

**NERM Committee**  
**Morton Z. Hoffman, Chair**  
**NESACS Representative to the NERACS Board of Directors**



**San Diego – March 2012**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Region of the American Chemical Society, Inc. (NERACS) met informally in San Diego on March 27, 2012. In attendance were Julianne Smist (Springfield College), Chair; Richard Cobb (Kodak), Vice Chair; Wayne Jones (SUNY Binghamton), Treasurer. Also in attendance were Richard Hartmann (Nazareth College), Mitchell Bruce (University of Maine-Orono), Willem Leenstra (University of Vermont), George Ruger (Mid-Hudson Local Section), Martin Walker (SUNY Potsdam), Nikki Fisher (ACS), Martha Hollomon (ACS), and this reporter.

The Treasurer reported that NERACS had financial assets of approximately \$48,000, which makes the corporation solvent and stable. A full report will be presented at the next meeting of the NERACS Board of Directors.

NERM 2012 (“100 Years of Creating a Better Future through Chemistry”) will be hosted by the Rochester Local Section on Sunday-Wednesday, September 30-October 3, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel Riverside in Rochester, NY. The meeting will be the occasion of the celebration of chemistry at Eastman Kodak and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Rochester, New Haven, and Maine Local Sections. For details about the program, abstract submission, registration, and accommodations, see <<http://nerm.sites.acs.org>>.

NERM 2013 will be held on Wednesday-Saturday, October 23-26, 2013, at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT. The host will be the New Haven Local Section. A website for the meeting is in the process of being developed. It was noted that NESACS is planning to host a delegation of German graduate students that week as part of its NSYCC-JCF Exchange Program, which will include participation in NERM 2013.

No bids have been received for NERM 2014; it is anticipated that no meeting will be held in that year.

The bid from the Cornell Local Section to host NERM 2015 in June of that year was accepted at the NERACS Board of Directors meeting in Denver in August 2011. Both the Binghamton and Syracuse Local Sections have indicated interest in hosting NERM 2016, probably in October of that year. Hope was expressed that NERM would return to New England in a subsequent year.

The NERACS Board of Directors will hold its next annual meeting in Rochester, NY, on Saturday evening, September 29, 2012.

### **Rochester – September/October 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Northeast Region of the American Chemical Society, Inc. (NERACS) held its annual meeting in Rochester, NY, on September 29 on the occasion of the Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM), which was hosted by the Rochester local section. In attendance were representatives of the following constituent local sections: Connecticut Valley, Rochester, Central Massachusetts, Binghamton, New Haven, Syracuse, Cornell, Green Mountain, Mid-Hudson, and NESACS (this reporter). Also present was Nikki Fisher of the ACS Regional Meetings Office.

After introductions, the minutes of the previous annual Board meeting of August 30, 2011, in Denver were approved as corrected. Chris Masi (Westfield State U) and Wayne Jones (Binghamton U) were nominated and elected for two-year terms as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Julianne Smist (Springfield College) and Richard Cobb (Kodak, retired) will serve another year as Chair and Vice-Chair of NERACS, respectively.

The Treasurer reported that NERACS has financial assets of approximately \$34,000; seed loans of \$4,000 each have been made to the organizers of NERM 2012 and 2013, which will be repaid when the books for those meetings are closed. A request for support of Project SEED was received; NERACS will provide \$1,000 as a one-time commitment.

The final report on NERM 2010 in Potsdam, NY, which was hosted by the Northern New York local section, was presented and accepted. A discussion was held about connections of that meeting with the Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) in regard to attendance at meetings, links on websites, and joint programming.

Richard Hartmann (Nazareth College), NERM 2012 General Chair, reported that the program consists of talks and posters, workshops and short courses, science teacher sessions, undergraduate research presentations, awards and other special events, and a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Rochester, New Haven, and Maine local sections. It was noted by Richard Cobb, Awards Chair, that only one nomination had been received for the E. Ann Nalley Award for Volunteer Service, which meant that it could not be given since a minimum of two is required. Local sections will be encouraged to submit nominations for the 2013 competition of this and the other awards.

NERM 2013 will be held during National Chemistry Week on Wednesday-Saturday, October 23-26, at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, CT; the host will be the New Haven local section. The website for the meeting <<http://nerm2013.sites.acs.org/>> has been launched. It was mentioned again that NESACS will host a delegation of German graduate students that week as part of its NSYCC-JCF Exchange Program, which will include participation in NERM 2013; contact was established and will be maintained with the General Co-chairs of the meeting.

The NERACS Board voted not to hold a NERM in 2014 due to the absence of any bids.

The bid from the Cornell local section to host NERM 2015 on June 10-13 had been accepted at the NERACS Board of Directors meeting last year; the Memorandum of Understanding to hold

the meeting on the campus of Ithaca College was approved. The General and Program Chairs of NERM 2015 will be Akiko Fillinger and Anna Larsen of Ithaca College, respectively.

Bids are open for NERM 2016 and NERM 2017; interest in them was indicated by the Binghamton and Syracuse local sections. Hope was expressed that NERM would return again to New England; the Northeastern, Maine, Rhode Island, and Green Mountain local sections were encouraged to consider serving as a host for a meeting in the future.

The NERACS Board of Directors will hold its next annual meeting in New Haven, CT, on the occasion of NERM 2013.

NERM 2012 (*100 Years of Creating a Better Future Through Chemistry*) on September 30-October 3 attracted 431 abstracts and 661 registrants for the two and one-half days of programming across the entire spectrum of chemistry. Special symposia were held on nanostructured materials, chemistry and human health, entrepreneurial practices, applied science, fuel cells, bio-based polymers, imaging, photovoltaics and climate change. A joint ACS/CSC presidential event featured a discussion among Bassam Shkhashiri (University of Wisconsin-Madison), ACS President, Cathleen Crudden (Queen's University), CSC President, Tom Smith (Rochester Institute of Technology), and Deryn Fogg (University of Ottawa) about areas of common cross-border interest and potential activities. Rochester local section and ACS awards were presented; the Harrison Howe Award for outstanding chemical research was given to Sunney Xie of Harvard University. The exposition featured displays by 39 vendors and an exhibit table from the ACS Senior Chemists Task Force.