

Newsletter for the Kalamazoo Local Section of the American Chemical Society

March 22, 2017

Vol. 7 – Issue 3

2017 KACS Executive Officers

Chairperson

Steve Secreast

chair@kalamazooacs.org

Past-Chairperson

Dr. Brian Eklov

brian@eklov.org

Chairperson-Elect

Vacant

Secretary

Angela Willson,

angelamwillson@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dr. Andre Venter

andre.venter@wmich.edu

*seeking new treasurer to
begin July 2017*

Councilor

Dr. Lydia E. M. Hines

lemhwgh@gmail.com

Alternate Councilor

Dr. Doug Williams, Kalsec, Inc.

dwilliams@kalsec.com

In this edition...

Page 2

Chair's Comments

Page 4

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Events

Page 5

Great Lakes Region updates

Page 6

75th Anniversary Party Report

Page 10

Save the date – Annual Awards

Page 11

March for Science in Kalamazoo

Page 12

An invitation from Lake View Elementary



Chair's Comments



Steve Secreast, Chair

"The last bastion of inertness has finally fallen." Did you see this C&EN article (vol 95, issue 7) in early February? A research team from Skolkovo Institute and Nankai University got helium to react with sodium under pressure to make a stable form of Na_2He . Turns out that even helium is active when it comes to chemistry. We can learn something from that.

I fully agree with comments received from a number of local section members during and after our recently successful 75th anniversary celebration that we would like to see more events like this occur. That can happen if we overcome inertness and get more involved in the local section. Okay, it's not really fair to say that we tend to be inert, but that was a good link to the helium article.

We are all very busy with families, work, school and life, and finding time to volunteer with local section activities is not easy or our highest priority. With even a little more member involvement though, we could do more fun and educational chemistry-related events here in our local area.

Some of us were talking recently about our favorite chemistry demonstrations that we've done at various local schools. This got me thinking; it could be cool to form a team of us to go to local schools with a chem demonstration program. Having a team do this means that we would each only have to do one demonstration (our favorite), but we'd have a multi-demonstration program. Could call this group The Traveling Kalchemists, or something like that. Let me know please, if this sounds like something of interest, and let's discuss it some more.

If that sounds like too much, how about volunteering for our upcoming Chemists Celebrate Earth Day? This is a one-day deal (22 April) and we need volunteers to work exhibit tables, with materials and information provided. Working with the kids that come to this event leaves one with a feeling of satisfaction that is rare.

Miss having recurring full-membership meetings with speakers? I do, and I think that if a few people are willing to step up and help me with that, we can get them going again.

Also of great interest to me continues to be finding someone willing to step up and take on the 2017 Chair-Elect / 2018 Chair position.

We have with the outstanding group of chemists in our area, the potential for making KACS an even more vibrant and active organization heading into our next 75 years. We as members just need to donate some of our time and talent to make that reaction go. Please let me or any Executive Committee member know if you can help.

Thanks,
Steve

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

TWO EVENTS!

WEEK ONE

Saturday, April 15

11 am – 3 pm

Celery Flats
7335 Garden Lane
Portage, MI 49002

WEEK TWO

Saturday, April 22

9 am – 4 pm

Kalamazoo Nature Center
7000 N. Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



The theme for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) this year is “Chemistry Helps Feed the World”. We have scheduled 2 outreach events in April: The first one will be at the Celery Flats in Portage on Saturday, April 15, from 11 am to 3 pm during their Earth Day activities, and the second will be at the Kalamazoo Nature Center on Saturday, April 22 (9 am – 4 pm) during their Earth Day celebration (with free admission to the Nature Center grounds); at both venues there will be age-appropriate information and hands-on activities for the patrons.

Though the WMU Chem Club members have agreed to present at these two outreach opportunities, that should not preclude KACS member participation on one or both of these days and venues. Patrons are always eager to learn new things about chemistry and to receive materials which they can take home for their further exploration with family, scout leaders and teachers – ACS is very generous in its provision of materials.

Lydia Hines is the Section’s CCED coordinator again this year and you may contact her (lemhwgh@gmail.com) if you would like to join the fun.

Great Lakes Region Meeting

The KACS local section is a member of the Great Lakes Region.
Please visit the region's new website to learn about our region.

<http://greatlakesregionacs.sites.acs.org>

At the new website you will find:

- Information regarding the 2017 Great Lakes Regional Meeting in Fargo, North Dakota June 27-30
- Abstract submission directions for the GLR meeting (deadline of April 24)
- Details on four awards to be given at that GLR meeting
- Nomination requests for worthy award recipients



Report

KACS' 75th Anniversary Celebration

Our Michigan winter held off for several days in the last week of February so our celebration on the 23rd of that month was a less harrowing experience than it could have been; it was a fantastic one!



“The group enjoying the meal at the Air Zoo”

The venue was the Kalamazoo Air Zoo where we had a delightful dinner catered by AV Catering, complete with the chef wearing an apron we gave him that said “Get Cooking with Chemistry”; we sat at tables in the shadow of the Zoo’s SR71B; we had four of the Air Zoo “rides” available to attendees of all ages (there were about 100 adult members and friends, and 39 children who attended); there was a buzz of conversation and great camaraderie. The program was streamlined so as not to be excessively long: cutting of the celebratory cake from Amy’s Cakes was followed by a lecture on the SR71B, the fastest airplane ever built, by Mr. John Boase, a docent at the Air Zoo, recognition of the 10 past chairs of the section who were present, recognition of members with 50- 60- and 70- years of membership in the ACS, ending with a

very informative presentation on the ACS and its current emphases by its Executive Director and CEO, Dr. Thomas Connelly. Though none of the three members of our Section with 70+ continuous years of ACS membership (Dr. Fred Kagan, 71 years, Dr. Harold Hart, 75 years, and Dr. Donald Iffland, 75 years) was able to attend, Dr. Connelly personally visited Dr. Iffland before arriving at our celebration to help with the set-up! The one 61-year member present, along with his wife, was Dr. Howard Whaley.

A celebration such as this does not just “happen” - many of our current section members participated in its successful execution; special thanks go to James Kiddle and Sarut Jianrattanasawatt for arranging for the meal and the cakes; to Steve Secreast for supplying the continuously-running background power-point chemistry- and Section trivia-quiz and historical photos, the 7-foot banner with our logo and the pint glasses engraved with our logo, available to the first 100 registrants; to Andre Venter for keeping track of the reservations; to Mark Wolf for helping to set up the PayPal account for the event; to Christine Prais for sending out our newsletters and other timely information; to Elke Schoffers for soliciting funds for the event and being the photographer; and to Brian Eklov and Lydia Hines for gathering archival information.

We look forward to our 100th anniversary and the years leading up to that!



“Current Executive Committee ready to cut the celebratory cake.”

L to R: Doug Williams, Lydia Hines, Brian Eklov, Stephen Secreast, Angela Willson-Conrad, Andre Venter (The sashes say “I am a Chemistry Ambassador”)



“Past KACS Chairs in attendance”

L to R: Jed Fisher, Doug Williams, Don Schreiber, Lydia Hines, John Stodola,
 Brian Eklov, John Engelmann, Elke Schoffers, John Greenfield.
 Present but not pictured, James Kiddle



“ Mr, John Boase, a docent at the Air Zoo, gives a lecture on the SR71B, the
 fastest airplane ever built”



“Dr. Tom Connelly, ACS Executive Director, speaks on ACS vision and accomplishments”



“The delicious celebratory cake made by Amy’s Cakes.”

Save the Date!

Annual KACS Awards Program

**Monday May 8, 2017
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Chemistry Building Lobby
Western Michigan University**



The annual Awards Program of the KACS will be held Monday, May 8, 2017 in the lobby of the Chemistry Building at Western Michigan University (WMU). The presentation of awards will follow a light reception.

Among the over 50 awards to be given that evening will be:

- Outstanding College Chemistry Student from WMU
- Outstanding College Chemistry Student from Kalamazoo College
- Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher
- Outstanding High School Chemistry Students
- Competitive Exam Scholarship Awards

March for Science in Kalamazoo

Saturday April 22, 2017

Location and time still to be determined

It's looking that Kalamazoo will have a local satellite version of the March For Science, being planned for 22 April. ACS has issued statements in support of the March (see the blue box link on the ACS website or follow the link below). KACS is looking into options for local section participation in the Kalamazoo March. Additional information will be relayed as planning progresses and more details become available.



Click [here](#) to read ACS' March for Science Press Release

Being Ambassadors for Chemistry Makes a Difference!

by Lydia Hines

As was shared in the February newsletter, our participation at Lake Center Elementary School's first-ever science night (STEM night) was greatly appreciated. In a more recent communication from the school, the principal expressed vividly that the interest generated that evening has grown, so she extended an invitation to all members of our section to a March 23 (6:30 – 8:00 pm) celebration of the children's continued enthusiasm for science; there they will be showcasing their science-related achievements - some completed and others still in progress - since that well-attended event on October 20, 2016. Our Section "ambassadors" to that event were the WMU Chem Club & Lydia. Hines.

Visit our website

www.kalamazooacs.org



Do you have questions, comments, or would like to contribute to this newsletter?
Send an email to Christine Pruis, Communication Chair at ACSkzoo@gmail.com