

LOCAL SECTIONS COMMITTEE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Email: localsections@aiiche.org

Letter from the Chair

By Sidney Haig Biddle, Local Sections Committee Chair

Welcome everyone to the winter edition of our Quarterly Newsletter! I hope everyone has had a relaxing holiday season. The New Year is often a time to set new goals and make changes. Our Local Sections Committee (LSC) leadership team will be experiencing changes as well. I will be stepping down as your Chair, and our current Vice-Chair, Owen Jappen, will be assuming the role of Chair effective March 27th at the AIChE Spring Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Mary Lynch will assume the position of Vice-Chair, and we will be filling the position of Second Vice-Chair shortly. I would like to say it has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Chair of the Local Sections Committee these past two years. I have been very impressed with the caliber of talented and dedicated professionals who give of their spare time in unselfishly furthering the chemical engineering profession, enriching the lives of others in all stages of their careers, from university students through retired professionals. Thank you also to all in the LSC committee, CEOC, and the AIChE staff who have been such a great help in providing assistance and guidance. I still plan to stay involved as Past Chair, and look forward to working with all of you in the future in different areas as opportunities may arise!

The LSC started off this year by publishing the [2016 AIChE Local Sections Annual Report](#) which provides metrics regarding local section health based on surveys which were submitted by local sections back in the early fall. The 2016 Annual Report shows, in general, an improvement for all current AIChE local sections. Across the board, sections of each size saw lower lagging metrics indicating that historic concerns have been addressed and mitigated, reducing difficulties faced by local sections. This continued the trend from 2015 which suggests that LS efforts have been improving the health of sections. This is great news and a reason to celebrate. Local sections are improving and that is a direct result of our talented local section leaders who have worked diligently and with great enthusiasm to plan, organize and execute opportunities for their members. Thank you for all of your work. I would also like to thank Rishon Benjamin and Andi Huffman for their time and

efforts into analyzing the data and writing the report, respectively. Great job!

In other news, the LSC has selected six (6) [Shining Star Award](#) winners for 2017. This year's winners are:

- Bruce Holden, Mid-Michigan AIChE
- Gary Prager, North Jersey Section
- Tim Wallace, Eastern North Carolina Section
- Louis Felice, Susquehanna Local Section
- Mike Gentilcore, St. Louis Section
- Peter Schwalbenberg, Delaware Valley

Congratulations to this year's winners! Thank you to all those who nominated deserving volunteers for this year's award. It is always difficult to determine a winner from such a great group of nominees; however, the new rubrics for scoring that were developed last year have made the process easier and more robust.

Don't forget that both the Local Section Program Planning Grant and the Project Connect Grant are due on March 30th. Please go to the [AIChE Local Sections awards webpage](#) for information and to apply.

As mentioned before, the [2017 AIChE Spring Meeting](#) will be held in San Antonio, TX at the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center, from March 26-30th. The next LSC in-person meeting will be held there on Monday, March 27th at 12:30 -2 PM (location TBD). In addition, there will be the Volunteer Leadership Recognition Reception from 7-8 PM to honor all AIChE volunteers. We hope you can attend both events and look forward to seeing you there.

Remember that the LSC aims to highlight Local Sections best practices and develop practical resource materials that will help you as AIChE's volunteer section leaders serve your constituents. If you have best practices to share, please send them to localsections@aiiche.org.

Thank you for your efforts in making AIChE a success!

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CALL FOR 2ND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE LOCAL SECTIONS COMMITTEE

By: Monica Mellinger, AIChE Staff

The Local Sections Committee (LSC) is soliciting nominations for an officer role within the committee. The 2nd Vice-Chair position will soon be vacant and the committee is looking for a volunteer to step forward to fill this role. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please email me at monis@aiiche.org. Below are some of the key responsibilities of being the LSC 2nd Vice-Chair.

- ☐ Will be vice chair-elect and must become vice chair the following year and chair the year after that
- ☐ Will ideally have past local section chair experience or other local section leadership experience
- ☐ Is a current AIChE member
- ☐ Moderate LSC monthly meeting when Chair and Vice Chair is unavailable
- ☐ Act as LSC liaison to the AIChE Operating Councils or committees requesting local section input
- ☐ Assist the chair in developing the meeting agendas
- ☐ Moderate a few of the biannual regional section calls if available
- ☐ Attend one on one teleconferences with struggling local sections, newly formed local sections, etc. if available
- ☐ Evaluate and vote on Shining Star Award applications once a year

Thank you for your consideration and your continued dedication to AIChE.

Support Upcoming Undergrad Regional Conferences

These conferences, hosted by AIChE student chapters, are looking for volunteers to assist with judging, Chem-E-Car, and hosting presentations. See the list below to find which conference is closest to your local section.

- [Southwest](#): Trinity University, March 24-25, 2017
- [Mid-Atlantic](#): Rowan University, March 24-25, 2017
- [Northeast](#): Worcester Polytechnic Institute, March 24-25, 2017
- [Southern](#): University of Tennessee, Knoxville, March 31- April 1, 2017
- [Rocky Mountain](#): University of North Dakota, March 31 - April 1, 2017
- [Mid-America](#): University of Tulsa, March 31 - April 1, 2017
- [North Central](#): Illinois Institute of Technology, April 7-8, 2017
- [Pacific Northwest](#): Oregon State University, April 14-16, 2017
- [Western](#): University of California, San Diego, April 14-16, 2017

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UNIQUE EVENTS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

By: Rachel McLendon, East Tennessee Local Section

Young Professionals from the East Tennessee Local Section gathered for a variety of events throughout 2016. The picnic in the Spring, the Salsa dancing lessons in the Summer, and the Professional Development workshop in the Fall were all well attended.

If you are interested in contributing to future newsletters, being a highlighted local section or have general updates for the good of all local sections, please email localsections@aiiche.org.

The Young Professionals Group decided to host a different kind of event in the Fall this year. An event that, while still focused on networking, would benefit professionals early in their career: Retirement Planning. A representative from the Fidelity office in Nashville, TN came to Kingsport to host a talk about the many different aspects of planning for retirement. He touched on variables that may affect certain financial decisions and fielded the many questions asked by the audience. It was an enlightening seminar that only garnered positive feedback. Our YP Group hopes to host another professional development workshop in 2017.



Young Professional members of the East Tennessee Local Section attend a meeting on retirement planning.

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UNDERGRAD CAREER PANEL IN NYC

By: Mary Lynch, LSC 2nd Vice-Chair, Metro New York Local Section

Each fall, the New York Metro Section of the AIChE hosts a career event for the CHE students and young professionals in the New York City Region. The event location changes each year and a different student chapter co-hosts the event each year.

If you are interested in contributing to future newsletters, being a highlighted local section or have general updates for the good of all local sections, please email localsections@aiiche.org.

This year's event was co-hosted by The Cooper Union AIChE Student Chapter. It was held in the Rose Auditorium located in the 41 Cooper Square building of the Cooper Union campus. The event included a moderated panel discussion and a networking session with bountiful refreshments. The panel discussion included conversation about various career paths, work environments, travelling for work, making time for family and recreation, and keeping the job fun. The Panel event lasted 90 minutes and the networking lasted another 90 minutes. Refreshments included cheeses, crackers, chips, dips, fresh vegetables, and lots of cookies.

More than 70 undergrad students attended. They represented the following universities: City College of New York, Columbia University, Manhattan College, New York University, Stony Brook University, and The Cooper Union. The audience also included 6 young professionals and some Chemical Engineering faculty.

The panelists were:

- **Andrew Sung**, an Environmental Engineer at AMC Engineering, PLLC
- **Matthew Zirpoli**, a R&D Process Engineer at the Estee Lauder Companies, Inc
- **Christopher Bentley**, Section Manager in Con Edison's Civil/Mechanical Engineering group
- **Ciera Low**, a Data Analytics Developer at ENSO Financial Management
- **Peter Ha**, a Chemical Production Technician at Con Edison's East River Station
- **Yanir Maidenbergh, Ph.D.** a Visiting Assistant Professor of chemical engineering at Manhattan College

The Moderator was **Vish Padnani**, the AIChE Chapter President and Co-President of the Cooper Union Chem-E-Car team.

The planning committee included:

- **Mary Lynch**, Chair of NY Metro Section
- **Andrew Sung**, Treasurer and Student & YP Coordinator for NY Metro Section
- **Vish Padnani**, Cooper Union Student Chapter President & Co-President of The Cooper Union ChemE-Car team
- **Anushree Sreedhar**, AIChE Student Chapter Vice President
- **Daniel Lepek**, AIChE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor



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LOCAL SECTION LEADERS CENTRAL

By: Monica Mellinger, AIChE Staff

AIChE Engage [Local Section Leader Central](#) launched in December 2016. This new discussion platform, exclusively for AIChE local section chairs, past chairs, vice chairs, secretaries and treasurers, allows you to connect with your fellow leaders to share best practices, ask questions of each other and share ideas. It will also be used as the main communication tool to reach our section leaders. Through [AIChE Engage](#) you can also manage your profile and keep track of your member benefits.

To make the most out of this new platform, I encourage you to login and update your AIChE member profile with your up to date career information and upload a photo of yourself so your peers can put a face with your name (this can be imported directly from LinkedIn!). I look forward to seeing each of you on Engage!

2017 LSC CONFERENCE CALLS

May 18 at 3pm

July 19 at 1pm

September 20 at 12:30pm

December 6 at 2pm

All local section chairs, vice chairs, secretaries and treasurers are invited to attend these calls.

We will also be meeting in person on:

- March 27 at 12:30pm Central at the [2017 Spring Meeting & Global Congress on Process Safety](#)
- October 30, at 12:30pm Central at the [2017 Annual Meeting](#)

Other Resources for Section Leaders

Speaker's Corner

The [Speakers Corner](#) provides local sections with a list of experts and outstanding communicators who are interested in presenting on their work and the state of chemical engineering. This is a great tool for planning programming at your section's meeting!

Funding for Sections Available

Apply today for a [Program Planning Grant](#) or a [Project Connect Grant](#)! Awards available to assist local sections with membership outreach efforts. Next deadline is for the Project Connect Grant is March 30, 2017. Next deadline for the Program Planning Grant is March 30, 2017.

Shining Star Award

Recognize outstanding volunteerism within your local section by nominating someone for the [Shining Star Award](#). Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2017.

Update Your Officer Roster

You can see who AIChE has listed as officers of your local section by clicking on your section name in the [Find a Local Section website](#). If this listing is out of date, [complete the officer update form](#).

Website Platform Available at No Charge

Whether you're using AIChE's old platform or are using a third party platform, learn more about [AIChE's web platform](#), [see examples](#) of sections already using them, and [request your new, free website today](#).

More resources available at the [Resources for Local Section Leaders](#) website.