

Inside AOCS

Pelick installed as president



Nicholas Pelick

Nicholas Pelick, president of Supelco Inc., of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, officially became president of the American Oil Chemists' Society during the annual meeting held April 29-May 3, 1984, in Dallas, Texas.

Pelick was elected vice president of the society a year ago and, under AOCS by-laws, was unopposed for president on the ballots distributed during February and counted on March 29. Approximately 3,450 ballots were mailed to eligible members, with 1,148 returned in time to be counted.

Joyce Beare-Rogers, chief of nutrition research for the bureau of nutritional science for Canada's Health Protection Branch in Ottawa, Canada, was elected vice president. She is the first woman elected as AOCS vice president.

Robert C. Hastert, business manager for Harshaw/Filtrol Partnership, Cleveland, Ohio, was elected secretary of AOCS. Timothy L. Mounts, chief of the oilseed crops laboratory at the USDA Northern Regional Research Center in Peoria, Illinois, was elected treasurer.

Newly elected as members-at-large of the Governing Board are Neil R. Widlak, research scientist at Kraft Inc., Glenview, Illinois; Jerry Maerker, supervisor research chemist at the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and David R. Erickson, director of soy oil programs for the American Soybean Association, St. Louis, Missouri.

William H. Tallent, who was a candidate for vice president on this year's ballot, will serve as an ex-officio member of the Governing Board for the coming year.

Pelick succeeds Thomas H. Smouse, manager of lipid science for Ralston Purina's Protein Technologies Division, St. Louis, Missouri.



Joyce Beare-Rogers



Robert C. Hastert



Timothy L. Mounts



Neil R. Widlak



Gerhard Maerker



David R. Erickson

Dietary fats discussed

Approximately 30 persons participated in an AOCS North Central Section meeting that included a tour of AOCS Headquarters in Champaign and a three-speaker presentation on dietary fats and health at the University of Illinois' Levis Faculty Center.

The late March meeting began with an open house at the AOCS building, the society's administrative center. Technical work by the society is handled by volunteer committee members.

After a dinner at the faculty center, the participants heard talks by University of Illinois faculty members John Erdman, Patricia Johnston and Steve Clinton.

Erdman began by noting that dietary fats are a concentrated energy source that provide essential fatty acids, vitamins and flavors as well as contributing to a feeling of satiety. On the negative side, dietary fat calories contribute to obesity. Total fat intake, saturated fat intake and cholesterol intake have been linked to heart disease. Recent research has been seeking to determine the role of polyunsaturated fats in various types of cancer, he said.

The meeting was held shortly after a *Time* magazine cover article on cholesterol was published. Erdman noted cholesterol is a key component in all body cell membranes, is involved in production of bile salts necessary to digestion and is a component of hormones necessary to body functions.

While Americans consume a diet averaging 40-45% calories from fat, many specialists recommend a diet with 25-30% calories from fats. Fad diets that push fat content to below 10% of calories may not provide sufficient fat-soluble vitamins. Fad diets may also reduce intake of essential minor nutrients below recommended levels, Erdman said.

U.S. fat consumption is up 30% since the turn of the century but cholesterol consumption has remained relatively constant at 500 milligrams a day per person, he noted.

Johnston focused on dietary fat's relationship to immunity, which she described as a rapidly growing field. Researchers are trying to determine pathways and much basic research remains to be done, she said. Dietary fatty acid may affect cell membranes involved in immunity, receptor cells or enzymes in the body. Fatty acids are involved in chemical mediation immune responses and are used by the body to construct prostaglandins that may moderate immune responses. Other prostaglandin-type substances are also being studied for relationships to immunity, she said. One experiment has shown that if essential fatty acid is held out of the diet, thereby limiting prostaglandin production, immunity is reduced in rats.

Clinton discussed fats and cancer, noting that fat has been linked by epidemiological studies to several forms of cancer. Such studies may compare different international populations for diet and cancer, micro populations, isolated populations and trends in diet. The problem in such studies is that a single factor is hard to isolate in human studies, and some researchers have been able to correlate various diseases with increased car sales or use of radios and television sets, Clinton noted.

Epidemiological studies for large-scale populations also are often based on foodstuffs available to a population, but not necessarily consumed as some food is spoiled, some wasted, some fed to animals or otherwise disposed of.

Researchers therefore use animal studies, he explained, to create cancers with viral materials, chemicals, radiation or by transplanting.

The three talks gave those attending a quick survey of the work that had been done or was under way, but also stressed what has not yet been learned and remains to be discovered.

Methods seminar held

"Chromatography and Spectroscopy Methods of Analysis Used in Fats, Oils and Detergents" was the topic for the AOCS Northeast Section's annual one-day seminar during mid-March, with approximately 50 persons participating.

David C. Peters of Andect Instrument Company discussed the rapidity with which FTIR techniques run spectra for both qualitative and quantitative purposes, illustrating his talk with several examples of spectra of food products.

Tom Foglia from the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center described how GC-MS can be used in identifying reaction products and complex mixtures. Foglia provided several examples relating to ozonolysis and metathesis reactions.

Sheldon Cantor of Foxboro Company described how multiple internal reflectance infrared spectroscopy could be used in analyzing and controlling a continuous hydrogenation process.

Nicholas Pelick of Supelco compared gas chromatography using packed columns and capillary columns, showing examples of separation of methyl esters of fatty acids, with increased separation using capillary columns. Pelick also discussed HPLC techniques to analyze complex lipids and those not suitable to GC analysis. The use of equivalent carbon number to predict elution by HPLC was discussed.

NMR spectroscopy was discussed as a way to measure hydrogen content in vegetable oils or the progress of hydrogenation. Ken Rose of Exxon Corporation also discussed using NMR to determine oil content of oil-bearing materials.

Vincent Luciano from Jarrell-Ash Company described the technique of inductively coupled argon plasma for the measurement of wear metals in lubrication oils. The technique measures trace metals and is more sensitive than atomic absorption, Luciano said.

E. G. Perkins of the University of Illinois reviewed the complexity of naturally occurring triglycerides and the use of HPLC to separate such materials.

George Barnes of Lever Brothers Co. Inc., reviewed analytical tests used for different types of soap and detergent products in commercial analysis schemes.

General chairman for the meeting was A. J. (Tony) Montana of Diamond Shamrock Corporation. Committee members included M. D. Meiners, Best Foods Research Center; A. P. Menasiam, A. Gross & Company; S. M. Greenberg, Lipo Chemicals Inc.; and N. Pelick, Supelco Inc. The symposium was held March 20 at the Sheraton Newark, Newark, N.J.

Valletta, Fox win top Smalley analysis awards

Mike L. Valletta of SGS Control Services in Carteret, New Jersey, has won the 1984 Smalley Award for best analysis of oilseed meal and Ronnie M. Fox of Fox Testing Laboratories in Lubbock, Texas, has won the R. T. Doughtie Award for best analysis of cottonseed in the AOCS Smalley Cooperative Check Sample Program.

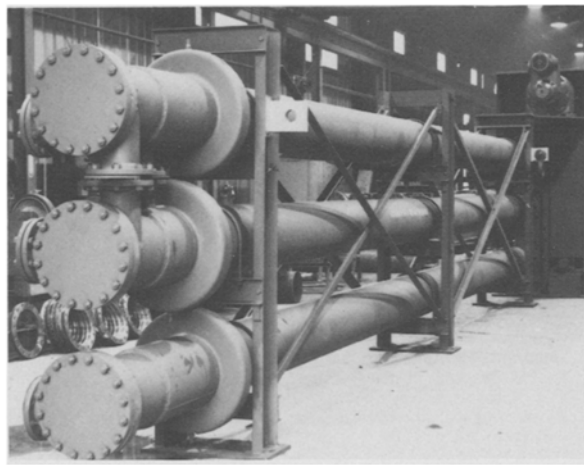
It marks the first Smalley award for Valletta. The Smalley award is presented for best analysis of oilseed meal for combined nitrogen, oil and moisture. Fox won his ninth award for top cottonseed analysis, and his sixth in the past seven years. The Doughtie Award recognizes analysis of cottonseed for foreign matter, moisture, free fatty acids, oil and ammonia.

The Smalley Program each year distributes more than 7,000 samples of oilseed and fats and oils materials to subscribing chemists who analyze the samples using specified methods. Participants' results are statistically analyzed to determine who has done the best analysis. Chemists participate in the program to check on their proficiency; chemists

whose results are significantly awry know that either their instruments or lab technique may be faulty. Persons wishing to participate in the program should write to Smalley Check Sample Program, AOCS, 508 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA.

Certificates for first place and honorable mention certificates are awarded to the top analysts in each series. Certificate recipients attending the AOCS annual meeting in Dallas were among the AOCS award winners cited during the opening plenary breakfast.

Valletta received a total of three first place certificates and two honorable mention certificates. Also receiving three first place awards was Paul C. Thionville of Thionville Labs, who also received five honorable mention certificates. Fox and John Wieters of Morris Testing Laboratories in Macon, Georgia, each received two first place awards, as did the team of John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider of SGS Control Services in Kenner, Louisiana. The Kenner, Louisiana, group also received five honorable



Continuous crystallizers for fractionation of fatty chemicals

Continuous cooling crystallizers are often used for fractionation of fatty chemicals. Typical uses include: fractionation of tallow and tall oil fatty acids, mono- and di-glycerides purification, winterization of some edible oils, palm/palm kernel oil fractionations, crystallization of salts of fatty acids, fatty alcohols fractionation, and similar processes.

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mention certificates.

The full list of first place and honorable mention recipients:

Oilseed Meal

Combined moisture, oil and nitrogen

First Place (Smalley Award):

Mike L. Valletta, SGS Control Services, Carteret, NJ

Honorable Mention:

Ronnie M. Fox, Fox Testing Labs., Lubbock, TX

John W. Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner LA

Melba Rodgers, Plains Coop Oil Mill, Lubbock TX

Hugh L. Mayo and Daniel Kwan, SGS Control Services, Deer Park, TX

James P. Minyard, Jr., Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS

Moisture

First Place:

Ronnie M. Fox, Fox Testing Labs., Lubbock, TX

Honorable Mention:

Melba Rodgers, Plains Coop Oil Mill, Lubbock, TX

Robert Hein, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dawson, MN

Shams Mustafa, Caleb Brett (USA) Inc., Jefferson, LA

Horace Keith, Anderson Clayton & Co., Lubbock, TX

J.E. Williams, Southern Cotton Oil Co., Div. ADM, Clarksdale, MS

Oil

First Place:

Hugh L. Mayo and Daniel Kwan, SGS Control Services, Deer Park, TX

Honorable Mention:

Mike L. Valletta, SGS Control Services, Carteret, NJ

Horace Keith, Anderson Clayton & Co., Lubbock, TX

J.E. Williams, Southern Cotton Oil Co., Div. ADM, Clarksdale, MS

Melba Rodgers, Plains Coop Oil Mill, Lubbock, TX

John W. Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

Nitrogen

First Place:

John Wieters, Morris Testing Labs., Macon, GA

Honorable Mention:

Robert Hein, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dawson, MN

Luis Mestas, Kal Kan Foods, Inc., Vernon, CA

Arthur W. Carnrick, A & L Plains Agricultural Labs., Lubbock, TX

George Mackey, Agri-Industries, Manning, IA

Carl W. Schulze, New Jersey Feed Lab., Trenton, NJ

Crude fiber

First Place:

John Wieters, Morris Testing Labs., Macon, GA

Honorable Mention:

John W. Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

James P. Minyard, Jr., Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS

Thuc Trinh, Associated Labs., Orange, CA

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Bernadette Couly, Curtis & Tompkins Ltd., San Francisco, CA

Cottonseed

Foreign matter, moisture, free fatty acids, oil and ammonia

First Place (R.T. Doughtie Jr. Award):

Ronnie M. Fox, Fox Testing Labs., Lubbock, TX

Honorable Mention:

Melba Rodgers, Plains Coop Oil Mill, Lubbock, TX

Donald E. Britton, Mid-Continent Labs., Memphis, TN

Soybeans

Combined moisture, oil and ammonia

First Place:

Robert Hein, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dawson, MN

Honorable Mention:

John W. Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Thomas J. Moore and Guy E. Moore, Woodson-Tenent Labs., North Little Rock, AR

Albert Reynaud, Norman Landeche and Ramesh Patel, Charles V. Bacon Inc., Marrero, LA

Carl Moss, A.E. Staley Mfg. Co., Champaign, IL

Sunflower Seed

Foreign matter, moisture and oil

First Place:

Mike L. Valletta, SGS Control Services, Carteret, NJ

Honorable Mention:

Hugh L. Mayo and Daniel Kwan, SGS Control Services, Deer Park, TX

Safflower and Rapeseed

Moisture, oil and nitrogen

First Place:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Honorable Mention:

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

Peanuts

Moisture, free fatty acids, oil and ammonia

First Place:

E.R. Hahn, Hahn Laboratories, Columbia, SC

Honorable Mention:

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

Soybean Oil

Free fatty acids, neutral oil and bleached color

First Place:

Frank Tenent, Barrow-Agee Labs., Memphis, TN

Honorable Mention:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

K.F. Wood, Hunt-Wesson Foods, Memphis, TN

Mike L. Valletta, SGS Control Services, Carteret, NJ

Robert Hein, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Dawson, MN

Cottonseed Oil

Free fatty acids, refining loss and refined color

First Place:

Mike L. Valletta, SGS Control Services, Carteret, NJ

Honorable Mention:

B. Lee Keating and Larry L. Kennon, K-Testing Labs., Memphis, TN

Frank Tenent, Barrow-Agee Labs., Memphis, TN

Wan Yat Kwan, SGS Control Services, Deer Park, TX

Vegetable Oil for Color Only

First Place:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Honorable Mention:

E.R. Bean, Bunge Edible Oil Corp., Chattanooga, TN

George Davidson, Canada Packers Ltd., St. Boniface, MB, Canada

Herbert L. Haynie, Bunge Edible Oil Corp., Ft. Worth, TX

Drying Oils

Acid value, iodine value, color and specific gravity

First Place:

T.M. Narayanan Nair, Charles V. Bacon Inc., Irvington, NJ

Honorable Mention:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

NIOP Fats and Oils

Specific gravity, free fatty acids, iodine value, saponification value and Lovibond color

First Place:

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner, LA

Honorable Mention:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

T.M. Narayanan Nair, Charles V. Bacon Inc., Irvington, NJ

Albert Reynaud, Norman Landeche and Ramesh Patel, Charles V. Bacon Labs., Marrero, LA

Tallow and Grease

Titer, free fatty acids, moisture, unsaponifiable matter and insoluble impurities

First Place:

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Honorable Mention:

E.R. Hahn, Hahn Laboratories, Columbia, SC

J.R. Gillespie, Canada Packers Ltd., St. Boniface, MB, Canada

T.M. Narayanan Nair, Charles V. Bacon Inc., Irvington, NJ

Nippon Yurko Kentei Kyokai, Kobe, Japan

H. Hirayama, Nippon Yurko Kentei Kyokai, Yokohama, Japan

Edible Fats

Free fatty acids, free glycerin, α -monoglycerides, Wiley melting point, capillary melting point, congeal point, Lovibond red color, peroxide value and iodine value

First Place:

L.G. Premi, Anderson-Clayton Foods, Richardson, TX

Honorable Mention:

Quality Control Lab., Humko Products, Champaign, IL

L.J. Rocque, Hunt-Wesson Foods, Fullerton, CA

E.R. Bean, Bunge Edible Oil Corp., Chattanooga, TN

D.V. Love, Canada Packers Ltd., St. Boniface, MB, Canada

Paul C. Thionville, Thionville Labs., New Orleans, LA

Cellulose Yield

Moisture and Cellulose

First Place:

H.L. Ketchum, Jr., Southern Cellulose Products, Chattanooga, TN

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Honorable Mention:

Leon S. Hunter, Pope Testing Labs., Dallas, TX

Gas Chromatography

Preparation of methyl esters on fats and oils and GC determination of fatty acids

First Place:

Gord Ulyot, C.S.P. Foods, Ltd. Nipawin, SK, Canada

Honorable Mention:

Theodore Kopcha, Capital City-Stokely Van Camp, Columbus, OH
 Gilbert Holt, Kraft, Inc., Foods Division, Memphis, TN
 J.D. Craske, Unilever Australia Pty., Ltd., Balmain, NSW, Australia
 Miss Emiko Hirono, SGS do Brasil SA, Parana, Brasil
 Neil P. Loeb, Lever Brothers Co., Edgewater, NJ

Fish Meal

Protein, fat, moisture, ash, and pepsin digestibility

First Place:

John Ledin and Ardin Backous, Woodson-Tenent Labs., Des Moines, IA

Honorable Mention:

Lela Vines, Woodson-Tenent Labs., Gainesville, GA
 Thomas J. Moore and Guy E. Moore, Woodson-Tenent Labs.,
 North Little Rock, AR
 Woodson-Tenent Labs., Memphis, TN

Fish Oil

Free fatty acids, moisture and iodine value

First Place:

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner,
 LA

Honorable Mention:

Shams Mustafa, Caleb Brett USA, Jefferson, LA

Fish Solubles

Protein, fat, moisture, ash, pH and ammonia nitrogen

First Place:

Shams Mustafa, Caleb Brett USA, Jefferson, LA

Honorable Mention:

John Thomas, Boyce Butler and Mumtaz Haider, SGS Control Services, Kenner,
 LA

Milk Aflatoxin

First Place:

Albert D. Lynn, Dept. of General Services, Div. of Consolidated Labs., Rich-
 mond, VA

Honorable Mention:

J. Pauw, Kaascontrolestation Friesland, Leeuwarden, Holland

Peanut Aflatoxin

First Place

M. Caerou, Prodl Control Lab., Montfort-Sur-Risle, France

Honorable Mention:

Jim Henderson, Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati, OH

William W. McBee, Law & Co., Atlanta, GA

Hector A. Martin, Best Foods Research Center, Division of CPC
 International, Inc., Union, NJ

J.M. Linas, Gallina Blanca Purina S A, Barcelona, Spain

James A. Jaworski, Planters Peanuts, Division of Nabisco Brands, Inc.,
 Suffolk, VA

Cottonseed Aflatoxin

First Place:

California Department of Food and Agriculture, Feed Lab., Sacramento, CA

Honorable Mention:

Edward D. Steffen, DFA of California, Fresno, CA

C.J. Kesterson, Associated Laboratories, Orange, CA

Corn Aflatoxin

First Place:

Kevin Johnson, General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

Honorable Mention:

Leon S. Hunter, Pope Testing Labs., Dallas, TX

Tom Morris, Pert Laboratories, Inc., Edenton, NC

Robert T. Teague, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, NC

Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids

A monograph edited by Wolf-H. Kunau and Ralph T. Holman, 258 p.

Hardbound—\$20 for AOCS members and students, \$30 for nonmembers.

This monograph records the contributions of twenty noted researchers who contributed to the 1975 AOCS symposium on unsaturated fatty acids. The symposium was premised on the increasing need to combine separate disciplines in lipid research. Speakers thus were invited who specialized in chemical, physical and biochemical properties of lipids. Topics included biosynthesis, oxidation and regulation of metabolism, analysis, chemistry/physicochemistry, and experimental and clinical data. Illustrations and references enhance this collection.

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Specialized, local sections widen opportunities

"Since it is impractical to send a large group of men to the national AOCS meetings, the sectional meetings would help a larger group of men to become more active and at the same time to realize some benefit to the company through personal contacts and 'corridor gossip' that is always a part of these meetings."

W. A. Peterson of Colgate-Palmolive Peet Co. in a letter dated April 29, 1954, to C. J. Sutter of the same company

Although AOCS' sections are a relatively recent feature of the society, the idea for separate sections originated in the 1920s.

Sections originally were seen as a way to cater to different interests in the fats and oils industries. The first step in this direction was the formation of a soap section in 1928.

A report of the fall 1928 meeting in New York said a group of chemists met in the Board of Managers room of the New York Produce Exchange on Oct. 25, 1928, "to discuss the formation of a Soap Chemistry Section of the AOCS. Mr. A. K. Church of Lever Bros. Co. was appointed chairman." This section, headed by the fourth vice president, was established to generate papers on the industry and develop discussions on subjects of interest in this field.

The society's rapid growth during the 1940s prompted another effort to divide membership into groups or sections corresponding with their interests.

In 1943, an experiment was undertaken to organize a drying oils section, headed by second vice president S. O. Sorensen. A symposium on drying oils at the 1945 fall meeting in Chicago was the result.

L. M. Kishlar, AOCS president when the drying oils section formed, suggested that the section idea be expanded, with members divided into additional groups. These, he said, could pool papers into symposia at spring and fall meetings, with competition encouraged among sections.

An AOCS promotional pamphlet for potential AOCS members used during the mid-1940s reflected this idea. "The Society is divided into groups which include a Soap Section and a Drying Oils Section. Each section is headed by a vice-president. The organization of sections is continuing and a Vitamin Oil Section and a Margarine Section are being contemplated."

It was not long before the idea of special interest sections was abandoned.

According to the December 1947 journal, a special committee on section development, appointed by 1945 President R. R. King and reappointed by 1946 President Sorensen, unanimously agreed there should be no further division of AOCS into sections representing industries. In a report to the Governing Board on Oct. 19, 1947, in Chicago, the committee said, "The main strength of the Society resides in the common meeting ground of these various interests and any move to disrupt this common meeting ground would tend to undermine rather than strengthen the Society."

The committee outlined a number of recommendations including: symposia for various integrated interests be held at society meetings; papers be grouped in the journal according to interest; a reorganization of analytical committees, as proposed by V. C. Mehlenbacher, could provide necessary sectionalizing of society functions.

Committee members added that "even the present soap section had served its purpose and ought not to continue as a specific section in the society organization."

Soon, however, a campaign was undertaken for AOCS to establish geographic sections. Proponents saw this as a way to awaken interest in AOCS membership.

The Northeast Oil Chemists' Society, a group representing the oil and fat, soap and detergent and allied industries in the New York metropolitan area, was the first to pursue affiliation with AOCS. Such affiliation, however, required changing AOCS by-laws.

The Northeast Oil Chemists' Society (N.O.C.S.) held its first meeting February 28, 1950. A meeting report declared that "meetings and activities [are] conducted with due consideration to not being contrary to AOCS policies."

In a letter dated June 17, 1952, to then AOCS President E. M. James, N.O.C.S. president Henry W. Ladyn wrote, "We would like to take this opportunity as a matter of official record to request being given first consideration to possible affiliation with AOCS . . . knowing that we have been the first group organized with the potential qualifications that should fulfill AOCS requirements, you can appreciate the honor we would have being the first sectional group recognized as affiliated with AOCS."

One of the chief reasons cited by the group for

wanting to be a part of AOCS was, "We are interested in local social 'get togethers' aside from national meetings." Meanwhile, a similar group in California, the Northern California Oil Chemists' Society, expressed interest in a direct relationship with AOCS.

In 1951, the Governing Board set up a special committee to investigate local sections for the society. Asked to determine how AOCS members in New York, Chicago, the South (centering on New Orleans) and the West Coast felt about forming sections, the special committee reported on April 18, 1952, "It is evident there is a reasonably strong feeling in favor of the formation of local sections, whose meetings will allow the younger members of the Society, as well as non-members in the trade, to meet occasionally and to hear technical discussions dealing with the fat and oil industry."

An amendment to AOCS by-laws proposed by a special committee on the constitution and approved by the Governing Board Oct. 19, 1952, in Cincinnati, Ohio, provided that the Governing Board could authorize the formation of local sections. It required that groups applying for such status have at least 25 members who were AOCS members and that a majority be members of the society unless that provision was waived by the governing board for two years. It also said a member of AOCS living outside the geographic limits of the section could apply for membership in that section.

This proposed amendment was published in the December 1952 journal. In a letter written Feb. 13, 1953, the membership was asked to vote on the question, with an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the membership present or by proxy at the next annual meeting required for its adoption.

Meanwhile, some concern was expressed about local sections.

Sorensen, in a letter dated July 18, 1952, to A. S. Richardson, wrote, "If you have local sections, such as Chicago, the East, the West and possibly one in the South, would you not run into pretty strong political factions? In the past we, of course, have tried to spread the officers of the association around at different points geographi-

cally. For a long time they worked on a theory of having the president from the South one year and from the North the next year and that worked out very well. However, I think a careful analysis should be made of the geographical distribution to see how it works from the standpoint of the number of members. If you find any one section that is very strong, they can pretty well control the political activities so far as election of officers is concerned. For an organization of our size, we feel that any section or group that gets themselves in the position where they can control official activities of an association—that is definitely bad. . . ."

However, Sorensen added, "If these various sections meet and conduct meetings from the standpoint of having speakers of interest, I would have no objection to this policy whatsoever, because we are all interested in the passing out of any technical information that we can develop."

At the spring 1953 meeting, members approved the proposal, 863 to 49 votes. That officially added Article XIV, Local Sections, to the by-laws.

On Nov. 5, 1953, at the fall AOCS meeting in Chicago, the Governing Board granted the first section charter to the Northeast Oil Chemists' Society, which became AOCS's Northeast Section. This section geographically covers New England, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania westward to Harrisburg.

In a commentary entitled "A Step Forward" in the August 1953 journal, Ernest B. Kester of USDA's Western Regional Research Laboratory in Albany, California, wrote, "Most national scientific organizations, after a period of initial growth, feel the need of local groups to further their work and aims. Advantages of local sections are that they provide readily accessible meetings, offer opportunity for a broader acquaintanceship among men and women faced with similar problems, and recruit members for the national society."

He added, "Attendance at our last six national meetings has averaged about 400. This figure means that each time not more than one out of five members has been able to attend, for one reason or another. Actually the ratio is less because a considerable number of non-members

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and guests are always present. Some of the 400 attend every meeting. They are executives or heads of departments who find our meetings invaluable because of the excellence of the papers and the opportunity to discuss technical matters with fellow experts. But what of the members who scarcely ever attend an AOCS meeting unless it is practically next door? They often have tough problems to solve and could profit by the inspiration of open discussion. Technically trained men, who are on their own resources in the plant, particularly need such an avenue for exchange of information. It is a mark of progress that the American Oil Chemists' Society has now opened the way for local sections."

Kester was among those who in 1951 had organized the Northern California Oil Chemists' Society. This organization formed after the 1950 AOCS fall convention in San Francisco.

"I wish I could convey some idea of the enthusiasm of our first meetings, which has persisted so continuously that newcomers often comment on it. We believe this spirit can be maintained, not by relying entirely on imported speakers but by discussions capably led by members of our own group or others who are expert in their fields. There is a psychological basis for such a policy. People like to listen, but they prefer to talk, especially if they have something important to say about their specialties. They are then contributors to the success of the meeting," Kester wrote.

At its March 12, 1954, meeting in San Francisco, the Northern California Oil Chemists' Society was told the AOCS' Governing Board had approved its charter as a local section, the Northern California (NorCal) section. Its charter was formally presented in April 1954 at the annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Territory in this section includes the state of California north of and including Fresno.

In the June 1954 journal, Lee Avera, chairman of the NorCal section, wrote, "One of our declared objectives is the avoidance of formal papers such as appear in the Journal and are given at the national AOCS meetings. It is rather an extension of the informal meetings at the coffee table with friends that we seek as a keynote for our local sectional meetings."

Meanwhile, another organization was preparing to become a section. According to an account by Karl F. Mattil in the August 1954 journal, "For several years, a number of members of the American Oil Chemists' Society in the Chicago area have debated whether or not to establish a local group (the early discussions preceded the decision of the national society to authorize sections). There were arguments both in favor and in opposition. These arguments were concerned with the effect of such local groups on the national organization, and the contribution such groups could make to AOCS

members and other interested people in the area."

In September 1953, Mattil, John P. Harris and N. W. Ziels organized oil chemists in the Chicago area. Late in December 1953, this group, calling itself the Midwest Oil Chemists' Society, elected Mattil chairman and Ziels secretary. Their first meeting was held Feb. 4, 1954, in the Builders Club, with Dr. Ralph Potts of Armour & Company as guest speaker. This meeting was attended by 183 people, 120 of whom were AOCS members. A questionnaire was distributed to determine the type of meetings desired and a name for the group. Later in February, the name was changed to North Central Oil Chemists' Society and officers elected, with Mattil as president.

Meetings of the North Central Oil Chemists' Society averaged 125 participants during 1954 and 1955. On April 18, 1955, this group was granted a charter as the new North Central Section for AOCS. This section geographically includes Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. Its purpose, as outlined in its constitution, is "to cultivate fellowship and promote technical understanding of oils, fats, waxes, their constituents, and all allied and associated products among those interested in these industries and to engage in activities incidental to that purpose."

The fourth section given a charter was the Southwest Section, which includes the state of California south of Fresno, Arizona and New Mexico.

The Southern California Oil Chemists' Society, as it was known before becoming a section of AOCS, formed at a March 10, 1955, meeting attended by 42 people. The main objective of the group was to petition AOCS for section status "as soon as feasible." An Aug. 22, 1955, letter from W. A. Peterson informed B. W. Beadle, chairman of the Southern California Oil Chemists' Society, that the Governing Board had granted it a section charter. The official charter was presented at the October 1955 meeting in Philadelphia.

"The establishment of four local sections during the past few years is a very encouraging sign and should do much to stimulate interest in the affairs of the Society and to increase its membership," W. A. Peterson said in his presidential address at the spring 1956 meeting. He added, "It is our hope that other areas will consider the advantages of becoming local sections, to provide a broader scientific forum and a means of fellowship, and thereby supplementing our national meetings."

The possibility of other geographic sections has been explored a number of times since then. During 1955, for instance, a meeting was held in Minnesota to determine if AOCS members in the Twin City area of Minneapolis were interested in forming a section. Such a group, however, never materialized. A more successful effort was undertaken by a group of chemical engineers and

chemists in Mexico. This group, meeting March 5, 1965, at the Anderson Clayton plant in La Leona, Nuevo León, Mexico, agreed to form a Monterrey Section of AOCS. This was approved by AOCS at its annual convention the following month.

The Monterrey Section has been AOCS' only Latin American section. Frank Khym served as president of the section from 1965 until it was dissolved in 1975 when a number of its members left the fats and oils field for other industries. Some of its activities, in addition to dinner meetings nine months of the year, had included sponsoring AOCS' first Latin American short course, "Unit Processing and Quality Control, Marketing and Packaging of Fats and Oils in Mexico," held Jan. 23-24, 1967, in Monterrey, Mexico, and assisting with the spring 1974 AOCS national convention in Mexico City. When it dissolved, the section donated its money to the Monterrey Institute of Technology for its general scholarship fund.

In 1968, an extensive revision of AOCS' constitution and by-laws included a change in the local sections article to include specialty sections as well.

"Such a change is a step forward and fulfills a need for future growth of the society," R. C. Stillman, chairman of the constitutional study committee at that time, said in an August 1968 journal article.

It was not until 1981, however, that any serious effort was undertaken to form a specialty section. The December 1981 journal announced that petitions were being circulated to establish an AOCS section for people interested in vegetable food proteins and coproducts. At the May 1982 meeting in Toronto, the new Protein and Coproducts Section was formally launched with a luncheon and three technical sessions. These sessions included two dozen papers on such topics as bio-engineering, processing and nutrition.

Since their inception, AOCS sections have continued to bring in new members for the society. An important function has been to provide technical programs of interest to members and their peers who are not yet members. In 1977, with the elimination of AOCS national fall meetings, R. G. Krishnamurthy, executive chairman for the national Local Section committee, said he firmly believed "local section activities will be more important to the AOCS now that there will be but one national meeting each year."

Sections have not only sponsored special technical seminars and programs but also have developed such features as awards programs. The North Central Section, for instance, in 1958 established the A. E. Bailey Award, first presented to AOCS member V. C. Mehlenbacher. J. C. Konen, in the May 1959 journal, said the section set up this award "to honor the memory of an outstanding member in naming the award and choosing a most respected member of AOCS to be the

first to receive it." The Northeast Section, meanwhile, presents an achievement award each fall to one of its members. This award was established during the 1960s to recognize and encourage high achievement in the industry. The rule setting up the award stated, "An award will be given annually to a person in the Northeast Section for his outstanding research or service in the field of lipids and all allied and associated products."

Recognizing the importance of local sections, the Governing Board first established a liaison committee in 1967-68, which was renamed a communications committee in 1968-69 and finally the Local Sections Committee in 1973-74. According to Krishnamurthy, the scope and purpose of this latter committee are to improve and strengthen the function of the local sections, to find ways in which they can help each other, to promote the society's goals through various local sections, to create camaraderie among members and to serve the technical needs of the membership. President and vice president of each local section, along with the elected AOCS secretary and appointed executive chairman, constitute the committee. The executive chairman has acted as a continuing link for the committee's membership.

Krishnamurthy said the Local Sections Committee has served as the forum for section representatives to air their problems, discuss solutions and exchange ideas. At the request of the Local Sections Committee, AOCS' national headquarters provides billing for local section dues, meeting notice mailings and journal coverage of local section activities.

Krishnamurthy cited the success of symposia sponsored by local sections over the years. But, he added, "The picture has not been all rosy. Local sections have been experiencing a gradual decrease in active membership. This has been happening to local sections of most of the professional organizations."

Warning that this trend could threaten the existence of the local sections, Krishnamurthy suggested that the sections should:

- actively recruit new members, including those already belonging to the national organization;
- identify areas of interest to the membership in their region; and
- set up a committee, rather than a single individual, to organize technical activities.

"Such committees can be set up with rotating membership in which a member will serve for a period of three years. Such an arrangement would permit planning and continuity of technical programs and can aid in making programs more appealing to the membership," Krishnamurthy said.

He added, "Finally, the Local Sections Committee welcomes and appreciates suggestions and services from all of our membership. After all, these are their organizations."