

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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Chair Column

Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS



Dear Reader,

I hope you've been enjoying a great summer and taking advantage of the many ACS events happening this season! For me, the year seems to be flying by. I cannot believe it's already time to start thinking about ACS elections again! For this month's chair column article, I collaborated with our Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan, for a look behind the scenes on the elections process of the Midland Section ACS.

The Midland Local Section embraces the best practices for succession planning and elections to ensure smooth leadership transitions and strong engagement from the community. From

innovative voting methods to proactive recruiting and mentorship, the section is approaching its elections with an optimistic vision for the future. Each section officer position is contested by a minimum of two candidates, giving voters meaningful choices and upholding the integrity of the process. For roles which have more than two running candidates, our section conducts the election by preferential voting, where members rank candidates by order of preference. This method ensures a more representative outcome of member sentiment.

To build a strong slate of candidates, our section actively recruits new leaders well before elections. Social events are a great avenue – we note who attends section meetings or mixers and use social occasions as icebreakers to talk about the ACS and board service opportunities. After events, we follow up with potential volunteers to gauge interest in potential leadership roles. The section also taps into past contact lists from previous elections and events to identify enthusiastic members, and good old word-of-mouth often helps find motivated candidates. A top priority is assembling a diverse candidate pool – spanning different genders, age groups, professional roles (industry and academia), and organizational affiliations. This diversity not only enhances inclusivity on the Board but also brings fresh ideas and perspectives. We strongly believe that leadership skills are transferable and serving as an officer is a form of professional development, which helps persuade members from all backgrounds to run for election.

The Nominations & Elections (N&E) Committee typically includes the Committee Chair, Section Chair-Elect, a Director or Councilor, and a couple of additional members. The following chart shows the elections process timeline. This well-planned timeline fosters confidence that the election is fair, transparent, and on schedule.

Midland Local Section- Elections timeline

May	June	July	August	September	October
Assemble N&E Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Elect Director/ Councilor 1-2 additional candidates Kick Off Meeting	Brainstorm Candidates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align roles with individuals based on experience and availability Fill the slate		Collect Bios Verify ACS membership Obtain Board approval for the slate	Publish slate in MC Newsletter	Request e-roster Run elections Certify elections results with the ACS Secretary

For voting, the Midland Section utilizes a modern, user-friendly process. Voting is conducted via a Google Form, which simplifies data collection and allows preferential voting to be implemented seamlessly online. Despite being online, measures are taken to preserve integrity – the form requires each voter’s unique ACS membership number to ensure one member, one vote. Voting is kept anonymous and individual responses are confidential. The use of preferential ballots means that the outcome might sometimes be unexpected. For example, a second-choice candidate could win if they have broader overall support, and this outcome is viewed positively. It indicates the system captures the full range of member preferences, not just first choices.

Despite recent improvements, the section continues to face challenges in the elections process. One issue is that some strong potential candidates aren’t ACS members, a requirement to run for office. The N&E Committee addresses this by promoting the benefits of ACS membership to expand the pool of eligible leaders.

The Chair-Elect role remains the hardest to fill, likely due to its three-year commitment, so current leaders emphasize mentorship and support to ease concerns. Voter turnout is another area for growth, and the section is tackling it through increased outreach, clear communications, and easy online access to ballots.

Diversity and inclusion are central to our section's elections process. By nominating candidates across a range of backgrounds, we hope to build a more representative and dynamic board – one that encourages broader participation. A healthy mix of experienced leaders and newcomers fosters mentorship and innovation, ensuring continuity and fresh ideas. With transparent processes, inclusive practices, and a culture of support, the Midland Section ACS is turning elections into a celebration of community and progress.

If you are interested in running for election in any capacity on the Board, or helping with identifying our next year's leaders, or if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to Raghida Bou Zerdan (rbouzerdan@dow.com) or Krishnaja Duvvuri (chair@midlandacs.org).



**Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan, Associate Research Scientist
Dow Performance Silicones – Product Development
Midland Section ACS N&E Committee Chair 2024 – 2025**

Raghida "Reggie" Bou Zerdan is an Associate Research Scientist in Dow Performance Silicones – Emulsions, Blends, and Powders – Product Development. She focuses on developing water-based coatings for high-temperature insulation and condensation service, as well as supporting the commercialization of a sustainable slip additive for leather coatings.

Before joining Dow in 2019, Reggie was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Santa Barbara, where she collaborated with industry partners on polymeric additives for lubricants and dispersants. She holds a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Florida, where her research centered on π -conjugated oligomers for organic semiconductors.

Outside of work, Reggie enjoys engaging with the community through the ACS and outreach activities. She also loves working out with friends, spending time outdoors, and diving into a good book. She believes the best friendships are built over great food and wine.



Call for Nominations for 2026 Midland Section ACS Officer and Director Candidates

Raghida Bou Zerdan, Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee, Midland Section ACS

The strength and success of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) depend on the active participation of its members. One of the most impactful ways to contribute is by serving in an elected leadership role. Whether you're looking to shape the future of our local scientific community, broaden your professional network, or develop leadership skills, we encourage you to consider running for an officer or director position in the upcoming 2026 elections.

Open Positions for 2026:

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

*Note: The Chair-elect position is a three-year commitment, progressing from Chair-elect (2026) to Chair (2027) and then to Past Chair (2028). The Chair and Past Chair roles are not subject to annual elections unless a vacancy occurs.

Why Run?

- Influence the direction of local ACS programs and initiatives
- Represent the voice of your peers in the scientific community
- Gain valuable leadership and organizational experience
- Collaborate with a passionate and diverse team of professionals

Position Descriptions:

Chair-elect

The Chair-elect shall serve as Acting Chair of the Section in the absence of the Chair. Additionally, the Chair-elect will succeed to the Chair of the Section in the following January (2027). They serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Secretary

The Secretary records the proceedings of the Section and its Executive Committee, maintains a list of members and associates, sends to members and associates such notices as the business of the Section may require, and carries out all other duties outlined in the Society and Section bylaws.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget in cooperation with the Chair and Finance Committee. They shall also pay the bills, handle receipts, keep financial records, and report to the Board Directors. Lastly, the Treasurer will prepare an annual report with the content and format required by the National ACS and file the IRS returns.

Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee

The Nominations and Elections Committee is charged with identifying qualified candidates for leadership positions in the Section, and setting up and certifying the elections.

Directors

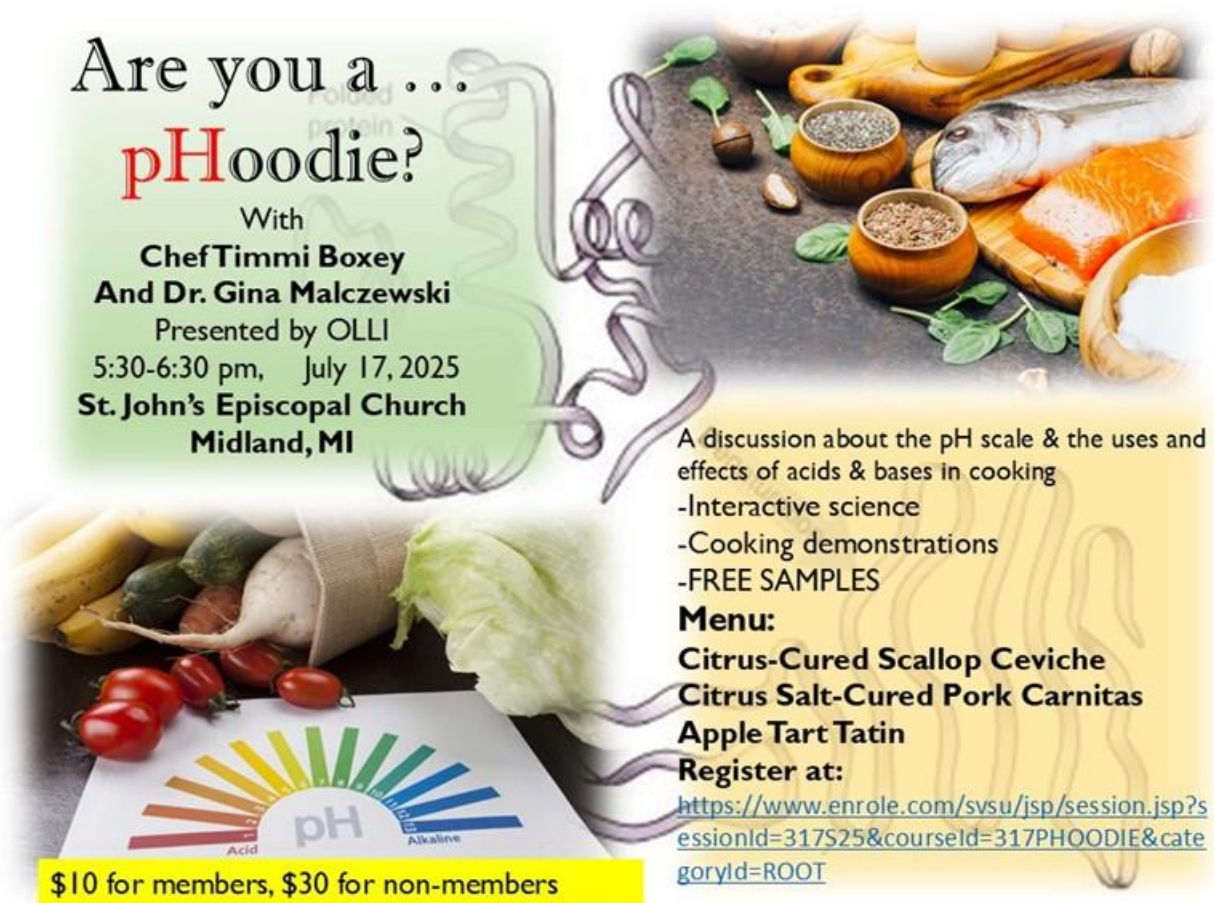
Directors are expected to attend Board meetings and to participate in the Board's deliberations. Directors should maintain an interest in local and national ACS affairs so that they can give informed consideration to the Section's issues. They should be alert to the needs and opinions of the Section membership. Three Directors must be elected to the Executive Committee, which may require attendance at additional meetings.

How to Nominate or Learn More:

If you are interested in running or would like to nominate a colleague, please contact Raghida Bou Zerdan at rbouzerdan@dow.com or reach out to any current officer. Additional information about the Midland Section ACS is available at www.midlandacs.org.

Are You a pHoodie?, July 17

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS



**Are you a ...
pHoodie?**

With
**Chef Timmi Boxey
And Dr. Gina Malczewski**
Presented by OLLI
5:30-6:30 pm, July 17, 2025
**St. John's Episcopal Church
Midland, MI**

A discussion about the pH scale & the uses and effects of acids & bases in cooking

- Interactive science
- Cooking demonstrations
- FREE SAMPLES

Menu:
Citrus-Cured Scallop Ceviche
Citrus Salt-Cured Pork Carnitas
Apple Tart Tatin

Register at:
<https://www.enrole.com/svsu/jsp/session.jsp?sessionId=317S25&courseId=317PHOODIE&categoryId=ROOT>

\$10 for members, \$30 for non-members

Trivia in the Park with RISE, ACS, and AIChE, July 25
RISE Great Lakes Bay Region, fmgrise@dow.com, Dow, Inc.

Please join three great organizations for Trivia in the Park! RISE, ACS, and AIChE are coming together again to host a fun night of trivia, food, and socializing at Emerson Park, in Midland. Proper Taco will be provided but please RSVP so that we have an accurate head count for the food.

Location: Emerson Park, Shelter D

Date: Friday, July 25, 2025

Time: Networking and Food starts at 5:00 PM, Trivia starts at 6:00 PM

Please RSVP for food at: <https://forms.gle/W676dyUoPqwZ1eHm8>



The poster features logos for ACS (Chemistry for Life), AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers), and RISE (We're Just Getting Started). The text reads: "Midland ACS, MMAIChE, RISE Diversity and Inclusion outdoor event", "Annual Trivia Night at the Park", and "Trivia on science and the diversity of our world". It specifies the date as Friday July 25th, location as Emerson Park, Shelter D, and times for networking/food (5 pm) and trivia (6 pm). It also mentions "Food provided by Proper Taco!!" with a QR code for registration (for food only) and a "BYOB" note.

ACS Chemistry for Life®

Midland ACS, MMAIChE, RISE
Diversity and Inclusion
outdoor event

AIChE
American Institute of Chemical Engineers

RISE
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED

**Annual Trivia Night
at the Park**

Trivia on science and the diversity of our world

Friday July 25th
Location: Emerson Park, Shelter D
BYOB
Networking/Food starts @ 5 pm
Teams Trivia starts @ 6 pm

Food provided by Proper Taco!!

Proper TACO

Registration required
(for food only)



Midland Area River Days Festival, August 2
Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

JOIN Midland ACS Outreach

**OUTSIDE, in Downtown Midland....at the
Kids Zone by the Old Farmers Market**

**Saturday, Aug 2, 2025
12-4 pm**

**FREE hands-on
STEM activities!**



Whiskey Pull Project Seed Fundraiser – Call for Donations
Hunter Woodward, Director, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section ACS is organizing its first ever “whiskey pull” in which each purchased ticket will earn the holder a random bottle of whiskey from a selection of bottles. About half the bottles are rare bottles collected by our team over time, and about half of them will be donations from friends of the Midland Section ACS. We hope to use the funds from this event to support our 2025 Project SEED efforts. Please contact Michelle Rivard at project-seed@midlandacs.org to donate a bottle. Bottles can be big or small and of any monetary value, so long as they are unopened. All donations are appreciated, so please consider purchasing a bottle or looking in the back of your cabinets!

ACS Project SEED is a long-running initiative by the American Chemical Society that provides economically disadvantaged high school students with hands-on summer research experiences in chemistry-related fields. Students work in academic, industrial, or government labs under the mentorship of professional scientists, gaining exposure to real-world research and career pathways. The program also offers scholarships, virtual camps, and professional development, aiming to broaden access to STEM education and careers. The Midland Section ACS’s local Project SEED efforts have been recognized nationally for its positive influence, sponsoring about a dozen students each summer.

Project Seed Whiskey Pull

Amanda Palumbo, Publicity Committee Chair, Midland Section ACS



ACS Local Section

Serving Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Gratiot, and Isabella Counties

DONATE BOURBON, SUPPORT STEM



Donations will provide paid summer research experiences for economically-diverse high school students



Bourbon bottle donations
Everyday favorites to rare finds to be raffled and auctioned.



Monetary donations
Support internship stipends, lab supplies, and safety equipment.

Fundraiser Dates:
Details coming soon!

Fundraiser Locations:
EverNorth, 3 Bridges,
and more...
Details coming soon!

Let's raise a glass to opportunity, equity, and the future of science.
Thank you for your support!

CONTACT
MICHELLE RIVARD
PROJECT-SEED@MIDLANDACS.ORG

2025 ACS ChemLuminary Awards

Krishnaja Duvvuri, Chair, Midland Section ACS

I am excited to share that the Midland Section ACS has been selected as a finalist for 2025 ChemLuminary Awards in an impressive breath of categories as follows. The winners will be announced at the ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exhibition in August.

- Chemists with Disabilities Inclusion Award: **Summary of Engagement with Special Needs Students**
- Outstanding Local Section Industry Event: **A Day in the Life of an Industrial Scientist**
- Outstanding Sustainability Activities: **Summary of Sustainability Programs for 2024**
- Outstanding Performance by a Local Section - Medium Small Size Category
- Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs: **Summary of 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Committee Events**
- Outstanding Project SEED Program Award - Small Site: **Summary of Midland Local Section Project SEED 2024 Program**
- Best New Communications Program: **"What is your Why?" Chair Column**
- MAC Industry Engagement & Outreach: **Fall Scientific Meeting Career Expo**
- Outstanding Engagement with K-8 Students: **Summary of K-8 Engagement for Midland ACS 2024**
- Most Outstanding Local Section Women Chemists Committee: **Summary of Women Chemist Committee Activities**
- Outstanding New Local Section Younger Chemists Committee: **Summary of 2024 YCC Events**
- Outstanding or Creative Local Section Younger Chemists Committee Event: **ACS YCC & MMAICHe Collaboration: MiOps Plant/Lab Tour**

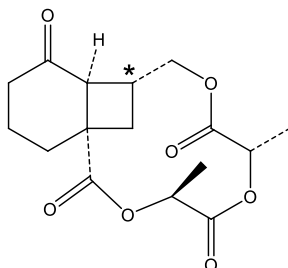
This remarkable achievement is a reflection of the dedication, creativity, and hard work of every single volunteer of the Midland Section ACS. A BIG THANK YOU to all the committees for your outstanding events, to Erin Vogel for her inspiring leadership, to both Erin and Gina Malczewski for their exceptional documentation in the annual report, and to each of you for making 2024 a successful and inspiring year. Let us continue the same in 2025.



Answer to the First R,S-Puzzle

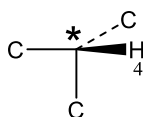
Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

The winner of the first **R,S**-Puzzle is Anja Mueller from CMU. Congratulations, Anja. The answer to the question about the absolute stereochemistry of the starred carbon is **R**.

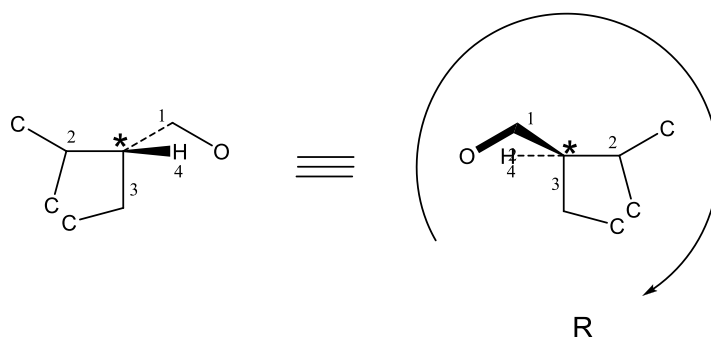


Anja provided the answer by 12:59 PM on the day *The Midland Chemist* [**2025**, 62, No. 6 (June), p 12] was sent to members. It will be difficult to break that record. Congratulations, again, Anja.

I don't know the reasoning that Anja used to solve this question, but the following is one possible method. The starred carbon is bonded to one hydrogen atom and three carbon atoms (alpha).



Thus, the hydrogen atom, having the lowest priority, is automatically the lowest priority, fourth, of the four atoms or branches attached to the starred carbon. We must go out at least one more atom, beyond the three alpha carbons, to determine the first three priority branches.

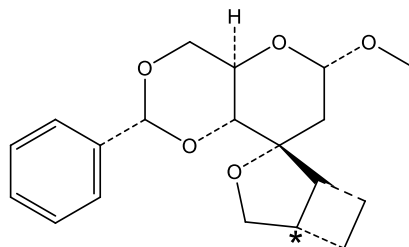


Branch 1 has oxygen attached to one of the three alpha carbons. Oxygen having a higher priority than carbon makes branch 1 a higher priority than branches 2 and 3. Branch 2 has two carbons attached to the alpha carbon which gives branch 2 higher priority than branch 3 which has only one carbon attached to the alpha carbon. As drawn on the left side the hydrogen atom of priority 4 projects in front of the plane of the page. To determine the **R** or **S** configuration the hydrogen atom must project behind the plane of the page. To achieve this the molecule must be rotated 180° to give the structure on the right. The order of the branches from 1 to 3 is in a clockwise manner which is the **R** configuration. Note that one of the cyclobutane carbon atoms is used twice in this analysis.

Second R,S-Puzzle

Wendell L. Dilling, Past Historian, Midland Section ACS

The first **R,S**-Puzzle drew some very quick answers, all correct. Now that you know how this process works, others of you can work to solve this puzzle. What is the correct designation for the starred carbon in the following compound? Again, the authors who reported this compound gave the incorrect designation for the starred carbon atom.



Send your answer to me at w.dilling@att.net. The correct answer and the first person with the correct answer will be reported in an upcoming issue of *The Midland Chemist*. Only one answer per person. Good luck.

ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, August 17-21

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated January 8, 2025.



This in-person and digital meeting will be held in Washington, DC, and globally from August 17-21, 2025. Please see [ACS Fall 2025](#).

This is your chance to share your research with the chemistry community. ACS Fall 2025 brings together chemistry professionals, educators, and students worldwide to discover and share research, network, and advance careers. These meetings are an excellent opportunity for professionals and students to showcase their

work and connect with colleagues in all areas of chemistry. Visit the website to learn more about the symposia programs.

Science Café & Bourbon Pull, August 27

Michelle Rivard, Project SEED, Midland Section ACS

Science Café & Bourbon Pull



Limited Seats!!

EVERNORTH  SPIRITS CO.

Join us for an engaging evening at EverNorth Distillery as we explore the fascinating **science** and rich history behind bourbon making. EverNorth's team will guide you through the **chemistry**, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage that shape every bottle of bourbon.



📅 Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

📍 EverNorth Spirits Co.
1100 Rockwell Dr, Freeland, MI
🕒 Doors open: 5:00 PM

Admission: \$55 pre-purchase or \$65 at the door

Your ticket includes:

- **Entry into the Bourbon Raffle (EVERY TICKET WINS!!)**
You are guaranteed to win a bottle of bourbon or whiskey
- Pizza
- Access to the science talk and Q&A with EverNorth experts
- Opportunity to purchase a curated bourbon flight during the event
- Exclusive access to buy EverNorth bottles to take home



Join the Bourbon Pull!
Scan to Register!



Whether you're a bourbon enthusiast or just curious about the distilling process, this is a spirited event you won't want to miss!

For more information on this event visit www.midlandacs.org



Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), October 12-14

Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated July 3, 2025.



Midwest Regional Meeting October 12 - 14, 2025 | Columbia, Missouri

The University of Missouri Local Section will host MWRM 2025 from Sunday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 14. Don't miss this opportunity to present your research, connect with leading minds, and contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas that defines MWRM. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry.

By submitting your abstract now, you can secure your spot in a high-visibility program, get early feedback on your work, network with peers and potential collaborators, and be part of shaping the future of regional science. The Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025) is fast approaching. **The deadline to submit abstracts for consideration is Monday, July 14.**

The city of Columbia is akin to a cool neighborhood in a big city, with a young vibe, an active buzz, and an engaged community. We are a friendly and welcoming community, with a thriving downtown and an abundance of cultural opportunities. Columbia offers picturesque parks, clever cuisine, amazing art, and superb shopping, in addition to several local coffee roasters and breweries. Several popular neighborhoods are adjacent to campus, including The District, The North Village Arts District, and The Arcade District.

Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, October 16-17

Dale LeCaptain, Councilor, Midland Section ACS

Meeting Theme – Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World

Location – Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI

Date and Time – Thursday, October 16, 1:00 PM to ?? through Friday, October 17, morning, afternoon, and evening (tentative)

For More Information – Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, Central Michigan University, lecap1dj@cmich.edu. See also <https://cerm.midlandfsm.org/>.

The 2025 Central Regional Meeting (CERM) of the American Chemical Society will be held in Mount Pleasant, MI, on the campus of Central Michigan University on Thursday and Friday, October 16-17. This year's meeting theme, ***Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World***, highlights the power of collaboration, innovation, and community in the chemical sciences. Join us for dynamic technical sessions, engaging poster presentations, and opportunities to connect with fellow chemists across academia, industry, and education.

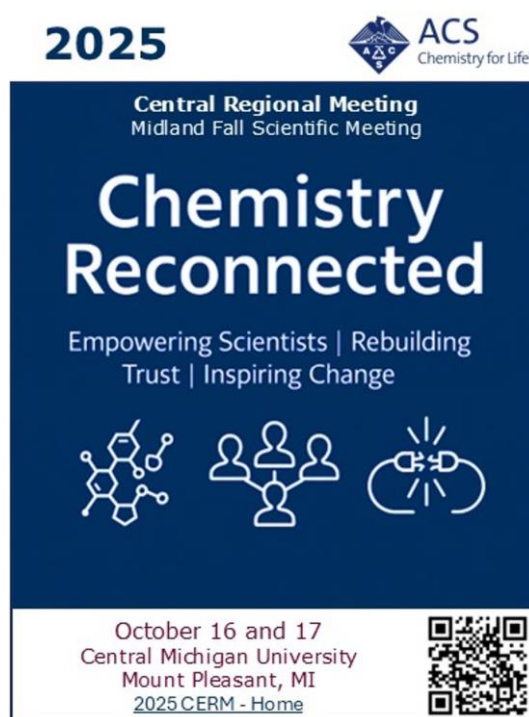
In a time marked by social fragmentation, misinformation, and growing challenges to scientific integrity, ***Chemistry Reconnected*** serves as both a call to action and a source of empowerment. This year's joint Central Regional Meeting (CERM 2025) and the Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting (FSM) invites scientists across disciplines – chemists, engineers, educators, and students – to come together in restoring trust, strengthening community, and championing the role of science in society.

Chemistry is more than molecules – it's a force for connection, truth, and change. Let's reconnect science with society – and empower scientists to lead that transformation.

Possible program topics – Artificial Intelligence and Chemistry, Member Education, and Chemistry Reconnected: A Call to Action. Poster sessions will also be part of the joint meeting's programming.

Abstracts for posters are currently being accepted through the American Chemical Society portal. Accepted papers will be abstracted and published by the ACS.

Volunteer Session Leaders are needed. Please contact Dale LeCaptain at lecap1dj@cmich.edu. Thank you.



Joint Southeastern and Southwestern Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025), October 26-29
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The information contained in this article is reprinted, in part, from a National ACS email communication to all ACS members, dated July 1, 2025.



Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting
October 26–29, 2025 | Orlando, FL

Abstracts submissions are open for the Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting 2025 (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be held from Sunday to Wednesday, October 26-29, 2025, and will be hosted by the American Chemical Society Orlando Local Section.

SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be the first time the conference has returned to Florida in nearly 30 years. The Orlando Local Section of ACS is organizing this meeting and is excited to showcase the robust and exciting southeastern scientific community and the unique contributions Florida makes to the chemical enterprise!

Additionally, SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be a joint meeting, held concurrently with the Southwest Regional Meeting of the ACS. This meeting will feature scientists from across the southern United States, from California to Florida! SERMACS/SWRM 2025 will be larger than the average regional meeting as a result, providing even more opportunity for valuable engagement between sponsors and attendees. The 76th Southeastern and 81st Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida.

[Visit the website](#) to find a list of the programming divisions and planned symposia open for submissions. This meeting presents a unique opportunity to share your research and innovations with peers in the field of chemistry. **The deadline to submit an abstract is Monday, July 28.**

Recap of Ninth Successful STEAM Stew Camp – Sniff and Savor Science

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

Twenty-two campers ages 10-13 participated in our recent “Sniff and Savor Science” camp experience on June 23-27 at MSU St. Andrews, in Midland. This was a co-operative effort with Michigan State University. The Midland Section ACS developed content, obtained speakers, and was responsible for logistics. The camp was offered free, and held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each morning at MSU St. Andrews.



Using nose clips to separate smell and taste. Photo by Gina Malczewski.

also hosted Dr. Candace Colby-Scott who addressed the physiology and pathology of smell and taste perception (and treatment of issues). A virtual presenter from the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia taught about the genetics of taste and smell, with the campers testing their sensory abilities with PTC (phenylthiocarbamide) paper and beta-ionone.

We had tours of the rose and herb gardens at Dow Gardens, and campers tried edible flowers in three courses with chef Timmi Boxey. We discussed seeds as nutrition and as art with Debra Groat of Saverine Creek Jewelry who showed and explained her beautiful artwork. She also provided dozens of varieties of heirloom seeds and the necessary supplies to make necklaces and bracelets. Students participated in candy-making with Cynthia Lincoln of the Uplift Creative Center and tried cookies with roasted crickets on top after a discussion about entomophagy (eating bugs, a great source of protein) with Elly Maxwell of Dow Gardens.

The ACS component of the camp included presentations and activities related to the disconnect between human smell detection and identification (smell tests), unusual taste pairings, what happens to sugar in the process of candy-making, the role of acids and bases in food, and the use of food materials as indicators. Seed chemistry was also addressed, including the basis for the toxicity of certain seeds/beans.

I led the overall camp effort but had the excellent assistance of many volunteers and presenters. I am thankful to Dave Stickles, Allsion Abdilla, Isabel Meza, Hunter Woodward, Jeantte Young, Michael Stark, and several MSU summer interns for their help with crowd control, computer use, and snacks. Dee Howe of MSU was also a big help.

As the camp theme suggests, this summer’s camp focused on the science of taste and smell, and many of the materials we enjoy through those senses. Hands-on activities were provided throughout the week of the camp. Smell and memory were addressed by SVSU Psychology Professor Jeanne Malmberg. Tracy Zhang of MSU taught campers coding and they 3-D printed name tags and cookie cutters. (We had planned to 3-D print with chocolate, but the required printer wasn’t working correctly.) We



Making drinks with hibiscus syrup and enjoying cupcakes with lavender and garnished with flowers. Photo by Gina Malczewski.



Taste-testing with PTC (phenylthio-carbamide) paper. Photo by Gina Malczewski.



Coding and 3-D printing at STEAM Stew camp. Photo by Gina Malczewski.

Documented feedback (overwhelmingly positive) was obtained from campers each day and shared with presenters. One parent of two campers who observed the whole week described the camp as “a well-run, organized, and beneficial experience.” Another described his two sons’ favorite sessions and said it “was a wonderful camp leaving lots of memories for both.”

Plots and Pots – ACS Gardens Update

Gina Malczewski, Outreach Committee, Midland Section ACS

Once again, the Midland Section ACS has multiple garden plots being tended to at the Creative 360 Community Garden in Midland. We have also prepped and planted a garden at Bay City Western Middle School in Auburn.

These gardens serve as vehicles for discussions of what organic gardening really is (yes, chemicals ARE involved, as chemicals are in EVERYTHING) and the importance of “growing things” as a learning experience and a way to appreciate nature. The purpose of our gardens is to support public and classroom (after-school) programming on herbs, natural dyes and indicators, and sustainability, and with increasing food insecurity, to provide fresh produce that is ever more in demand. In addition, the connections we have made with local food pantries shed a positive light on the ACS, even if initially they were a little puzzled by our organization’s name.



Creative 360 Community Garden, July 2025. Photo by Gina Malczewski.

At Creative 360, although the garden management and rules have changed, we have successfully planted summer squash, cucumbers, multiple varieties of peppers and tomatoes, kale, broccoli, eggplant, green beans, and various herbs. Automated sprinklers and wooden walkways have been installed, and a compost pile is being maintained using coffee grounds donations from several local establishments. We have planted raised beds,



Creative 360 Community Garden, July 2025. Photo by Gina Malczewski.

pots of plants, and along the fence line. Although we were unable to rent the “Teaching Garden” space this year, we minimally tend the perennials that we started in the past (monarda, phlox, black-eyed susans, daisies, yarrow, and dianthus) and also planted a few other flowers there and elsewhere – begonias, veronica, impatiens, and zinnias. The sunflowers are just starting. We were able to obtain plants from a wholesaler this year and also were donated some “extra” plants from the Assumption Catholic Church Community Garden and another Creative 360 gardener.

This is the third year for the Bay City Western Garden, which contains vegetables, herbs, and a couple flowers – a cooperative effort with a seventh-grade teacher there.

Please keep an eye on our website home page and calendar, our Facebook page, and monthly *Midland Chemist* newsletter for information about garden-related programming. The Creative 360 Garden plants are just beginning to bear, but we have already donated over 75 lb. of produce to three local food pantries. Late July and early August are when the garden is at its best. You are welcome to visit but just be sure to close the gate so that rabbits do not get to our vegetables before we do!



Bay City Western Garden, July 2025. Photo by Gina Malczewski.

In Memoriam – Alexander (Alex) Weitz
Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, *The Midland Chemist*

Editor's note: The obituary notice for Alex Weitz as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Wednesday, March 12, 2025, issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Alex was a long-time member (some years ago) of the American Chemical Society. He joined the ACS in 1966 and was at least a 28-year member according to records that Midland Section ACS Past Historian Wendell Dilling was able to access. He and his wife, Susan, served as co-editors of the *Midland Chemist* from April 1980 to November 1981.



Alexander Weitz, 84, husband, father and grandfather, died Thursday, March 6, 2025, at home after suffering from a series of increasingly difficult medical challenges for years.

Dr. Weitz received his B. Chem. E. degree from City College of New York in 1964, and then took a job at GE in Schenectady, NY. After marrying the former Susan Frank in 1965, he began studies that resulted in earning his doctorate in materials science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1973.

He and Susan moved to Midland for his research job at Dow Corning Corporation. He became a patent agent in 1984 and was admitted to the bar of the US Patent and Trademark Office in 1986. He retired in 2001. But retirement was short-lived as he joined Novinium, Inc., a startup in Kent, WA, where he became their patent manager. He retired again in 2015.

He was born in 1940 in Horodenka, Poland, now probably a part of Ukraine, as World War II was starting. At the age of nine he came to the US with his mother, his father having died, and began the job of learning English and becoming a good student.

In addition to his wife Susan he leaves two sons, Jonathan Weitz (Jessica) of Brooklyn, NY, and Jordan Weitz, of San Diego, CA, and two grandchildren, Ethan and Gemma, both at home in Brooklyn.

Funeral services were held at Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Street, Ann Arbor, at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 13, 2025, officiated by Rabbi Joshua Whinston. The funeral service was available on Zoom at <https://templebethemeth.zoom.us/j/86125991260>. Burial was in Washtenong Memorial Park, 3771 Whitmore Lake Road, Ann Arbor. More information is available at www.irakaufman.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to RPI's annual fund, 110 8th Street, Chasan Building, 2nd Floor, Troy, NY 12180-3590 or to Delta College Public Media, 1961 Delta Road, University Center, MI 48710.

Funeral services were provided by the Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 West Nine Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075, Phone: 248-569-0020, www.irakaufman.com.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- July 14 – **Abstract submission deadline for Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025).** This meeting is being hosted by the University of Missouri Local Section ACS, Columbia, MO, on October 12-14, 2025. For more information, please see the article on page 13.
- July 17 (5:30 – 6:30 PM) – Midland Section ACS outreach program, *Are You a pHoodie?*, with Chef Timmi Boxey and Dr. Gina Malczewski, St. John's Episcopal Church, in Midland. Details are provided in the flyer on page 5. To register, go to [pHoodie](#). For more information or any questions, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- July 25 (5:00 PM to ??) – Trivia in the Park event, co-sponsored by RISE, ACS, and AIChE, Emerson Park, Shelter D, in Midland. Networking and Food start at 5:00 PM, Trivia starts at 6:00 PM. For more information, see the event flyer on page 6. Please RSVP for food at <https://forms.gle/W676dyUoPqwZ1eHm8>. For any questions, contact fmgrise@dow.com.
- July 28 – **Abstract submission deadline for the Joint Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025).** This meeting is being hosted by the Orlando Local Section of the ACS, on October 26-29, 2025. The meeting location is DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. For more information, please see the article on page 15 or visit the meeting website at [SERMACS/SWRM 2025](#).
- August 2 (12:00 – 4:00 PM) – Midland Area River Days Festival, downtown Midland at the former Farmers Market location. Midland Section ACS Outreach Committee volunteers will host a booth offering free, hands-on, STEM activities. For more information, please see the event flyer on page 7. For any questions, contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.
- August 4 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [August 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- August 17-21, 2025 (Save the Date) – ACS Fall 2025 National Meeting & Exposition, Washington, DC. This meeting will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. For more information, please see <https://www.acs.org/events/fall.html>.
- August 27 (5:00 PM to ??) – Science Café & Bourbon Pull event, a Midland Section ACS Project SEED fundraising event, EverNorth Spirits Company, 1100 Rockwell Drive, Freeland. Admission: \$55 pre-purchase or \$65 at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged as seating will be limited. For more information, please see the event flyer on page 12 or visit the Midland Section ACS website at www.midlandacs.org. For any questions, contact Michelle Rivard at michelle.rivard@dow.com.
- September 8 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [September 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7. **Please note: This Board meeting is being held on the second Monday of September, not the usual first Monday of most months, due to the Labor Day holiday.**
- October 6 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [October 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- October 12-14, 2025 (Save the Date) – Midwest Regional Meeting (MWRM 2025), hosted by the University of Missouri Local Section ACS, Columbia, MO. **The abstract submission deadline is July 14.** For more information, please see the article on page 13.

- October 16-17, 2025 (Save the Date) – Joint CERM 2025 and Midland Section ACS 2025 Fall Scientific Meeting, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. Meeting theme: *Chemistry Reconnected: Empowering Scientists in a Disconnected World*. See the article on page 14 for more details. For more information or any questions, please contact Dale LeCaptain, General Meeting Chair, at lecap1dj@cmich.edu.
- October 26-29, 2025 (Save the Date) – Southeastern and Southwest Regional Meeting (SERMACS/SWRM 2025). This meeting is being hosted by the Orlando Local Section of the ACS. **The abstract submission deadline is July 28.** The meeting location is DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL. For more information, please see the article on page 15 or visit the meeting website at [SERMACS/SWRM 2025](https://www.sermacs.org/SWRM2025).
- November 3 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [November 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.
- December 1 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – Hybrid Midland Section ACS Board meeting, Rotunda Room, MSU St. Andrews, Midland (in person), and via a Microsoft Teams videoconference call connection at [December 2025 ACS Board Meeting Teams Link](#), Meeting ID: 938 651 597 463 5, Passcode: FV2oA7.

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