

Referee Chemist list

The AOCS Examination Board has announced an addition to the list of 1983-84 Official Referee Chemists. Alain Karleskind and Michel J. Blanc of Laboratoires Wolff, 15 Rue Charles Paradinas, 92110 Clichy, France, have been added to the list as certified in "Tallow and Grease." The certification is valid through June 1, 1984.

Committee spotlights

Environmental concerns

The Environmental Short Course, to be presented Saturday, April 28, 1984, just before the AOCS' 75th anniversary meeting in Dallas, is one of the ways AOCS strives to meet its members' needs for information and direction regarding environmental matters.

Committee activities, technical seminars during annual meetings and short courses provide AOCS members with a chance to present and discuss individual and common problems, as well as major environmental legislation and regulations as they relate to the industry as a whole.

Two committee groups have direct responsibility for these activities: The Environmental Control Committee, headed by Earle Fritz of Union Camp, and the Environmental Subcommittee of the National Program Planning Committee, headed by Michael Boyer of Applied Engineering and Science. Boyer is serving as chairman for the April 28 short course.

The Environmental Control Committee deals with current issues and individual problems. At the 1983 AOCS annual meeting, the subcommittee heard a talk by an expert in the field of environmental law. Such presentations are often arranged and made to this group. Its membership is comprised of senior environmental staff of the various companies engaged in the processing of fats, oils and detergents, as well as consultants and equipment suppliers knowledgeable in this field.

The Environmental Subcommittee of the National Program Planning Committee functions primarily as an organizer of technical seminars, symposia and short courses directed at member education. Technical sessions dealing strictly with environmental control are held at annual meetings approximately every other year. Other individual papers, addressing process and quality control issues and the impact of environmental control, are presented in other sessions at every annual meeting.

The short course planned for Dallas will draw specialists from throughout the industry as speakers who will discuss environmental regulation, problem identification and potential solutions.

Committee interaction provides for technology transfer of research conducted by individual members through their companies. The AOCS serves to coordinate these activities. Several key issues that have been addressed by AOCS members in recent years are:

1) Industrial process wastewaters generated in the fats, oils and detergent industry are often high in organic

strength because of oil and grease present. Considerable research has been devoted to determining the compatibility of these wastes with domestic sanitary wastes for treatment in publicly owned treatment facilities. These efforts have been very successful in establishing the acceptability of combined treatment and saved the industry substantial capital dollars in unnecessary additional on-site treatment facilities.

2) Use of barometric cooling towers for various processes has resulted in substantial odor-emission problems. Research by member equipment suppliers has resulted in the development of closed-loop tower systems to eliminate these problems. Such systems add additional loads to the process wastewater, but this is easier to handle, as indicated above.

3) For those plants that must treat wastewater to a higher degree because of the unavailability of sanitary sewers, several techniques somewhat unique to this industry have been developed by members and applied successfully in full-scale applications within the industry. These include various biological and physical-chemical methods. An acid hydrolysis-oil separation technique has been applied very successfully at several plants and actually provided a reasonably attractive return-on-investment when considering BOD surcharge reductions as well as oil and grease recovery, in some instances.

Bailey Award to C. R. Smith

Cecil R. Smith, Jr., research leader at the USDA Northern Regional Research Center, has been named the 1984 recipient of the Alton E. Bailey Award, presented annually by the North Central Section of the AOCS to recognize outstanding research and exceptional service in the field of lipids and associated products.

Smith was cited "for greatly increasing the fundamental knowledge of the diversity, structure and chemistry of lipids of higher plants."

Smith received his B.A. and M.S. degrees at the University of Colorado and his doctorate from Wayne State University in 1955. He joined the NRRC staff in 1956 after spending a year as a postgraduate research associate at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He has authored approximately 150 publications dealing with unusual lipids, alkaloids and other natural products.

Smith has been a member of the AOCS since 1962. He also holds memberships in the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, the Society for Economic Botany, and the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Smith's acceptance lecture for the Feb. 16, 1984, dinner meeting was entitled, "Discovery of New Fatty Acids and Other Lipids in Plants—A Retrospective View."

Board Report

During its November meeting, the AOCS Governing Board handled mainly routine business, according to a report from James Lyon, Executive Director of the society.

Inside AOCS

The board approved the appointment of Glen Fuller, a research leader at the USDA Western Regional Research Center, as technical program chairman for the 1986 annual meeting. Stan Loft of Johnson-Loft Engineers Inc. is general chairman for the meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the Japan Oil Chemists' Society.

The board also appointed a committee to consider changing the name of the Society in such a way as to eliminate any geographical reference. The society consists of some 4,000 members in more than 60 nations. About $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members are located in North America. Some fats and oils groups outside the United States have expressed interest in affiliating with the Society, but have expressed reluctance to do so while the name contains the term "American," usually assumed to mean the United States.

The board also voted to establish formal procedures on the selection of topics and locations for future world con-

ferences. Lyon said the society has received several requests to sponsor world conferences and the board is seeking a systematic way of evaluating world-conference proposals.

A word about meeting costs . . .

Every year, as time for the annual AOCS meeting nears, questions and complaints regarding meeting places and room costs are directed to AOCS Headquarters.

The city where an AOCS meeting is to be held is chosen 4 years in advance by the AOCS Governing Board, based on recommendations from the Meeting Logistics Committee.

That committee considers several factors in choosing a site. One is geographical location. A conscious effort is made to hold meetings in various parts of the nation on a regular rotational sequence in order to provide a chance for persons in different parts of the nation to attend a meeting

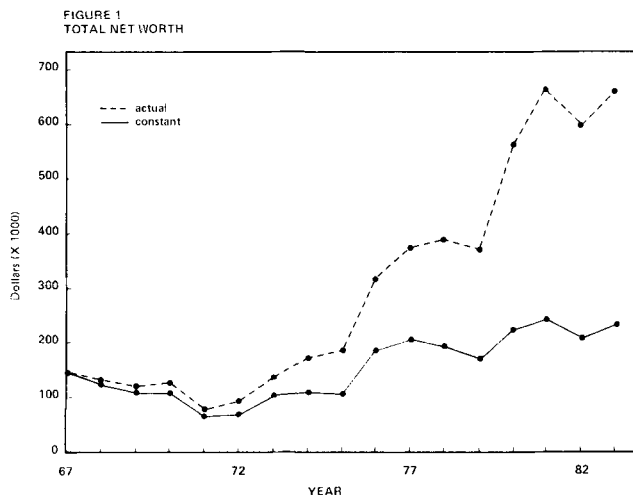
Did you know that . . . ?

The total net worth of AOCS has just kept pace with inflation for nearly 20 years

The Finance Committee is increasing its effort to provide fiscal information to Society members. One method proposed to do this is through occasional short articles in *JAACS* under the above title. This first article is based on a report prepared by Tom Smouse when he was AOCS treasurer. That report was published in the March 1983 issue of *JAACS*.

Figure 1 is an update of a similar figure in Tom's report, showing total net worth of AOCS for 1967 through 1981. We have added points for 1982 and 1983. Total net worth of AOCS is the Society's total assets minus all its liabilities (i.e., commitments and debts). The lower curve in Figure 1 is in constant dollars (i.e., actual dollars for each year, corrected for inflation since 1967, the base year for the U.S. Consumer Price Index). What it shows is that while there are ups and downs, our total net worth has changed little during the period graphed. Moreover, on a per member basis there has been no improvement. The total net worth amounted to \$45.93 for each of the 3,243 members in 1967 vs \$45.85 for each of our 3,943 members as of November 1983.

Our cash reserve position is even more modest because about half of the Society's total net worth is our investment in the Champaign headquarters building and its contents. The Finance Committee is not comfortable with this situation. Long-time AOCS members remember when the Society actually went broke and had to be bailed out with donations by some exceptionally dedicated members. To insure against a reoccurrence of such a financial debacle, we have set an objective of building a reasonable increase in the Society's reserve funds during the next few years. Planned actions to achieve this objective include the following:



1. Key committees involved in producing potential reserves—education, publications, world conferences, annual meetings, monographs, advertising and methods development—will be made aware of the objective.

2. Chairpersons from these committees will be invited to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss their specific plans to meet the objective.

3. The key committees will be encouraged to develop plans for marketable programs designed to help AOCS achieve its financial goals.

In the June 1967 *JAACS*, then treasurer A. F. Kapecki said, "1966 revenue reached \$343,600, while expenses totaled only \$303,600. This \$40,000 net revenue figure balanced recent deficits and allowed a welcome contribution to reserves which have not kept pace with the overall expansion of the AOCS." As someone has said, "The more things change, the more they remain the same."

AOCS Finance Committee

Inside AOCs

close to home. This evens out travel costs over a period of time and provides a chance for participation by persons in each geographic area who might not be able to attend meetings outside their home area.

The selection of a specific hotel is made on recommendation of the local committee with advice from AOCs' executive director and meetings coordinator.

AOCs has to use larger hotels because such hotels can commit the large number of sleeping rooms (500 to 800) needed to keep members close to the meeting activities. Using a cluster of smaller hotels might mean lower room rates, but would also mean having to travel between hotels to attend technical sessions, committee meetings or social functions. More important, the larger hotels also usually are the only ones with sufficient meeting rooms (large exhibit hall, 7 or more technical session meeting rooms with the capacity for 100-400 persons, more than a dozen committee-size rooms, ballrooms for meal events, etc.) to accommodate an AOCs meeting.

Could AOCs use a convention center? Yes, but convention centers must be rented so they couldn't be used without adding to meeting costs. Large hotels do not charge for meeting rooms when they know an organization's members will be filling the hotel's sleeping rooms. If you meet in a convention center and hold your social functions outside the hotel, you'll pay more for the sleeping rooms. AOCs does negotiate a discount from the walk-in rate for sleeping rooms. When a local committee is selecting a hotel, a major consideration (along with hotel size, meeting-room capacities, etc.) is how much of a discount a hotel is willing to provide.

What about meeting at a university? That's been tried for short courses and other specialized meetings. Sometimes it works well, sometimes it doesn't. In one case, AOCs had virtually the entire enrollment of a short course check out of the less-expensive dormitory rooms and into a nearby commercial motel. Our spring meeting usually occurs when universities are still in session and dormitory rooms are not available. Universities, incidentally, are no longer cheap. Universities regard meetings as a way to help increase income. Many university towns lack the transportation capacity to move 1,200 to 1,700 people into town one day, then out again 4 days later.

What about giving folks a chance to rent rooms in cheaper hotels? You can. If you'd prefer to stay in a less expensive, nearby hotel, you may do so. AOCs registration is frequently greater than the rooms reserved at large hotels and space is reserved at nearby hotels. Some members on limited travel funds have sought out these less expensive accommodations. Others cut costs by finding a roommate to share housing expenses.

How come the room rate paid may be more than you pay at the same hotel for another group's meeting? It's a matter of supply and demand. Room rates vary from season to season. If you're there in the off-season for the hotel, you may get a less expensive room. If the other group has more frequent or larger meetings at the hotel, the room rate may be lower. Weekend rates are frequently lower because most groups don't meet over weekends. AOCs will be having meetings in the near future that start

on Saturdays to obtain the lower room rates available.

Another tip to cut meeting costs: changes in domestic commercial airline regulations now permit airlines to offer discount fares to persons traveling to-and-from specific meetings. AOCs has negotiated such discounts for the past 2 years. You may find you can save on airfare costs by using this special service. Or, just as with hotels, you may find you can make a better deal elsewhere because, in this era of deregulation, new and cheaper fares crop up almost daily. These low fares generally entail restrictions or inconvenience—advance payment requirements, travel on specific days, limited number of seats at that fare, etc. Therefore, you should investigate such offers carefully before deciding that cheaper is better.

AOCs does and will continue to keep costs an important factor in its meeting planning equation, but many other factors must be considered. Hotels and travel facilities are other considerations.


Staff changes

Sharon D. Michalove is the new staff editor for *JAOCs*, succeeding Philippa Logan, who has returned to her native Great Britain after a vacation trip to the Galapagos Islands. Her husband, originally from Ireland, completed his post-graduate academic work at the University of Illinois this past December.

Michalove received her bachelor's and master's degrees (Library and Information Science) from the University of Illinois. She previously has worked for Scott, Foresman and Co., a textbook publisher, and for the University of Illinois Office of Agricultural Publications.

Martha Francisco, who has been an owner, co-owner and operator of typing and typesetting services for the past 18 years, has replaced Deborah J. Shreffler as a typesetter. Shreffler returned to college as a full-time student.

And finally, but certainly not the least important, AOCs Production Manager Jean Bettenhausen and husband Ken became parents with the birth of Brian Bettenhausen in mid-November. By the time you read this, Jean is back at work full-time, but Brian has not yet found gainful employment.

JAOCs 

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