

# American Chemical Society

---

**Form:** Part II - Annual Narrative Report **Optional for EZ Submission**

**Organization:** Detroit

**Year:** 2006

## A. Activities

Please describe and rank up to ten of your section's activities during 2006. Provide (a) the title of the activity, (b) a one paragraph description of the activity, and (c) an indication if this activity was new in 2006. If you wish to provide details beyond these paragraphs, please do so in Appendix 1.

### Activity #1

a) Title: Chemistry Olympiad

2006 marked the twenty-first consecutive year of Detroit Section participation in the US National Chemistry Olympiad program, organized locally by the section's Education Committee. The Local section exam tied Detroit Section records with nearly two hundred student participants and twenty-eight participating schools.

Description  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

### Activity #2

a) Title National Chemistry Week / Cranbrook

The National Chemistry Week program was presented at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, in Bloomfield Hills Michigan on October 22, 2006. We had approximately 25 chemists from several area companies and universities. Student affiliates from University of Michigan-Flint and University of Detroit/Mercy volunteered and conducted chemistry magic shows for the museum attendees. The crowd was greeted by a member of Senator Debbie Stabinow's office, who was solicited by our Government Relations Committee. Attendance was approximately 400 people. There were 10 different hands on experiments being conducted continuously for a 4-hour period. ACS Past-President Bill Carroll also participated in the event as part of his "Extreme NCW Tour", and the section presented him with a Detroit Tiger's baseball jersey (see picture in Appendix).

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

### Activity #3

a) Title **Girl Scout Chemistry Day at Belle Isle**

The event sponsored 194 girls and 65 Troop Leaders or adult chaperones. The girls performed six hands-on experiments, learned about chemical careers & also played a game for prizes, and finally, made squirrel nut balls (for the Belle Isle Zoo) plus bird feeders to take home (made out of recyclables). Through these activities, they earned their National Chemistry Week patches. The event ran smoothly and received positive feedback from the comments in the surveys collected. Whereas last year's project was funded by an LSAC Innovative Project Grant, this year we are especially proud that the program became sustainable, being completely funded by donations (from GM and a local law firm) and registration fees. Indeed, the law firm donation originated from a parent in attendance at last year's event who was so impressed with what he saw that he solicited the donation for this year!

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

**Activity #4**a) Title: **Career Program Workshop & Employer List**

We had an exceptionally well-attended (~25), experimental, interactive presentation appropriate for people in all life phases given by Carole DePetro, a local Career Counselor and Life Coach. The career presentation was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at the central location of Livonia Civic Center Library. This hands-on lecture allowed the participants explore clues found in their personality, talents, and skills to help them gain tools to develop a clearer sense of where to utilize their skill set. Ms. DePetro has utilized her background in teaching to build on her business and psychology degrees. She often lectures on finding your mission in life, changing careers, identifying personality and temperament types, and creating the life you want. A second new activity was the culmination of a 3-year effort, resulting in a database of over 400 Detroit/Windsor-area employers. These activities were in addition to our continuing efforts to distribute career literature at local meetings and field inquiries from our membership.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

**Activity #5**

## a) Title Kids &amp; Chemistry Activities

2006 was another great year for the Detroit Section's outstanding Kids & Chemistry program. We recruited a number of new volunteers, engaged the participation of student-affiliate groups from four different universities, and continued to experiment with new event venues/formats. The Detroit Kids & Chemistry program is led by a group of six co-chairs:

Denise Grimsley, Mary Kay Heidtke, Gina Ludwig, Felix Schneider, Walter Siegl, and Christine Utter and supported by a group of excellent volunteers who number between 50 & 70. Our highlights included:

1.) On March 18, we began the 2006 program year with our 3rd annual participation in the Career Choices program at Kimball High School in Royal Oak.

More than 300 kids and parents picked up career literature, periodic tables and other ACS material from our booth while our volunteers gave more than 100 one-to-one interviews with students on what chemists do.

2.) On May 4, Kids & Chemistry participated in the Annual Rouge Water Festival held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the 8th consecutive year. Sixteen volunteers participated in a very successful program in which we did a hands-on experiment on acid-rain with classes of 5th-graders.

The experiment was followed by a lively discussion on what students can do to help reduce acid rain. Altogether more than 200 kids participated with lots of positive responses from students and teachers.

3.) Kids & Chemistry made its 8th annual appearance at the Detroit TasteFest on July 1. We had a very successful afternoon with one of the largest crowds we've ever had. We were kept busy all three shifts from noon until 6:00. The kids had a great time and their parents and grandparents seemed to appreciate us too. Our estimate, based on the number of beakers consumed, was that about 330 kids participated. Assuming that each kid carried out all three experiments, we carried out about 1,000 individual experiments -- not a bad afternoon!

4.) On September 14th, Kids & Chemistry participated Oakland County Rouge River Water Festival at Cranbrook Science Institute. It was another great success. This was the third year that we participated. Our program started with some acid/base demonstrations by Dr. Lozanov from WSU which really "wowed" the kids, teachers and parents in attendance. His demonstrations were tied to our regular hands-on pH experiment. We had a busy schedule of 7 classes with between 11 and 28 5th graders in each. We are most appreciative of the 6 volunteers who helped with this mid-week program.

5.) In September, the Detroit ACS Kids & Chemistry program was very pleased to announce that it had been awarded a grant for approximately \$2,100 from Henkel Corporation's MIT Children's Fund. This grant will allow us to restock our supply cabinet and to consider additional programs as well as to upgrade some current programs. We are especially appreciative of the efforts of our co-chair Gina Ludwig for securing this funding.

6.) Also in September, our Kids & Chemistry program was recognized by the national ACS for having the Outstanding Kids & Chemistry program in the country in 2005. Congratulations to all of our volunteers and co-chairs that made this honor possible. This is the 3rd time that we have been so honored.

7.) On October 22, Kids & Chemistry volunteers supported an exciting National Chemistry Week event held at Cranbrook Institute of Science. Ten different hands-on experiments were conducted with children of all ages. Denise Grimsley, one of our Kids & Chemistry co-chairs also served as the Section's NCW Chair. 26 volunteers supported the program, including many first-time volunteers.

8.) On Saturday, November 18th, a number of Kids & Chemistry volunteered to help with the hands-on experiments which were part of the Detroit Section's 2nd annual program for the Detroit-area girl scouts. The program had 194 junior Girl Scout and 65 troop leaders/chaperones who participated. This new and innovative program was directed at delivering the message that chemistry can offer interesting and viable career options for women and minorities.

As we review our programs for 2006, we are pleased with our accomplishments. More than 50 different chemists, chemical engineers and student affiliates contribute to our programs. Our success depended on their efforts. For their participation we are very grateful. We look forward to another great year in 2007.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

**Activity #6**

a) Title: Industrial Women's Networking Dinner

The Industrial Relations committee hosted an Industrial women's networking dinner on June 6th 2006. The meeting was attended by women working in the Chemical industry in the Detroit metropolitan area. Participants from various educational backgrounds, different experiences and different cultural backgrounds, were comfortable discussing issues relating to career balance, dual career couples, dealing with the tough Michigan climate and finding alternatives, focusing on their individual strengths. Women, who have been in the industry for a longer time shared personal stories on how they managed their careers, while still finding time for family and personal time. While the attendance was not large (<10), we were pleased to see some new, young faces included in the group.

Description  
(Please limit

b) to one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #7

a) Title: Project SEED

There were nearly 40 high school age applicants for five positions. Ten candidate interviews were held at Wayne State to fill five positions. The eight week program consisted of two weeks student prep for their six-week lab experiences. Participants authored a final research report that was filed with the National American Chemical Society. In addition, there were field trips/campus visits to University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Henry Ford Community College. The program was a great success and two of the five students are eligible to return next summer (2007) at level II status. Special Thanks to James Landis and Yolanda Watts of Henkel and BASF Corporations, respectively, for taking the lead to obtain funding from their companies for SEED and to the Detroit Professional Chapter of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) who gave their capable assistance in the interviewing and selections process of the above students. Lastly, thanks to Ted Goodson for his support via his NIRT grant.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #8

a) Title: Young Chemist Comm.-Brewery Tour

The YCC co-hosted a brewery tour with ANACHEM on Tuesday, October 17, 2006. We are fortunate to have several excellent local breweries and brewers in the Detroit area. One of the best of those establishments is the Royal Oak Brewery. Operating since 1995, the brewery has won national awards, including the prestigious Gold Medal Award at the 2005 Great American Beer Festival. This guided tour allowed a group of approximately 40 people to learn about the ancient art and modern science of making good beer. After the tour many of the attendees decided to stay for dinner and sample one or more of the outstanding beers that the Royal Oak Brewery has to offer. The tour and dinner was a well-received social event.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #9

a) Title: Government Affairs-Congressional Visit

Gina Ludwig (Henkel Corporation) took a trip to Washington DC to attend congressional visits day. Gina was one of three representing the National ACS as well as Detroit Section. The mission of this trip was to meet with our congress members to inform them of the importance of signing letters to the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy to increase Research and Development (R&D) funding for America s Competitive Initiative. In addition, the group met with several key Michigan members of Congress, specifically, Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, as well as Representative Joseph Knollenberg. All three members of congress supported the American Competitive Initiative and signed the letters to increase R&D funding for the next 7 years.

Description:  
(Please limit to

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

#### Activity #10

a) Title: Education Comm.-Furnace Hot Glass Tour

The Committee arranged for a High School Chemistry Teacher professional development day at Furnace Hot Glass in Dearborn, MI. The afternoon was hosted by the Glass Academy, a state certified trade school located in Dearborn specializing in glassblowing, stained glass, neon, lampworking and machine embroidery. Proprietors Chris Nordin and Michelle Plucinsky started the afternoon by giving a tour of their facility, a spacious renovated warehouse. After a hands-on demonstration of Rupert drops, the group observed a glassblowing demonstration using graphite molds. Artisans demonstrated the skills required to generate a glass vase and bowl. The day finished with

a presentation of neon glass tube working where participants got to try their own hands at bending glass into a 90 ° angle. Over 25 high school teachers

Description:  
(Please limit to

attended the event

b) one paragraph):

c)  This activity was new in 2006

## B. Summary - Overall Section Activities

Please summarize in *1,000 words or less*, the activities of the section in 2006 which have not been already described. Outstanding events should be described in some detail and appropriate attachments included in Appendix 3. Programs described here may be featured in publications produced by the ACS Membership Division and/or at the Local Section Leadership Conferences.

The Detroit Section of the ACS has had a healthy and busy year in 2006. Our Kids and Chemistry program has continued to be involved in several worthwhile events in the area, including the Rouge River Water Festival, and the Detroit Taste Fest. Events such as these allow our members to interact with the general public and get the word out about the positive benefits of chemistry.

Additionally, we have continued a very productive relationship with the Cranbrook Institute of Science, having one of our main NCW events there. This involves plenty of hands-on demonstrations with the public, which requires numerous volunteers, and involves SAACS members from the University of Michigan-Flint, as well as the University of Detroit Mercy. Chemistry magic shows are also put on by the SAACS of the University of Detroit Mercy at the Cranbrook NCW event. This year, we had the pleasure of hosting ACS Past-President Bill Carroll, whom we presented with a Detroit Tiger's jersey.

Related to NCW, we have also hosted a very successful Girl Scout Day at the Belle Isle in Detroit. Now in its second year, the Girl Scout event attracts hundreds of young women, exposes them to the idea of a career in chemistry, and involves a large number of our members as volunteers.

Our Careers committee, chaired by current section secretary Megan Klein, has been quite active, having events that allow chemists searching for positions to be matched up with ACS resources in career workshops. A great deal more about this committee will probably be reported in the 2007 Section Report, because of ongoing work created by the impending closure of the Pfizer research facility in Ann Arbor.

Our Education Committee and US National Chemistry Olympiad Committee have worked cheek by jowl in ensuring an excellent turn out by local area high schools for the USNCO exam. In addition, our Education Committee continues to host professional development for high school teachers, and to work

with local educational organizations.

We have held an event, an invited speaker, in Flint, Michigan in 2006. The city of Flint is located almost exactly between Detroit and Midland. Thus, while the two active sections both have members that live in or around Flint, the members in Flint always feel a bit far away from either of the section locations. We have therefore re-activated the Flint sub-Section, held an event at UM - Flint, and plan to build that relationship this year.

While we did not expand our activities to an event in the St. Clair Shores and Port Huron area, to the east of Detroit, we started a dialogue with local chemists that should culminate with an event being held there in 2007.

In 2006, the section produced a pamphlet to raise awareness about the proper disposal of old medicines. This is now distributed at events where the section has a presence, and it can be sent to any member via e-mail, if they d like it. This is an outgrowth of a survey that former section Chairman Kevin Perry sent out. Many of our members responded that they d like an ACS section that was more politically and environmentally active, but that they didn t have a lot of time to dedicate to such projects at that moment. This represents one response to that request. Further activities along such lines are in the works in 2007.

The Detroit Section remains in good financial health, with a Long Range Planning Committee and a Trustees Committee in place to oversee the proper use of our funds and develop our leadership pipeline.

## C. Local Section and Chair Goals

**2006 Goal Attainment.** The Local Section Activities Committee strongly encourages local section planning. As a result, the 2006 local section annual report should follow-up on the attainment of goals. Please list the goals you

1. set at the beginning of your term for your section and yourself, and report on the attainment of the goals.

- a) **Local Section Goals and Assessment:**

#### Section Goals, 2006

1. Organize at least one program event in Flint, MI.

We have held an event, an invited speaker, in Flint, Michigan in 2006.

2. Organize at least one program event in the Port Huron, MI area.

While we did not expand our activities to an event in the St. Clair Shores and Port Huron area, to the east of Detroit, we started a dialogue with local chemists that should culminate with an event being held there in 2007.

3. Have each standing committee be involved in at least one event that is reported on the 2006 annual report.

The only failure to meet goals that the section has had is directly attributable to myself, the Chairman. I set a goal of having each committee in the section being involved in at least one event during 2006. This did not happen, mostly because we have a large number of committees that have events which overlap. However, this means the same goal remains in effect for 2007.

#### b) 2006 Chair's Goals and Assessment:

##### Chair Goals, 2006

1. Re-activate a Flint, MI sub-section of the Detroit Section.

The city of Flint is located almost exactly between Detroit and Midland. Thus, while the two active sections both have members that live in or around Flint, the members in Flint always feel a bit far away from either of the section locations. We have therefore re-activated the Flint sub-Section, held an event at UM-Flint, and plan to build that relationship this year.

2. Raise awareness of the need for a pharmaceutical recovery program within southeastern Michigan, so that old non-prescription and prescription drugs are not flushed into area waters.

In 2006, the section produced a pamphlet to raise awareness about the proper disposal of old medicines. This is now distributed at events where the section has a presence, and it can be sent to any member via e-mail, if they'd like it. This is an outgrowth of a survey that former section Chairman Kevin Perry sent out. Many of our members responded that they'd like an ACS section that was more politically and environmentally active, but that

they didn't have a lot of time to dedicate to such projects at that moment. This represents one response to that request. Further activities along such lines are in the works in 2007.

3. Determine if the city of Detroit has a "sister city" and invite a speaker from that city to Detroit to give a talk.

The committee has not yet achieved its goal to obtain a guest speaker from one of Detroit, Michigan's sister cities. We are targeting a University in Italy.

**2007 Goals.** (This section should be completed by the 2006 local section chair.) Please list below at least three goals that you and your local section plan to accomplish during your term as local section chair.

a) 2007 Local Section Goals (Include at least three goals):

1. The Detroit Section wishes to continue enlarging its activities and offerings to the members of the section. Again this year, we hope to have at least one activity hosted or co-hosted by each of our committees.

2. Sponsor a purely social event for section members, in which attendees can simply network in a casual setting. Specific settings might be a bowling night or a Titans basketball game.

3. Make contact with either a leader or human resources person at 5 - 10 companies where we have a large number of corporate members, and see if we can use those contacts to further enlarge our section membership.

b) 2007 Chair's Goals:

1. The chairman intends to expand the range of "green" or green-related activities within the section, in response to the results of a section survey indicating members want this. Last year, the Detroit Section produced a pamphlet designed to raise awareness about the proper disposal of old medicines, and began distributing it at all section events. It gives instructions, and lists web sites for disposal / pick-up points in the southeast Michigan area. This year, we intend to produce such a pamphlet, either on the proper recycling of batteries, or on the proper disposal or recycling of old computers and cellular phones.

## D. Suggestions/Concerns

List any suggestions you have for the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC). How can LSAC specifically help your section?

One suggestion for the Local Section Activities Committee is to perhaps try to make an LSAC presence known at regional meetings. The Detroit Section chairman, Mark Benvenuto, attended the CERM in Frankenmuth, MI in 2006 and doesn't recall any LSAC members or information being present (although this could, admittedly, be his own fault).

LSAC has already been helpful to the section, through its grant program, and through its training sessions for volunteer leaders. We urge LSAC to continue this level of support.