

Report from New Haven: Meeting of the Board of Directors of NERACS

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Doris Lewis (Suffolk University), flanked by Marinda Wu (ACS President) at left and Julie Smist (NERACS Chair), receiving the 2013 E. Ann Nalley Northeast Region Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.



Sharon Palmer (Amherst Regional High School), flanked by Marinda Wu (ACS President) at left and Julie Smist (NERACS Chair), receiving the 2013 Division of Chemical Education Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

The Board of Directors of the Northeast Region of the ACS, Inc. (NERACS) met on Saturday, October 26, 2013, in the Omni New Haven Hotel on the occasion of the Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM 2013). The NERACS Board consists of its Chair (Julianne Smist, Springfield College), Vice Chair (Richard Cobb, Eastman Kodak, retired), Secretary (Christopher Masi, Westfield State University), Treasurer (Wayne Jones, SUNY Binghamton), and representatives from the following local sections: Binghamton, Central Massachusetts, Central New York, Connecticut Valley, Cornell, Corning, Eastern New York, Green Mountain, Maine, Mid-Hudson, New Haven, Northeastern, Northern New York, Penn-York, Rhode Island, Rochester, Western Connecticut, Western New York.

In addition to executive officers Smist, Cobb, and Masi, the following local section representatives were present at the meeting: Willem Leenstra (Green Mountain), Mark Zell (Rhode Island), Akiko Fillinger (Cornell), Richard Hartmann (Rochester), Mitchell Bruce (Maine), Kenneth White and Jefferson Chin (New Haven), Morton Hoffman (Northeastern). Also in attendance were Thomas Gilbert (ACS District I Director) and Michelle Stevenson (ACS staff liaison to NERM).

The Board elected Richard Cobb and Willem Leenstra as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for two-year terms (2014-15). It voted by acclamation its appreciation for the service Julianne Smist provided as Chair for six years from the time of the incorporation of NERACS. The terms for the current Secretary and Treasurer run through 2014.

It was announced that the assets in the NERACS Treasury is close to \$50,000; when it reaches that level, discussions will take place concerning the long-term use of those funds. At the present time, any income above expenses for a NERM is shared in a 60/40 ratio between the hosting local section and NERACS.

Cobb expressed concern about the paucity of nominations for the region awards that are presented at NERM; in fact, some awards are not given because the number of nominations does not reach the stipulated minima. He asked the representatives of the local sections to urge their officers and members to be active in the nomination process. Inasmuch as there will not be a NERM in 2014, there is now ample time for nominations to be generated for the 2015 cycle of the following Northeast Region awards: Achievements in the Chemical Sciences, Excellence in High School Teaching, Volunteer Service to the ACS, Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences.

It was reported that as of that morning, more than 850 registrations had been received for NERM 2013; over 480 oral and poster presentations were included in the program. There were 140 undergraduate research posters, four high school student posters, and 27 exhibitors at the meeting. Although the room quota had not been met at the Omni Hotel, which will result in some penalty, overall the financial balance sheet for the meeting should be in positive territory.

NERM 2015 will be held at Ithaca College, June 10-13, with Akiko Fillinger of that institution as the General Chair. The Binghamton Section is expected to submit a bid to host NERM 2016 to celebrate its 75th anniversary. The Central New York and Rochester Sections have made separate expressions of interest for NERM 2017. NERM 2018 is currently open; the Rhode Island Section will explore the option for an October meeting that year in Providence or Newport, perhaps in connection with the Southeastern Massachusetts area of NESACS.

The next meeting of the NERACS Board will be at a 2014 national ACS meeting, probably in San Francisco in August.

[See all the photos here](#)