
State of the Society

(The following address was presented by retiring AOCS President Thomas H. Applewhite to the opening business session of the 69th Annual Meeting, Monday, May 15, 1978, in St. Louis.)

My friends and colleagues, we have now completed one full year with only one national meeting. As you know, we did not have a fall meeting in 1977. What, then, is the state of the Society in this period of change?

First, let us review the positive aspects:

1. Financially, we are in a satisfactory condition.
2. We continue to improve our excellent technical publications.
3. We had a very successful World Conference on Soaps and Detergents in Montreux last fall under Dr. Karl Zilch's leadership.
4. We anticipate an even more successful World Conference on Vegetable Food Proteins chaired by Dr. Dick Baldwin this fall in Amsterdam.
5. Our total membership is up 475 or 16% in 5 years, and we are very optimistic about our growth in 1978. Much of this growth depends upon the work of individual members in interesting others in the AOCS and by inviting them to join us. We recognize these people as honorary members of the President's Club for recruiting at least one new member. A total of 219 members qualified by recruiting 299 new members; sixteen members achieved the President's Honor Roll for recruiting at least three new members. They are: Amjad Ali (3), Marilyn M. Brungel (3), Arnold Gavin (5), Bud Gormley (5), Ed Hahn (3), Ralph Holman (3), James Jasko (3), R.G. Krishnamurthy (3), Salvatore Milazzo (3), Arthur McConnell (3), Stuart Patton (4), Andrew Peng (6), Gustav Rucker (3), Edward Reid (4), Frank Sullivan (3), and Frank White (8). (These will receive a formal certificate in the mail.)
6. The Governing Board and key committees met last fall in lieu of a national meeting to provide continuity in administering the Society's affairs. So far, most areas are operating smoothly but we'll have more to say about that a bit later.

Now, let us consider some less positive aspects of the Society's affairs this past year.

1. We lost many good people since our last meeting including several who had been officers. These are: (Karl) K.F. Mattil, a member for 33 years and secretary—1960, 62; (Waldo) W.C. Ault, a member for 36 years; (Chuck) C.W. Hoerr, a member for 35 years and our president—1966; T. Hopper, a member for 42 years and president—1956; M.R. Cantanzaro; T.T. Ishikawa; W. Maas; M. Stephens; R.D. Good; B.R. Boyton; and L. Hopper. Please join me in a moment of silence in memory of these loyal members.

Next, going on:

2. If we eliminate the financial contributions from world conferences, our financial situation is fairly flat and we could suffer future deficits. Our finance committee is looking at this problem in depth and will offer alternative solutions to the Governing Board.

3. With only one national meeting per year, some committees are having problems of inactivity. We have asked the meetings logistics committee to consider alternatives so we do not suffer loss of needed committee activity.
4. Our once-yearly technical programs are becoming larger and larger. This poses several problems:
 - A. The attendees are finding more and more conflict between concurrent sessions.
 - B. Program balance is more difficult as session numbers expand.
 - C. The editorial and publication staff is hard-pressed to handle the large surge of papers following our single meetings.

Again, we have referred these problems to the meetings logistics committee with some suggestions for alternative approaches.

What about our activities aimed at strengthening the Society in the future? The Governing Board has several things on its agenda for this meeting. These include:

1. Geographical representation via our members-at-large. This idea was discussed with every local section this year during my presidential visit and seemed to be favorably received. In essence, it would permit each region to have an elected representative on the Governing Board. In lieu of this, however, the Board has recommended that each region be invited to send a delegate to improve local section communications with the Board. These invitations will be up to each president.
2. More local section involvement in planning and executing short courses and mini-meetings.
3. Longer range planning by key committees and the Governing Board to maintain and improve the quality of our technical programs, our short courses, and our world conferences.
4. A formalized program to recognize and involve the younger members of our Society who have the potential to be our future leaders.

Thus, in closing, you can see that although our Society is alive and doing well, we are attempting to realistically consider our problems and opportunities so we can continue to be the recognized world leader in fats and oils and related disciplines.

Thank you. ●



Past President Frank White presents outgoing President Tom Applewhite with Paquin Key.