

# THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

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## Contents

Announcing the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 5.....	1
Call for Poster Abstracts for the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, Deadline September 10 .....	1
ACS Day at the Fair, August 15 .....	2
Call for Nominations for 2014 Officer and Director Candidates.....	3
Delta College Announces Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3) Conference, September 27–28 .....	3
Election of ACS Directors-at-Large by a Minority of Voters in 2009, 2011, and 2012 – A Possible Solution to the Problem, Multiple Instant Run-Off Voting .....	4
Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates .....	6

## Announcing the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 5

*Shawn Chen, 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting Chair*

The 2013 Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting will be held jointly with the Michigan Technological University Mind Trekkers team event at Delta College on Saturday, October 5, 2013. The meeting theme is *Energy: Now and Forever!*

The day will start with a keynote from Dr. Jeremiah Johnson of the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan. His seminar is entitled *The Energy Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century*. There will be two symposia focusing on Energy, one with a technical focus, and one with a practical focus that should be of interest to the general public. A poster session, SciFest, and Mind Trekkers from Michigan Tech (The Great Lakes Bay Science and Engineering Festival) will also be held concurrently. For more information on Mind Trekkers, please visit their website at <http://mindtrekkers.mtu.edu/>.

For more information and program updates (including the Call for Abstracts) please see the 2013 FSM website at <http://midlandacs.org/index.php?page=fsm-home>. FSM committee: Shawn Chen (Chair), Matthew Grandbois, Megan Boyle, De-Wei Yin, Nicole Wagner, and Roja Ergun.

If you have any questions, or would like to give an oral or poster presentation, please contact Shawn Chen, 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting Chair, by phone (989-636-9042), or by e-mail ([xchen4@dow.com](mailto:xchen4@dow.com)).

## Call for Poster Abstracts for the 2013 Fall Scientific Meeting, Deadline September 10

*Roja Ergun, 2013 FSM Poster Symposium Chair*

Student and professional poster presentations for the 69<sup>th</sup> Fall Scientific Meeting of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society on October 5, 2013 at Delta College are invited in all areas of chemistry, biochemistry, chemistry-related areas, and materials science. Abstracts are being accepted now through September 10, 2013. The theme of this year's Fall Scientific Meeting is *Energy: Now and Forever!*

Guidelines for Abstracts: 250 words, Times New Roman, Word document or PDF. Please include all authors and their affiliations. Please e-mail abstracts or address questions to the FSM Poster Symposium Chair, Roja Ergun ([ergun@dow.com](mailto:ergun@dow.com)), and include "FSM Abstract" in the subject line.

2013 FSM registration information: All presenters and attendees should register for the meeting by September 20, 2013. Registration is free, and lunch will be provided for all pre-registered participants. To register, please e-mail the FSM Registration Chair, Megan Boyle ([mmboyle@dow.com](mailto:mmboyle@dow.com)), and put "FSM Registration" in the subject line. If registering for more than yourself, please give the names of all registrants. For more information, please see the meeting website at <http://midlandacs.org/index.php?page=fsm-home>.

### ACS Day at the Fair, August 15

*Michelle Rivard, MMTG Chair-Elect and ACS Day at the Fair Chair*

The Midland Section ACS Day at the Fair event is coming up on Thursday, August 15. This event is designed to be a giving back event for ACS and MMTG members, families, and friends. Free hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be available 4:30-7:30 PM at the tan picnic building at the north end of the Midland County Fair Grandstand. Free science demos will also be offered at this same time and location. Discounted ticket ride bands are also available.

Volunteers are needed to help with food and science demos. For more information, to volunteer, or for advance sales of discounted ticket ride bands, contact Michelle Rivard at [michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com](mailto:michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com) or 989-496-5399. You can also sign up to volunteer online by going to [ACS Day at the Fair Volunteer Sign Up](#).

# ACS DAY at the Midland County Fair!

Sponsored by the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

**Thursday, Aug 15, 2013**



**FREE**  
Hot dogs, chips, drinks  
to ACS/MMTG  
members, families  
and friends  
4:30-7:30 pm,  
tan picnic bldg north  
end of Grandstand



**Ride 'til you drop!**  
Discounted bands good 1-11 pm  
Just **\$14.00!**



**FREE**  
**SCIENCE  
DEMOS**  
4:30-7:30 pm,  
Tan picnic bldg  
north end of  
Grandstand



**FREE!**



**FREE!**

**Tickets are sold at the Tan picnic bldg starting @ 12pm that day**  
For more information/advance sales contact Michelle Rivard@ 496-5399

## Call for Nominations for 2014 Officer and Director Candidates

*Jaime Curtis-Fisk, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee*

Here is your chance to become more involved in your local ACS section. We need candidates to run for the following positions for 2014:

- Chair-elect (1-year term)
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Councilor (3-year term)
- Alternate Councilor (3-year term)
- Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee (1-year term)
- Directors (3 open positions, 3-year terms)

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Jaime Curtis-Fisk at [jlcurtisfisk@dow.com](mailto:jlcurtisfisk@dow.com) or 989-638-7044. If you have any questions regarding the responsibilities of any of the positions, please contact the current officers or Jaime Curtis-Fisk, or you are welcome to visit our website at [www.midlandacs.org](http://www.midlandacs.org). Our local section handbook also provides further details at [ACSMidlandSectionHandbook](#).

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the August 5 and August 26, 2013 Board meetings, held at 7:00 PM in the Board Room on the lower level of the Midland Center for the Arts. Please be aware that any nominees will have to accept their nomination prior to the announcement from the floor.

There are a variety of compelling reasons to take advantage of the chance to become involved as an officer or director of the Midland Section ACS: networking beyond your work-place, an opportunity to provide vision and voice to your local scientific community, and a chance to hone your interpersonal and leadership skills.

Please consider getting involved with the Midland Section ACS. If you are not keen on running for a board position, there are still many other great areas for you to serve.

## Delta College Announces Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3) Conference, September 27–28

*Jonathan Gittins, 2YC3 Program Chair*

Delta College is excited to be hosting the 202<sup>nd</sup> 2YC3 (Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium) Conference on September 27–28, 2013. The 2YC3 is an organization that is part of the Division of Chemical Education within the American Chemical Society. The ACS national organization is a sponsor of the 2YC3 and sends representatives to each of the meetings to share updated information from the Division of Chemical Education. The 2YC3 provides a forum for chemistry educators to enhance student learning through professional development conferences.



Attendance is not solely limited to two-year college instructors, and we are actively seeking those who would like to contribute to our program by giving a presentation or leading a workshop. We strongly encourage

topics related to our theme *Student Success: Headed to the Workforce*, though we also encourage other topics as well to give us a diverse program.

On the Saturday morning of the conference (September 28), a panel discussion on Student Success is being planned. If you would like to participate on this panel discussion, a list of possible questions will be forwarded to you to assess further interest.

If you are interested in participating in the panel discussion or submitting an abstract for a presentation, please contact Jonathan Gittins, Program Chair, at [jonathangittins@delta.edu](mailto:jonathangittins@delta.edu). Preference will be given to abstracts submitted by July 10.

Registration is currently available for the upcoming 202<sup>nd</sup> 2YC3 Conference by going to the website <http://www.2yc3.org/registration202.htm>. The most up-to-date information about the conference, including program information, is available at <http://delta.edu/science/chemistry/2yc3.aspx>.

If you are interested, please also consider joining us for a Saturday Dinner Cruise (\$59 per person, maximum 47 guests) on the Schooner Appledore (a tall ship home ported in Bay City) for dinner and a stargazing sail on the Saginaw Bay. This is contingent on having 30 people registered and paid by August 20. Participation in this special opportunity will be assigned on a first-registered basis.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Chair, Jonathan Gittins, at [jonathangittins@delta.edu](mailto:jonathangittins@delta.edu). We greatly appreciate any participation in this conference, and look forward to seeing you at Delta College!

### **Election of ACS Directors-at-Large by a Minority of Voters in 2009, 2011, and 2012 – A Possible Solution to the Problem, Multiple Instant Run-Off Voting**

***Wendell L. Dilling, Midland Section Director and Historian***

If you believe that our ACS representatives should be elected by a majority of the voters rather than by a minority of the voters you will be interested in this comment. The ACS has procedures in place that ensure that the President-Elect and the District Directors are elected by a majority of the voters. The same should be true for the election of Directors-at-Large.

In each of the 2009, 2011, and 2012 ACS elections for Directors-at-Large [*Chem. Eng. News*, Nov. 23, 2009, p 7; Nov. 28, 2011, p 9 (379 voters); Nov. 26, 2012, p 7] one of the elected candidates received votes from <50% of the voters (Councilors). In each election two Directors-at-Large were elected from a slate of four or five candidates.

A method is proposed to carry out elections in which two or more candidates are elected with each being elected by a majority of the voters. The method (multiple instant run-off) involves voters prioritizing their votes. The first Director-at-Large is elected by a majority in exactly the same way a single candidate would be elected from three or more candidates by the instant run-off procedure.

In the instant run-off procedure the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated, and the second choice votes on those ballots where the eliminated candidate was the first choice are added to the first choice votes for the other candidates. This procedure is repeated until one candidate has a majority of the votes.

Then, in the multiple instant run-off procedure, all of the votes for the first candidate elected are removed from the voting priority list of each voter. The second successful candidate is then determined in exactly the same manner as the first using the new prioritized list of each voter.

Thus both candidates are elected by a majority in a single election (saving the time and expense of a separate election). If more than two candidates are to be elected, the preceding procedure is repeated until all of the required number of candidates has been elected.

Institution of the multiple instant run-off procedure for all ACS elections where more than one candidate is elected would make all elections, for President-Elect, District Directors, and Directors-at-Large, operate under the instant run-off procedure. At the request of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, a Revision of Bylaw V.3.c., which refers to the Election of Director-at-Large has been produced and is printed here:

c. On or before October 10, the Executive Director shall distribute to each voting Councilor a ballot containing the names of all candidates for the positions of Director-at-Large to be filled.

If there is only one position to be filled and there are two candidates, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes shall be declared elected Director-at-Large.

If there is only one position to be filled and there are more than two candidates, a preferential ballot shall be used. This ballot shall afford the voter an opportunity to rank the candidates in order of preference. If one candidate receives a majority of first-preference votes, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives such a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest first-preference votes shall be eliminated from further consideration. The vote total of a candidate not so eliminated shall then be set equal to the number of valid ballots on which that candidate is ranked higher in preference than any of the other remaining candidates. If the vote total of one of the candidates is now a majority that candidate shall be declared elected. However, if no candidate receives a majority, the process of eliminating the candidate with the lowest vote total and recalculating the vote totals of the remaining candidates shall be repeated as many times as necessary until the vote total of one candidate is a majority. That candidate shall then be declared elected. When recalculating vote totals following the elimination of a candidate, those ballots on which no distinct preference is indicated for any of the remaining candidates shall be deemed invalid in that and any subsequent candidate elimination rounds. In each of those rounds, a majority shall consist of more than half of the total number of ballots that remain valid at that step in the elimination process.

When there are two or more positions to be filled and three or more candidates, a preferential ballot shall be used and the vote counting shall be carried out in as many stages as there are candidates to be elected. This ballot shall afford the voter an opportunity to rank the candidates in order of preference. In the first stage if one candidate receives a majority of first-preference votes, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives such a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest first-preference votes shall be eliminated from the first stage. The vote total of a candidate not so eliminated shall then be set equal to the number of valid ballots on which that candidate is ranked higher in preference than any of the other remaining candidates. If the vote total of one of the candidates is now a majority that candidate shall be declared elected in the first stage. However, if no candidate receives a majority, the process of eliminating the candidate with the lowest vote total and recalculating the vote totals of the remaining candidates shall be repeated as many times as necessary until the vote total of one candidate is a majority. That candidate shall then be declared elected in the first stage. When recalculating vote totals following the elimination of a candidate, those ballots on which no distinct preference is indicated for any of the remaining candidates shall be deemed invalid in that and any subsequent candidate elimination rounds of this stage. In each of those rounds, a majority shall consist of more than half of the total number of ballots that remain valid at that step in the elimination process.

In the next stage to determine the next position to be filled each ballot shall have the candidate elected in the previous stage removed. In this stage if one candidate receives a majority of first-preference votes, that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives such a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest first-preference votes shall be eliminated in the present stage. The vote total of a candidate not so eliminated shall then be set equal to the number of valid ballots on which that candidate is ranked higher in preference than any of the other remaining candidates. If the vote total of one of the candidates is now a majority that candidate shall be declared elected. However, if no candidate receives a majority, the process of eliminating the candidate with the lowest vote total and recalculating the vote totals of the remaining candidates shall be repeated as many times as necessary until the vote total of one candidate is a majority. That candidate shall then be declared elected. When recalculating vote totals following the elimination of a candidate, those ballots on which no distinct preference is indicated for any of the remaining candidates shall be deemed invalid in that and any subsequent candidate elimination rounds of this stage. In each of those rounds, a majority shall consist of more than half of the total number of ballots that remain valid at that step in the elimination process.

When more positions are to be filled the procedure in the previous paragraph shall be followed.

If a tie vote occurs in any step among candidates being eliminated, all such tied candidates shall be eliminated for that step.

I am interested in receiving comments concerning this proposed bylaw amendment. A poster paper concerning this voting procedure will be presented at the Fall Scientific Meeting at Delta College on October 5 where member's questions can be answered and discussed more fully. You can also contact me by e-mail anytime at [dilli1wl@cmich.edu](mailto:dilli1wl@cmich.edu).

### Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- August 5 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- August 15 (Thursday) – ACS Day at the Midland County Fair. Volunteers are needed to help with food and science demos. Contact Michelle Rivard, ACS Day at the Fair Chair, at [michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com](mailto:michelle.rivard@dowcorning.com) or 989-496-5399 for more information, or for advance sales of discounted ticket ride bands.
- August 26 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- September 8–12 (Sunday-Thursday) – 246<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, see [ACS Fall National Meeting](#).
- September 10 – Deadline for poster abstracts for 69<sup>th</sup> Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting. Poster abstracts or any questions related to presenting a poster should be submitted to Roja Ergun, FSM Poster Symposium Chair, at [ergun@dow.com](mailto:ergun@dow.com).
- September 27–28 (Friday-Saturday) – 202<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3), Delta College. **Conference registration deadline is September 13.** Contact Jonathan Gittins, Program Chair, at [jonathangittins@delta.edu](mailto:jonathangittins@delta.edu) for more information or questions.
- October 5 (Saturday) – 69<sup>th</sup> Midland Section ACS Fall Scientific Meeting, Delta College. **2013 FSM pre-registration deadline is September 20.** Contact FSM Meeting Chair, Shawn Chen, at [xhcen4@dow.com](mailto:xhcen4@dow.com) or 989-636-9042 with questions or for more information.
- October 7 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.

- November 4 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.
- December 2 (7:00-9:00 PM) – ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via conference call at phone number: 866-299-7945, participant code: 9837036#.