

President's report



AOCS President David Firestone opens plenary session; at Dr. Firestone's left is George Cavanagh, general chairman for the meeting in San Francisco.

Ladies and gentlemen, my friends and fellow members, colleagues of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society — good morning! It seems that I took over the gavel only yesterday from Tom Applewhite; but in fact a rewarding and enjoyable year has passed since our last national meeting in St. Louis. This past year has been a good one for the Society, thanks to a hardworking and extremely capable executive director, a competent and professional headquarters staff, and a host of dedicated members who contributed time and talents to the advancement of the Society.

On the positive side, membership has continued to increase steadily, and we now have over 3,700 members. Total membership is up over 200, or 6%, since last year. The Presidents' Club and Honor Roll continues to be a good vehicle for member recruitment, and the new Soap and Detergent section of the Journal seems to be attracting new members. Ten members achieved the Presidents' Honor Roll for recruiting at least three new members. They are: Horace P. Gormley (8), S.K. Bhattacharya (7), Barbara J. Struthers (7), Andrew Peng (6), Norman Rucker (6), Aaron B. Herrick (5), Eldon G. Hill (4), T.K. Venkatesan (4), Petar Alaupovic (3), Earl G. Hammond (3), James J. Ledden (3), William Link (3), Lester D. McClung (3), Frank Naughton (3), Thomas J. Nemchock (3), and Joan Tinoco (3).

The most important event since the St. Louis meeting was the very successful World Conference on Vegetable Food Proteins, held this past fall in Amsterdam. More than 1,000 persons from 46 countries participated in the Conference, organized to examine current information on the utilization and nutritional value of vegetable proteins. The conference was made possible by the efforts and cooperation of a host of people and organizations, but especially by the leadership and outstanding work of Dick Baldwin, our chairman, and other members of the conference executive committee, K.F. Gander, cochairman, S.J. Hauck of the Food Protein Council, and Jim Lyon, our executive director. Dick Baldwin, who is also our Journal editor,

produced the complete proceedings of the conference, published in a magnificent March Journal issue of 470 pages. I would say that the March issue is the most outstanding journal issue we have published, and Dick and the Journal staff are to be congratulated for a superb job.

Our Education Committee has been molded by Chairman Ed Perkins into an active vehicle for promoting continuing education. A successful short course on applications of high performance liquid chromatography was held in St. Louis in May of last year, and a short course on industrial fatty acids will be held in June of this year. In addition, future short courses are being planned on soaps and detergents, analysis of lipids, pollution and environmental control and other topics.

Meetings of the Governing Board and key committees in the fall have helped provide continuity in Society activities in the absence of two national meetings per year, but we must be continually alert to problems generated by lack of communication and inactivity in some of our committees.

Going on to some additional points less than positive in nature, we lost some fine people since our last meetings. They are: H.D. Bartholomew, Newell Beatty, a member for 43 years, H.C. Bennett, a member for 60 years, J.G. Bowling, Sam Detwiler, J. Russell Gahn, Dalton E. Gandy, Lawrence H. Hodges, a member for 42 years, Clare Klaustian, beloved wife of Pete Kalustian, A.J. King, Alberta King, Jonn F. Lemancik, Eugene Nesom, a member for 30 years, Harold Olcott, active for many years in our Northern California Section, Walter A. Pons, Jr., a member for 32 years, George Potter, E.S. Prevost, A.S. Richardson, a member for 58 years and our President in 1931, G.H. Rowland, a member for 33 years, Emmett D. Russey, Henry A. Schuette, a member for 41 years and our President in 1940, W.J. Simcox, Marlyn W. Stephens, Ray S. Stetzler, Thomas A. Stovall, and Mykola Zajcew. Please join me in a moment of silence in their memory.

H.C. Bennett, at his death third senior member of AOCS, joined back in 1918 and served as member-at-large of the Governing Board in 1950 when J.R. Mays, Jr. was our President. I'm happy to relate that the AOCS senior member in terms of continuous membership, Benjamin H. Thurman, is fine and in excellent spirits. Thurman, 92, lives with his wife in Orange, VA.

Several items of concern involve our long range financial situation and technical program balance. As was noted last year, our financial picture is somewhat flat, and we could experience future deficits if financial contributions from world conferences are eliminated. Our finance committee is reviewing the situation, and a dues increase will probably be required to assure the financial health of the Society. Also, there are problems related to our change to only one national meeting per year. The surge of papers after national meetings is expected to continue, and the handling of symposia papers, especially review papers, for publication is a problem. A limit is needed on the number of symposia presented at national meetings. Also, it is necessary to develop a protocol to assure ongoing cooperation of local committees with the National Program Planning Committee to control the technical content and assure adequate balance of technical programs. In addition, local sections must be encouraged to develop their own short course and meeting programs.

Overall, it has been a fine year for the Society and a satisfying year for me. With an excellent slate of incoming officers and board members, and involvement of our members, especially younger members who will become our future leaders, we will continue to be recognized as the world leader in oils, fats, and related areas.

Thank you.

David Firestone