



Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting

September 21, 2011

Pappert Hall, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Greg Meisner opened the business meeting at approximately 8:05 pm. He welcomed everyone to the first business meeting of the year. There were 46 members and 21 guests in attendance.

I. Welcome, by Greg Meisner

Greg welcomed members, new members, guests, and students. He encouraged everyone to bring a friend to next month's meeting that is a joint meeting with the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh.

Greg stated that the SSP Technical Forum and Technical Program Committees have done an outstanding job to provide an excellent educational opportunity for everyone in our area through their schedules this year.

Greg asked attendees to note the special joint SSP/SACP meeting in January (January 9, 2012) featuring nanotechnologist Frazier Stoddart of Northwestern University. This meeting will be held at the University Club on the University of Pittsburgh Campus.

II. Liaison Reports

2014 Pittcon Liaison Report, by Jan Pifer

Pittcon 2014 will be in Chicago, IL, March 2-6th 2014.

SACP Liaison Report, by Fu-Tyan Lin

Fu-Tyan announced that the next SACP meeting is October 3, 2011 at Laura Falk Hall, Duquesne University. The speaker is Edward G. Dudley from Penn State University and the topic will be "Rolling Circles and Jumping Viruses: How the Genetic Promiscuity of E. coli Created a Sticky Situation in Germany."

ACS Liaison Report, by Heather Juzwa

At the 13th Annual Chemluminary Awards held at the Denver National ACS meeting, on August 30, 2011, the Pittsburgh Section won two Chemluminary Awards. For the 11th time, a NCW related Award was accepted by Mike Mautino. Each year Mike coordinates this outstanding awarding winning program which yearly receives financial support from SSP.

Another very prestigious Chemluminary Award was won by the Pittsburgh Section for Outstanding Project SEED Award program under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Aitken of Duquesne University. Project SEED also receives financial support from the SSP. Jim Manner had the privilege of accepting this award on stage, along with two project SEED senior HS girls and their teacher from Sto Rox, on behalf of Duquesne University. This is the second Project SEED award received by Duquesne University in their seven year program, first in 2008 and now in 2011.

III. Executive Council Reports

Secretary, by Greg Meisner (for Stephanie Wetzel)

Greg announced 7 of the numerous acknowledgements that had been received since the April 2011 meeting:

1. Duquesne University Project SEED Students thanked us for our support
2. Penny Gardner thanked us for the fruit basket, and our support of Pittcon 2011
3. Society for Applied Spectroscopy thanked us for our donation to the SAS International Office
4. David Waldeck thanked us for supporting PITT's undergraduate poster session in the Department of Chemistry
5. Joyce Ladner thanked us for the fruit basket
6. Grove City College sent a thank you for the money to purchase chemistry library books
7. Family Hospice Care thanked us for the donation in memory of Gloria Kirol

IV. Committee Reports/Announcements

Committee Arrangements, by Greg Meisner

Greg thanked James Musolino and his committee for doing an outstanding job on arrangements.

James announced that next month's meeting would feature apple and cranberry stuffed pork chops and the November meeting menu would feature items from San Francisco's Fisherman's Warf.

Richard Obrycki announced that he had parking chits for those who needed them.

Technology Forum, by Heather Juzwa

Heather announced that earlier this evening, Jeff Brown from Core Engineering at Westinghouse gave a very interesting "Assessment of the Fukushima Nuclear Incident." There were 37 people in attendance.

Continuing Education, by Heather Juzwa

The SSP is having its fall continuing education symposium entitled "The Chemistry of Wine." It will be on November 18th at the Winery at Wilcox in Settler's Ridge in Robinson. This is a happy hour format with appetizers served while we learn how to taste wine and pick out their aromas. The winemaker will then present how he makes the wine and how chemistry can make it better. Flyers are on the table outside. Registration is absolutely limited to the first 40 people to mail their registration to Jenna at the Pittcon Office with no exceptions. If you want to go, you want to send your registration in quickly.

Publicity, by Geoffrey White

New SSP brochures are available. If anyone needs some, see a member of the publicity committee.

Faraday Lecture, by Manny Schreiber (for Joe Grabowski)

The 24th annual Pittsburgh Faraday Lecture will be November 15th and 16th at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. Professor Garon Smith from the University of Montana will be presenting "G. Wiz at Work and Play: Freezing Spells, Fractal Music and Flying Chemical Detectors". Volunteers are needed for the daytime presentations on Tuesday November 15th and Wednesday November 16th. If you can volunteer, contact Manny at Manny@pitt.edu.

Herbert Retcofsky Memorial Workshop, by John Varine

The Herbert Retcofsky Memorial Workshops are scheduled for early next year at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in South Park, PA. They are:

- SSP "Light, Color & Spectroscopy for Kids" workshop for Elementary and Middle School Teachers – Thursday, January 12, 2012
- SACP "Computer Software Workshop" for Chemistry and Physics Teachers – Thursday February 9, 2012

Registration forms for both workshops are available at the sign-in table outside the lecture hall. Please take copies and pass them on to any interested teacher that you know.

Also, any teachers planning to attend Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Convention in Hershey, PA the first week of December, 2011, can attend abbreviated versions of the workshops.

V. Old Business

April 2011 Meeting Minutes, by Greg Meisner

There were no additions or changes to the meeting minutes. Hub MacDonald made the motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Rich Danchik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for June 2011, by Greg Meisner

There were no additions or changes to the Treasurer's Report. Richard Obrycki made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, and David Vanischak seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. New Business/Announcements

Women Chemistry Committee, by Michelle Ward Muscatello

The Greater Pittsburgh Area Women Chemists Committee will host an Empowering Women in Science Symposium Saturday, November 5th at Chevron Science Center, University of Pittsburgh. The symposium will address how to become a successful women chemist. The symposium is open to the public, and costs \$15 for professionals, \$10 for students, and includes lunch. Registration is due by October 28th, and flyers are available at the sign-in table.

Ohio River Watershed Celebration, by Greg Meisner

The Ohio River Watershed Celebration is September 22, 2011, leaving from the Gateway Clipper Dock. Room is still available.

Online Calendar, by Greg Meisner

There is a new calendar function on the SSP website under the members tab at www.ssp-pgh.org.

2011-2012 Proposed Budget, by Greg Meisner

- Greg noted that what is proposed is over budget but thinks this is doable because of carryover that is in the current account.

- There were no questions or comments on the budget. John Varine moved to approve the budget as proposed. Rich Danchik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment, by Greg Meisner

Dave Pensenstadler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Geoff White seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The business meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm. The technical program followed the business meeting. Fu-Mei Lin introduced Dr. Adriaan Bax, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, NIDDK, NIH, Bethesda, MD who presented "Chemical shifts and dipolar couplings: how can they help?"

Note: red text denotes actionable items that required a vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie J. Wetzel
2011-2012 SSP Secretary