution is small sections having the highest average and extra-large sections having the lowest average. The preference over time is to have all sections with the same high membership size. Increasing averages in smaller sections coinciding with decreasing averages in larger sections would be concerning because it would signal an imbalance in the member distribution. Compared to 2017, all sized local sections stayed about the same. It was noted that the analysis team used the membership from the AIChE database to compile this score, as in the past different leaders used differing definitions of membership. Local section leaders can always access their AIChE-maintained [section membership lists](#) online.

The percent of members that are local-only is addressed in Question 4.2. Higher involvement at the local-only level is rewarded with a low lagging score on this question. The LSC wants more people to be engaged with local sections even if they are not paying AIChE dues. Medium sized sections decreased to about 0.95 while the other three categories increased.

A perfect score of 1 would represent 100% AIChE dues paid by local section members. This is a different concept that might be a better indicator to use next year.

Sections with above average scores on questions 4.1 and 4.2 should focus on efforts to increase membership numbers. Many of the aforementioned suggestions for other questions will also help with membership. The LSC has compiled a [guide to help with member recruitment](#) available on the AIChE website, and is recommended to sections with high scores on these questions. When a section has more activity and there is more incentive to be a full member, local-only membership should decrease. Sections struggling with maintaining AIChE dues-paying members could consider giving special benefits such as reduced-cost activities to those who are full members.

Question 4.4 covers the age of local section leadership. Lower percentages of leadership under 35 years old results in a higher lagging score. Maximum score is 0.5 for a response of 0% young leadership and minimum score is 0 for and percentage of young leadership equal to 50 % or greater.

Medium and extra-large groups are doing the best at recruiting Young Professionals. Sections scoring below the average for their size group on this question are doing well with involving younger engineers in the section leadership. Sections scoring above the average should work on encouraging young professionals to run for officer positions. Improving or starting a Young Professional group could improve this score, and the guide [Starting a YP Group Within a Section](#) is available as part of the Resources for Local Section Leaders on the AIChE website. When the local section involves Young Professionals in its Leadership it is investing for its long-term stability and continued health into the future.

External Factors Affecting Local Sections

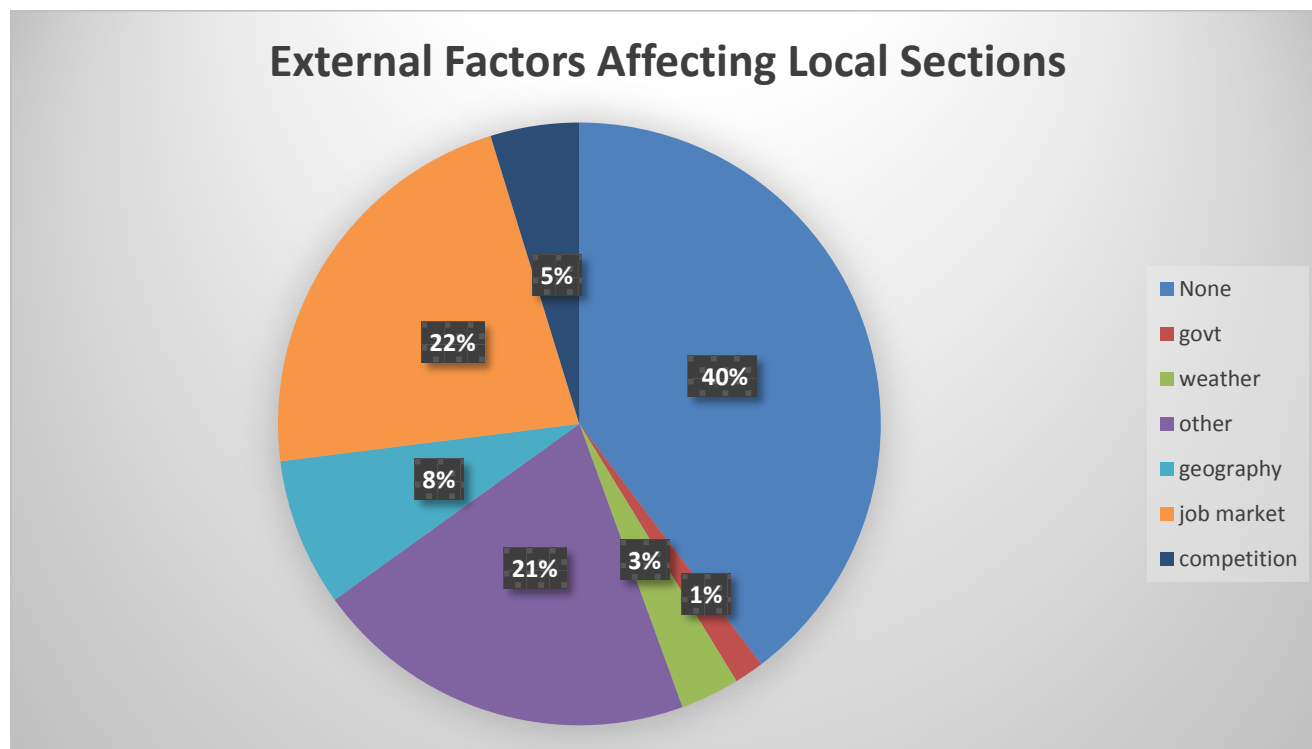


Figure 10: Breakout of External Factors Affecting Local Sections

40% of the 2018 responses to this question indicated there were no negative external factors impacting them. This was an improvement over the 2017 responses. In 2017 only 33% of responding sections said there were no negative external factors impacting their sections.

22% of the responses indicated that declining chemical engineering employment in the region is a problem. 21% of the responses indicated that competition from other professional groups was the cause of membership decline. Some responses that stand out from the others are from the regions that experienced extreme natural events.

CONCLUSIONS

Major conclusions from 2018 Annual Survey results and analysis are:

- Survey response rate increased to 79% from 64% in 2017
- High variance in leading metrics show wide variety of benefits and successes in each section, which must be addressed or enhanced individually. In some cases, a section's leading indicators rose because it shifted categories going from a medium sized section to a small section. For these sections, what is happening with the membership is more significant than their leading metric score.

- Low variance in lagging metrics combined with generally low lagging metric values, suggest that the items measured by these metrics are not items where additional attention is warranted. AICHE may wish to revisit whether the lagging metrics require updating or changing.
- Extra-large sections have a much lower average lagging metric. Given they are larger, it is understandable, that they are more likely to have YP involvement and they have a larger pool of members to draw officers from, so this result is not surprising.
- Slightly decreased leading metrics suggest a decline in section health. It could mean membership is falling slightly, or that a dearth of new volunteers places the existing leaders in danger of burn-out.
- Small sections appear to have a greater struggle recruiting young volunteers for leadership and often see more repetition of officers.
- Small sections are the least likely to have websites.
- Large sections are much more likely to have a YP group than other sized sections.

Three conclusions from 2014 and 2015 are also still valid:

- 1) The lagging metrics are INDEPENDENT of the size of the section, meaning the metric is not affected by the size of the section.
- 2) The leading metrics are DEPENDENT on the size of section meaning these metrics change as the size of a section changes.
- 3) Based on (1) and (2), it logically follows then that the ratio of the leading/lagging metrics are DEPENDENT of the size of a section with larger sections exhibiting better overall health.

These conclusions are a good indication that lagging metrics can be addressed with solutions that work for all sections while leading metrics should be addressed based on the section's size. It appears that a top down approach works best for lagging metrics while the opposite is true for leading metrics.

Improvement in lagging metrics is linked to attracting new members, particularly members under the age of 35. Recently, AICHE's Board of Directors agreed to gift AICHE membership to First Year Professionals (just graduated students) with the intent that these new members could learn about and engage in AICHE in a professional setting outside of their undergraduate student chapter experiences. Extending the gifted AICHE membership for one year is a good idea that may be effective if coupled with some direct outreach by Local Section leaders to welcome them to their respective sections. The LSC encourages section leaders to do outreach to Young Professional members in their area to engage them in their section activities (social events being a key activity that Young Professionals look for). With this membership model change, it may be time to reevaluate the lagging metrics and develop new lagging ones for use in 2020.

It should be mentioned that new local sections will have higher lagging metrics as they get themselves off the ground. If this is your section's first few years of existence, consider this year's metrics as a benchmark to continually improve upon.

As more data is gathered from repeating this survey, better conclusions could be drawn from this type of analysis. Higher overall leading metrics and lower lagging metrics demonstrates an improvement in local sections. LSC efforts over the past year have had a positive effect on the success of all the sections. However, this conclusion could be undermined by the decrease in response rate. If underperforming sections are failing to respond this could artificially boost metrics and hide weaknesses.

2018 Recommendations

Based on the 2017 survey results, the AIChE Local Section Committee structured its services to the different size groupings of sections to better cater to their specific needs and concerns. In particular, LSC acted on the recommendation that the Committee continue to update and revise the documentation for local leaders on the [Resources for Local Section Leaders webpage](#) from 2014 and continue to align volunteers for this task completion.

Better resources should be made available to local sections that can help them reach out to and engage Young Professionals. This would involve sharing best practices of other sections and event ideas that are attractive to them. In addition, better identification of who the Section's Young Professionals are needs to be done.

Like 2017 survey results, direct follow up with local sections with lagging overall metrics is recommended to determine the support needs of the section on an individual basis. Additional action items obtained from 2018 survey results can be listed as:

1. 62 out of 80 sections had declining memberships this year. That stands out as the most serious finding from this year's data.
2. LSC should focus more heavily on small and medium sized sections. (The majority of sections are in these two categories) Current considerations include more frequent calls for small and medium sections for idea-sharing.
3. It is likely that local industrial activity changes may be affecting the growth and operation of all sections. 22% of local sections mentioned this problem. The LSC will be recommending that AIChE provide some assistance to correlate these factors to economic data and/or Institute's membership analyses.
4. The open ended responses from several sections saying that a few large companies or industries are swaying large numbers of chemical engineers into alternative professional societies. This an issue that AIChE needs to address. 21 percent of local sections mentioned this problem. It is core to the mission of a professional society to promote the value of its members to industry and government employers, as well as the general public.
5. Continue to share best practices for section meetings amongst sections and explore the use of video conferencing technologies for section meetings.
6. Improve individual feedback to sections by providing specific suggestions based on that section's unique responses.
7. Consider ways to offer incentives to local sections to submit their reports and surveys earlier such as gift certificate drawings to be used locally. This could be promoted via the LSC communications, followed by an announcement of the winners.
8. The committee should also administer a follow-up survey to all sections to gather feedback on the effectiveness and helpfulness of the Local Section Annual Report.

Looking Forward

For the Annual Report to be effective and beneficial in accomplishing the goal of making AIChE a data-driven organization, continued data collection must be made priority. Diligent data collection and analyses will ensure that the leading and lagging metrics can indeed be used to predict the bottom/peak of a local section and that the AIChE Local Sections Committee can render assistance as and when necessary. In order for this survey exercise to embody the meaning of leading and lagging metrics as proposed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Local Sections (BRTFLS), sustained responses from local sections are expected. The committee and AIChE staff will reach out to repeatedly unresponsive sections to help improve the number of sections completing the survey.

In the coming years, the committee should judge how effective its programs and resources are for local sections based on the general lagging trends of all sections while section leaders should focus more on their leading metrics to see how effective their own local programs have been improving the participation of local members.

Each local section may use the leading and lagging metrics to measure the success of new and current initiatives over the years. The equations provided for how the metrics are calculated should assist local section leaders in determining progress throughout the year or predict effect of certain programs on the overall health of the section.

Acknowledgements

The Local Sections Committee would like to thank the following people who dedicated more than a year of their time reviewing the local sections program and creating thoughtful recommendations to help improve the program. These recommendations were brought to the AIChE Board of Directors for consideration at the 2014 AIChE Spring Meeting. Many of these recommendations, including updating the Local Sections Annual Report, were approved.

Members of the 2014 AIChE President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Local Sections

Freeman Self, Chair
Otis Shelton, 2014 AIChE President, Sponsor
Phil Westmoreland, 2013 AIChE President, Sponsor
Bette Lawler, former AIChE Staff, Sponsor
Dan Lambert, Sponsor
Barbara McDonald Loe, former AIChE Staff
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Defne Kayrak Talay, SIOC
Joe Deneault
Janet Werner

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Annual Report Subcommittee of the Local Sections Committee

Mary Lynch, Local Sections Committee Chair, Metro New York Section

Amanda Scalza, Local Sections Committee Vice Chair

Austin Lin, Local Sections Committee Secretary

Thank you all for your commitment to AIChE and improving its local sections program!

Appendix A – Metric Calculation Descriptions

Survey Details and Overall Metric Calculation

Organization

- Questions 1.1 through 1.6 all deal with the performance of a section's organizational structure. This set of questions is characterized as a leading metric since they are indicative of a section's capacity for operating smoothly.
- Questions that involve a 'Yes' or 'No' answer are scored as calculated in Equation 1 where Q is the question response and S is the final question score. "Yes" is evaluated as 1 and "No" is evaluated as 0, which give the two possible scores of 0.5 and 0. Equation 1 is used for questions 1.1, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6

$$S = 0.5Q \quad (1)$$

- Questions that involve a numerical answer are 1.2, and 1.3. The scores are calculated as shown in Equations 2 through 4, where Q is the question response, and S is the final question score. The *max* term represents the maximum of all section responses.

$$S_{1.2} = \left(1 - \frac{Q_{1.2}}{100}\right) \quad (2)$$

$$S_{1.3} = \left(1 - \frac{Q_{1.3}}{\max(Q_{1.3})}\right) \quad (3)$$

- The score range for questions 1.2 and 1.3 is 0 to 1, and the score range for 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6 is 0 to 0.5. A higher score is indicative of a section that is functioning efficiently and is improving, and a lower score indicates a section that is struggling with this metric.

Media

- Questions 2.1 through 2.3 deal with media activities and active presence.
- All responses in this section are "Yes" (1) or "No" (0) answers and will be awarded a score of 0 or 0.5 according to Equation 1.
- This is a leading metric because a low score is indicative of a section that is weak in this area and a higher score is indicative of a section that is active in their outreach effort

Involvement

- Questions 3.1 through 3.2 depict a local section's participation in community and AIChE activities related to Young Professionals (YP).
- All responses in this section are "Yes" (1) or "No" (0) answers and will be awarded a score of 0 or 0.5 according to Equation 1.
- This is a leading metric because a low score is indicative of a section that is struggling with engaging niche groups and its visibility with AIChE's home office, and a high score is indicative of a section that handles these tasks well.

Demographics

- Questions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 deal with the demographics of the local sections and is a major lagging metric. Since a lagging metric MUST meet the above definition, scoring of these questions needs to be handled differently.

- 4.1 addresses the number of members is first used to determine what percent of the TOTAL members belong to that section. Next, the percent for a given section is compared to the maximum percent among all sections. Equation 5 shows the calculation of the Question 4.1 score. The *max* term represents the maximum of all section responses. Similarly, the *sum* term is the sum of all section responses.

$$S_{4.1} = \max \left(\frac{Q_{4.1}}{\sum(Q_{4.1})} \right) - \frac{Q_{4.1}}{\sum(Q_{4.1})} \quad (4)$$

For example, in a survey size of two sections having 5 and 10 members, the proportions belonging to each section are 0.33 and 0.67 respectively. The final metric score will be $0.67 - 0.33 = 0.34$ and $0.67 - 0.67 = 0$. This indicates that section A has a higher lagging metric than B. The minimum score is zero and the maximum theoretical score is 1.

- Questions 4.2 and 4.3 are scored using the same rationale. Based on the percent entered, each section receives a score between 0 and 1 that is found as follows: $(1 - \text{proportion entered})$. This method of scoring will ensure that sections exhibiting low numbers will receive higher lagging metric scores. Question 4.2 is scored according to Equation 5 based on the proportion between responses to 4.2 and 4.1 if the section responded with a whole number instead of a percentage. Otherwise, the 4.2 to 4.1 proportion is replaced by the actual percentage response in Equation 6. The score for question 4.3 is calculated in Equation 6.

$$S_{4.2} = \left(1 - \frac{Q_{4.2}}{Q_{4.1}} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$S = \left(1 - \frac{Q}{100} \right) \quad (6)$$

- Questions 4.4 is scored as a scale based on the percentage of executive committee members under the age of 35 to the scale of 0-0.5. Sections that have a high percentage of executive committee members under the age of 35 receive a lower score to indicate the importance of young professionals to the overall health of the section. Since maximum diversity is valued in the leadership, a 50% mix of leaders under and over age 35 receives a top score of 0. Because many new sections are made up entirely of YPs, there is no penalty for having more than 50% YP in position of leadership.

% Leaders that are YP	Score
<10	.5
10 to 20	.4
20 to 30	.3
30 to 40	.2
40 to 50	.1
50 to 60	0
60 to 100	0

Overall Metric Calculation

The leading metric for a section is calculated shown in Equation 7, where Q is the survey response for a question. The overall metric score is the sum of all question scores, which are explained in 2.2.1 through 2.2.5. Higher leading metrics are signs of health. The *max* term represents the maximum of all section responses.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Leading} = & 0.5(Q_{1.1}) + \left(1 - \frac{Q_{1.2}}{100}\right) + \left(1 - \frac{Q_{1.3}}{\max(Q_{1.3})}\right) + 0.5(Q_{1.4}) + 0.5(Q_{1.5}) + 0.5(Q_{1.6}) + \\ & 0.5(Q_{2.1}) + 0.5(Q_{2.2}) + 0.5(Q_{2.3}) + 0.5(Q_{3.1}) + 0.5(Q_{3.2}) + 0.5(Q_{3.3}) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The lagging metric for a section is calculated shown in Equation 8, where Q is the survey response for a question. The overall metric score is the sum of all question scores. The *max* term represents the maximum of all section responses. Similarly, the *sum* term is the sum of all section responses. Higher lagging metrics are signs of low health.

$$\text{Lagging} = \max\left(\frac{Q_{4.1}}{\text{sum}(Q_{4.1})}\right) - \frac{Q_{4.1}}{\text{sum}(Q_{4.1})} + \left(1 - \frac{Q_{4.2}}{Q_{4.1}}\right) + \left(1 - \frac{Q_{4.3}}{100}\right) + \left(1 - \frac{Q_{4.4}}{100}\right) \quad (8)$$

Appendix B – Open-Ended Survey Responses
Full Responses to Open-ended Question 4.6 on 2017 Annual Survey

(Identifying details have been removed.)

4.6 Please describe the current and future state of your local section. Feel free to provide more details on any of the above responses.
<p>We are lucky in having a core group of dedicated members seeking to maintain a healthy chapter. We have eight monthly meetings each year with average attendance 30 folks. During 2018 our meeting have concentrated on field trips - all very successful. The dynamo of our chapter is two technical seminars each year. The seminars average 70 attendees and raise funds and gives the chapter a community face. We also have an active high school grant program. Up to 10% of chapter net worth is donated to benefit local high school chemistry labs. We have a young professional program which is not as successful as we would like but we are ever striving to improve. We have small scholarships for local university dissertations and outstanding local university junior. Our chapter Newsletter is outstanding. Our local Web site is outstanding. We honor outstanding professional accomplishments via biannual Charles E. Coates award.</p>
The section continues to be active, with monthly meetings and an annual regional conference.
<p>Current state is holding steady; spending time promoting member value driven events, including partnerships with local technical societies (like NSPE.org, ASQ.org). We have also started measuring Net Promoter Scores from both event / meeting attendees as well as individuals who have been guest speakers for us and we are trending favorably. We are getting repeat attendees who are new to AIChE or first time AIChE local section event participants.</p>
we are working with our YPC team to prepare them for taking over the section leadership
<p>We have an active section with activities in Members in Transition (unemployed), Outreach, Awards, Recognition, Dinner Meetings, Young Professional, Education, Workshops, K-12 and for local student chapters. We hold two planning meetings each year. Our Executive Board is very active in all activities.</p> <p>Our Dinner meeting program for the first half of 2018 has been a success! Our talks this year included:</p> <p>January - Chemical Engineering and, by the way, Process Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February - Alignment, Engagement and Execution: Creating Strong Team Performance and Results -Or, How to Herd Cats! • March - The Power of Modelling - Then, Now and Expected • April - Trends in LNG - Bigger isn't always better • May - Better Decisions Faster: Simple Things Can Reduce Incidents and Improve Operator Performance • June - Ship Channel Tour • September - North America: A future LNG superpower? • October- Southwest Process Technology Conference Dinner • November- Water Forum - Diamond Jubilee 75th Anniversary
The committee has started an initiative to find ways to motivate members to become active in the section.
It is our hope to build a strong young professional program and draw the majority of our officers from the young professional group.
<p>Current state of Section: We have been trying to re-energize our connections with Young Professionals and students, but it has been difficult to keep the YP chair filled to maintain that momentum.</p>
<p>We have pretty thin regular attendance with a few very regular members. We need to work on a plan to improve member attendance.</p>

Currently the section is stable and constantly working on arranging monthly technical programs to present to the membership. We are organizing a short course offering for the fall and revamping focus on other ways to generate income for the Section to continue maintaining a sustainable structure. We host outreach events in the community, networking and social events for the ChemE community, and have supported a YP group for 5 years. The YP group is focused on continuing and increasing involvement of younger engineers with the section programs and members. Programs and events are well attended, and the board and directors are continuously looking forward for initiatives to implement that will contribute to the continued development of the section.
I feel that the state of our local section is strong. We continue to draw good numbers of young professionals, and have begun to experiment with different ideas to appeal to more experienced professionals. I feel that we also do a great job of connecting with the students at our local universities with AIChE chapters, as we invite those chapters twice per year.
The section is stable from both a membership and fiscal standpoint and holds a range of outreach, educational, and professional activities each year.
Currently, the chapter maintains between 130-160 members. We continue an itinerary of volunteering, social, and tour-based event opportunities. This year, various events have been focused on increasing Young Professional Involvement. Total membership has grown by 14% from the beginning of the calendar year, which is primarily attributed to these outreach efforts. The Section's executive committee positions are all filled with active volunteers who meet regularly to form strategy and execute their duties. Future efforts are intended to continue increasing young professional and experienced professional involvement. There are logistical challenges with hosting regular section meetings and populating those sessions with a diverse array of speakers. Additionally, our annual embassy event (international outreach) has been limited due to increased difficulty in collaborating on a relevant topic for the host country. [We] intend to continuously strengthen it's calendar of events.
The section is managing to stay relevant due to an increased focus on joint meetings and interesting meeting topics. Whether this can be sustained given the current decline in face to face meeting attendance remains to be seen.
The current state of the Section is good. We hold dinner meetings and executive committee meetings 10 months out of the year. We also 2-3 Young Professional events per year, in conjunction with other professional organization "young professional" groups. Financial status is healthy. We support AIChE student sections, by awarding scholarships and attending their meetings as speakers. We do not expect this to change in the near future.
The section leadership is having trouble recruiting new blood before the current active members retire. The most pressing need is getting enough people to generate a suitable slate for the next election of the executive committee.
We have a vibrant list of upcoming events and try to have something for everyone, when it comes to tours and talks.
Organization is experiencing trouble with leadership having sufficient time available to arrange for meetings, etc. There is also limited interest from membership in donating time to help leadership.
Currently, we are trying to sustain our membership and do the targeted 2-3 activities each year.
Our future is very questionable. In the past 2 years our only meetings have been our annual student awards night.

Small but active section base. Improved attendance from younger members (i.e, YP group); section now actively contacts non-local AIChE members as well with some success in improving attendance. Renewed coordination with other groups (ACS specifically). High school scholarship award program now in jeopardy due to declining membership base. Private industry support funding was obtained in 2017 and 2018 to cover both awards, but larger base/more is required. Fact that 50 active members with 169 non-local members in area reinforces section need to reach out to AIChE non-local members- there is an obvious lack of communication that the local section is present that the local section has to address. Some difficulties in organizing programs exhibited in 2018 that section needs to address.
Currently seeing decreases in monthly dinner attendance. Working with contractor to create/update new more modern website and dinner location to further grow chapter. Ancillary items in addition to the two main points above.
Proposed to have section go inactive; new potential Chair defined and will take over for late 2018 and future 2019 activities
We are doing well and happy with our involvement and event attendance. We do 6-7 tours (sometimes talks) per year.
The section continues to focus on providing programming and events that are relevant to connecting chemical engineers in our region. Our biggest concern is dwindling membership. Monthly meetings draw only around 15-20 people and meetings are not held every month, given the hiatus of the summer months and a winter break. Same executive body is elected typically every few years, due to the lack of participation of other members.
FIND MOTIVATED LEADERS TO REVIVE THE CHAPTER
Inactive due to minimal participation
High population of professionals in the area, but very low interest in the local section. The interest is very slowly growing and the section is trying to provide more opportunities, but has few active members to make it a reality.
We are a local section in transition: --transition in leadership --transition in membership --transition in technical community outreach --transition in social community outreach --transition in meeting programs / format
As stated in 4.5, reduced number of chemical engineering employers locally has negatively affected local participation, most specifically young professional participation. It is the local section executive committee's goal to increase the participants in the coming years.
We have been acting as an interim board for the last 3 years. Now that we have had a number of events and have placed the section on solid financial ground again, we feel that it is time to hold officer elections this fall. We are hoping for a strong group of candidate nominations.
It has been quite difficult to attract members to hold officer's positions. Although there is a growing population of chemical engineers in this area younger than 35 years old, no one has shown interest in being active in the Young Professionals Committee, and that is why we do not have one in our section. We need to re-vamp our section and attract the young professionals that live in the area.
Our most successful meeting is the Annual AIChE picnic that we do in coordination with the Student

Chapter. The picnic event has always been a great success.
We don't have student members in our section.
We have had at least one event per month, with decent attendance at each event. The board has dissolved, with members relocating, etc. Next year's board does not look good (we don't have any interested).
Steady to a slight decline in membership. Committed executive committee.
Hold two meetings a year - Spring and Fall. These two meetings a year seem to be what are membership wants and is what we can provide for them.
We need more participation, especially from young professionals.
The need to get some new and younger individuals interested in being involved in the section leadership. These individuals need to be active in business and university work. Presently our leadership has all retired.
The Section is stable and active. High number of senior members.
We need more/different people to volunteer to plan activities/events
Our section is inactive. I would like to get it re-activated, but have not made that a priority.
The Local Section is basically inactive. We maintain our membership with the Engineering Society (ESB) and our representative continues to attend meetings of the Associate Society Council at the ESB. We continue to offer an engineering challenge.
Our section is stable and has a healthy number of senior members. We have a great relationship with multiple universities so we have great attendance by students. We have very few YPs. This seems to be in part because college graduates mostly move away. We do not have any chemical manufacturing in our area. We have consulting jobs and retirees. We have a Student/YP outreach coordinator who is great.
Section was revived in mid-2016 after several years of inactivity. Next month will hold 3rd officer election since revival. Executive committee has been meeting monthly since formal election in June 2016, an ad-hoc committee met for some months prior. No students are dues-paying members of the section, although 3 student chapters participate in the annual student process trouble-shooting competition. Beginning October 2016, regular quarterly meetings have been held. 56 different (non-student) individuals have attended one or more of the meetings as have 41 students.
We are on the verge of closing our section. Very little participation from younger (less than 60 years) members. Hard to get speakers for meetings.
We struggle to organize and host events as many of us are spread out across the state hundreds of miles apart.
Many employees are retiring while there is a high rate of new employees moving into the area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We hosted several joint events with other organizations (e.g. chemical engineering students, ACS, NACE, LES). These events were well attended by these other organizations, but not by members of AIChE. Only a few board members planned and attended these events. Most of the chemical engineering graduates accept jobs outside of the area, thereby presenting a challenge in developing a Young Professionals group. There is a need for initiatives to increase our local section membership and participation in our local section events. There has not been a formal board meeting in the past year. Plans are being made for a meeting in

September.
<p>We contribute to and participate in one event every year</p> <p>Sometimes we help the students compete in the chemical car competition.</p> <p>We hope to hold some plant tours this year for ChemE students as we have a new Student chapter officer.</p>
It's on life support and without energized new leadership it will likely be closed soon.
The local section has had no activities for the past year. i will revive the local section activities by holding officers meeting and planning an event before the end of this year.
Currently non-functioning
Our local section co-sponsor seminars with the Professional Engineering organization and support the student chapters of the in their respective activities.
We have two new officers who are quite enthusiastic about having more events. So we are hopeful of increasing our participation levels and involvement.