

American Chemical Society

Form: Appendix 7 -- Women Chemist Committee Report **Optional**
Organization: Michigan State University
Year: 2004

WCC Annual Report

Goals of the LSWCC Annual Report

The purpose of LSWCC Annual Reports is to summarize and highlight the achievements of Local Section (LS) WCCs every year. This accomplishes several objectives:

- (1) continuity within each LSWCC to use for future reference and succession planning;
- (2) increased awareness of LSWCC programming to share with the LS ACS and the National WCC;
- (3) conveyance of event ideas with other LSWCCs. Along those lines, Annual Reports are used to select LSWCC award winners.

Submission of the LSWCC Annual Report

This form must be completed if you wish to be nominated for a LSWCC award. If you do not wish to be nominated for an award or do not have a LSWCC, this form is optional.

I. Overall Evaluation

Provide a brief, general overview of the LSWCC. Reflect on the state of the committee -- if the goals of last year were accomplished, possibly commenting candidly about the activities.

ACS Women in Chemistry (WiC) was founded at Michigan State University in 1997 to address the needs and concerns of women who have or are pursuing advanced degrees in chemistry and related fields. It provides a venue for women chemists to interact and programs designed to facilitate both professional and personal growth, to provide opportunities for network building, and to establish mentoring relationships. Members are primarily graduate students, postdocs, specialists, and faculty members in the MSU Department of Chemistry, but participants also include women from other departments, undergraduate students, and professional women from the community. The seventh year of WiC has proven to be the best yet, with continually increasing interest and participation. Although the mission of the group has remained the same, WiC strives to sponsor new types of activities in a variety of formats that will reach a number of different audiences. The specific goals for 2004 were to provide members with networking opportunities within our local section and beyond, to maintain a strong outreach program, and find ways to further increase and diversify participation in WiC activities.

II. Officers and Members

Provide a list of current LS officers and committee members. Note who is writing and submitting Annual Report. It is strongly suggested that this list contain contact information, e.g. email addresses, phone numbers, and mailing addresses, for the:

LSWCC Officers

Co-Chairs: Elizabeth McGaw and Melissa Meaney

This report was submitted by co-chairs
Elizabeth
McGaw and Melissa Meaney

WCC Mentor

Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Severin

WCC Members

Steering Committee Members: Anne Fischer,
Maricris
Lodriguito, Audrey Martin, Sarah Stevenson, Amber
Terry, Soheila Vaezeslami, and Erin Vogel

III. Activities

This section highlights each LSWCC activity in more detail, such as: a description of the event, how many people attended, what did and did not work, obstacles encountered, photographs, websites, etc.

In an effort to strengthen relationships between women in our own local section, WiC held a series of brown-bag lunches in which women were invited to speak on a variety of career-related topics. Presentations included "How to Buy the Perfect Suit" by Dr. Victoria McGuffin, "The Importance of a Post-Doctoral Position" by Dr. Lynmarie Posey, "Choosing a Career Path" with Dr. Kirsten Tollefson, and "Preparing for an Academic Career" with Dr. Kristina Chan. WiC also continued to facilitate networking opportunities through our "Meet the Speaker" program, in which attendees chat informally with women visiting the department. Participation at these events has increased compared to previous years, and included men and women from a variety of disciplines.

The 2004 outreach program included a number of events targeted at increasing and maintaining the interest of young people in scientific careers. First, WiC volunteers coordinated and mentored 31 undergraduate students who presented 16 hands-on chemical demonstrations and activities to over 2,600 visitors during National Chemistry Week at Impression V Science Center in Lansing, MI. WiC volunteers also worked with local high school students to provide hands-on instrumental experience. Also in 2004, the WiC steering committee members organized the first-annual Scout Chemistry Merit Badge Day. This event provides area scouts with an opportunity to earn a Chemistry merit badge (boys) or interest project patch (girls). When this event was started, the

Girl

Scout Council did not have a Chemistry interest project patch (IPP), so WiC wrote the IPP requirements that were approved by the Girl Scouts of Michigan Capital Council (GSMCC) for use nationally in March 2004. The first Girl Scout chemistry IPP was issued last spring to the 6 girls that participated in Scout Chemistry Merit Badge Day. Another important outreach activity for WiC members in 2004 was the annual Girls Math/Science Conference for sixth grade girls. WiC members presented "Solving Murder with Makeup" and "How Hard is Water" demonstrations at GSMC for young girls who have expressed an interest in math and science.

WiC also focused on sponsoring activities that provide a supportive environment within the community and increase membership. These activities included an end-of-the-semester (Spring 2004) potluck/BBQ at the home of Dr. Kathryn Severin for women in the department and our annual fall welcome luncheon for the incoming women graduate students. In addition, WiC participated in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides against Breast Cancer for the second year, raising over \$2,200 for breast cancer research and awareness and adding 16 walkers to the over 5,000 total supporters. WiC money was raised through personal donations, an ice cream social, and sale of pink ribbons, the symbol of breast cancer awareness.

Another highlight of 2004 was earning the 2003 Outstanding Local Section Women Chemist Committee Award at the National ACS meeting. For more information on WiC, please visit our website at <http://www.chemistry.msu.edu/acswic>

IV. Budget

Itemize each event with the cost, and acknowledge the source of funds.

Meet the Speaker (year total) \$25
Brown Bag Lunch (year total) \$40
New Graduate Student Luncheon \$90
Girls Math Science Conference \$20
Okemos High School Student Workshop \$25
Scout Merit Badge Day \$100

All funding was provided by the ACS Local Section. Supplies for outreach activities are generally provided without cost to Women in Chemistry by the MSU Dept. of Chemistry.

V. Future Plans

State the short-term objectives such as brain-storming ideas and point-people for specific projects. Also, state the long-term goals, e.g. the purpose of the LSWCC.

Plans for 2005 include maintenance of the past outreach activities, and additional coordination of the Chemistry Laboratory event for Michigan Science Olympiad. In addition, WiC members are also grateful for an Innovative Projects grant from the American Chemical Society that made possible an already successful semester-long lecture series entitled "Things Every Scientist Should Know - Outside the Laboratory."