

More than 1,000 attend New York meeting

More than 1,000 persons attended the AOCS' 68th Annual Meeting held during May at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

That may be a record for an AOCS annual meeting, although joint meetings with other national and international organizations have attracted higher attendance.

General Chairman Frank Naughton announced to an applauding Inaugural Luncheon session that registration had gone over the 1,000 mark. Registration Chairman Ernest Gilmont later provided statistics that 1,050 persons had registered, but 44 preregistrants had not attended, leaving an actual attendance of 1,006. There were 569 persons who registered for the full meeting (481 members, 88 non-members), and 282 one-day registrations. The spouses' program attendance of 109 accounted for about 11% of the total registration, Gilmont noticed. Other registrants would include students, complementary, and all retired members.

A total of 203 registrants indicated they were attending their first AOCS meeting. Gilmont said an initial screening of the registration list showed there were 108 registrants from outside the United States.

Standing-room only crowds of more than 300 flooded Monday's processing symposia. A full-day program Tuesday on Lipid Theory of Arteriosclerosis also attracted large crowds. On Thursday morning—the concluding day of the four-day meeting—a session on High Molecular Weight Dibasic Acids drew sizable, interested crowds.

Favorable comments on the technical program were

heard throughout the four-day session. A Tuesday morning welcoming breakfast for the foreign visitors and persons attending their first national AOCS meeting was successful. The session will be repeated in St. Louis. More than a dozen persons signed up to join AOCS during the meeting; membership applications picked up at the meeting are still arriving in the Champaign headquarters office.

There also was praise for the ladies' program, organized by Clare Kalustian, that included a tour of the United Nations, an artist's studio and other events. Each participant went home with an apple-shaped candle as a memento of the New York meeting.

There were complaints heard at almost every meeting—concurrent sessions forced registrants to have to choose only one of two or more talks they would like to have heard; a registrant felt his particular interests were under-represented on the program; speakers were being overtly commercial in talking of their firms' products. The National Program and Planning committee suggested a reminder on avoiding commercialism be included in guidelines for speakers.

All-meeting social events such as the mixer and Wednesday banquet were well-attended.

Weather conditions were spring-like the weekend before the meeting, then turned cold with driving sleet on Monday and returned to clear skies and warm temperatures again by Thursday.

Pictorial highlights ▶▶▶

