

**DRAFT ACA All Members' Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Northern Kentucky Convention Center**  
**Ballroom B**  
**Covington, KY**  
**Tuesday, July 23, 2019**

**Agenda Item 1. Call to order.**

President Joe Ferrara called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM. There were approximately 55 attendees at the start of the meeting [NOTE: attached to these meeting minutes are copies of the slides from the meeting.].

**Agenda Item 2. Review of agenda – Joe Ferrara**

Ferrara briefly outlined the meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item 3. Review and approval of minutes from July 2018 Members' Business meeting**

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes.

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>Approve the minutes (Bob Van Dreele/Eddie Snell, unanimous)</b>
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**Agenda Item 4. President's report – Joe Ferrara**

Ferrara began his report with a reminder that the ACA has a Meeting Code of Conduct, found on page 40 of the Meeting Program Book. He mentioned the Bystander Training for Council members, Program and Session Chairs and other persons of authority at this year's meeting that took place on Saturday prior to the Opening Ceremony. Changes in ACA's methods for accounting should make the annual budgeting process easier and more transparent, and through diligent efforts at both cost cutting and planning for this year's meeting, the ACA still projects a loss for 2019, but a much smaller one than in past years. The ACA Standing Committees are working on various projects to benefit members. The Communications Committee is producing a one-page, double-sided infographic for the general public and policy makers on the importance of structural science, and the Education Committee is developing a Certified Crystallographer Program. For the 2020 meeting, the Etter Early Career Awardee is Nozomi Ando of Cornell, the Rognlie Awardee is James Holton of UC Berkeley, the Patterson Awardee is Václav Petříček of FZU, and the Elizabeth A. Wood Science Writing Awardee is Alan Alda and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. After 12/31/2019, the *RefleXions* newsletter will be available online only, on our new ACA web site. You will need to be a current member to log in and access the newsletter. This will result in a cost saving of \$14,000-16,000 per year to the ACA. Please send in your contributions to *RefleXions* on time.

### **Agenda Item 5. Treasurer's report – Iliia Guzei**

Guzei described the restructured ACA Finance Committee, which includes two members-at-large. The sources of revenue for the ACA are limited, and Guzei is worried about the trend in decreasing attendance at meetings, especially during IUCr Congress years. The ACA is always looking for more meeting exhibitors; Leica is a new exhibitor this year. The Restricted Funds, which are used for the ACA Awards, are doing well, but the ACA total assets have been reduced due to the trend in deficit spending overall. For this meeting, \$11,389 has been disbursed for student travel awards, with the monies coming from the ACA, IUCr, Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, and the Pittsburgh Diffraction Society. Of 27 applicants for the travel awards, 15 were awarded and all 15 students were able to attend this year. The number of meeting exhibitors has held steady over the past 12 years, and consolidation among major vendors has reduced booth sizes. In 2017 the ACA raised booth fees to more closely align with prevailing market rates. Our meeting vendors are essential partners for our organization and our meeting success, and we are thankful to have them. The ACA Council has been actively working on adopting strategies for increasing/maintaining membership and meeting attendance. We expect a small loss of around \$23,000 in 2019. Our goal is to stay cash flow positive, and the most important thing you can do is renew your membership and bring your colleagues to ACA meetings.

### **Agenda Item 6. Vice President's report – Brian Toby**

Toby presented preliminary results (from 120 members, as of May 2019) for the ACA member survey. The purpose of the survey is to find out how members self-identify themselves and how they identify themselves to their colleagues and to a general audience. Ninety percent of respondents self-identified as crystallographers, yet only 48% identified themselves as crystallographers to their colleagues and 25% identified as such to a general audience. Respondents were also asked if they thought that the name American Crystallographic Association adequately describes the society, and 77% replied in the affirmative. The survey is still open, as the demographics of the responders is skewed towards people that have been in the field for more than 10 years, and we need responses from our younger members.

The Transactions Symposium topic for 2020 will be Crystallographic Education, and the Program Chairs are Nozomi Ando from Cornell and Carla Slebodnick from Virginia Tech. A question was asked about the closeness of the 2020 ACA meeting dates to the dates for the IUCr Congress, and why the ACA meeting didn't take place in late May to early June. Answer: Due to moving the dates away from the Memorial Day weekend, the ACA faced limited choices for available hotel rates.

### **Agenda Item 7. Past President's Report – Lisa Keefe**

Keefe described the current process for selecting ACA Awardees and Fellows, and the rationale for the creation of the ad-hoc Awards Oversight committee (AOC). The AOC does not nominate members for Awards or Fellows but will attempt to solicit diverse nominations for Awards and Fellows.

Keefe next described the *Structural Dynamics* meeting session and the Judith Flippen-Anderson Memorial Lecturer (which provides travel support for the lecturer). This year's *Structural Dynamics* session was "Structure Without Structure", co-sponsored by the BioMac, YSIG and Canadian Division. This year's Judith Flippen-Anderson lecturer was Tobin Sosnick from the University of Chicago.

## Agenda Item 8. New Business

None.

## Agenda Item 9. Announcements

Ferrara outlined several new initiatives.

- Stevens has done a lot of work on the new web site. Check it out and update your profile.
- The ACA History Portal is now live, and Virginia Pett is soliciting contributions to the Living History pages.
- The US National Committee for Crystallography (USNC/Cr) has been defunded by the National Science Foundation for the next 5 years. The USNC/Cr represents US crystallographers to the International Union of Crystallography, sponsors scientific meetings in concert with the IUCr and provides funding for other activities in the US that promote crystallography.
- Mexico is entertaining a bid to host the 2026 IUCr Congress, at a city to be determined.
- ACA members receive IUCr discounts: 30% on International Tables and 50% on publication fees in IUCr journals.
- Make an entry or update your entry in the IUCr World Directory of Crystallographers (<https://www.iucr.org/people/wdc>)
- Nominations for the W.H. & W.L. Bragg Award and the Ewald Award for the 25<sup>th</sup> IUCr Congress in Prague should be sent by August 31, 2019.
- Individual members of the IUCr Associates Programme receive 20% discounts on open-access fees for publishing articles in IUCr journals, 50% discount on print copies of the International Tables, 6 free article downloads from Crystallography Journals Online and discounts on books from other publishers such as Wiley, CRC Press and Elsevier. Membership is \$200 for 3 years (\$60 for students).

Ferrara encouraged members to

- Volunteer
- Renew your membership and come to meetings
- Get your colleagues to join/renew and come to meetings
- Organize a session or workshop
- Nominate a colleague for an ACA Award or Fellow
- Bring ACA promotional materials to other meetings
- Donate money to the general fund

## Agenda Item 10. Discussion

- A request was made to have a participants list for future meetings. There is an electronic version available this year for the exhibitors, if you want one please ask at the ACA booth for a copy.
- A comment was made about recognizing that many scientific organizations are undergoing the same self-examination that the ACA has been undergoing in the last four years, and that it's worthwhile to know that other societies are having the same difficulties.
- It was asked if the ACA Council is searching for cheaper venues for future meetings. Answer: the ACA is too big for some of the smaller colleges and convention centers, and convention centers at colleges charge the same amounts as hotels such as the current one charge.
- A suggestion was made to encourage more activity on social media, by posting once a week to try to increase interest. Response: the ACA has a Twitter account that posts regularly.
- It was asked whether we could provide remote access to the meeting talks. Response: At the current time, this would require more volunteers, money and A/V equipment than the society can afford.
- Some discussion centered on the plan to switch from a print version of *RefleXions* in the future to save money, whether this would truly save money (i.e., would the online version be an attractive way for the vendors to advertise, would there be an option to receive a print-on-demand version for a fee, would there be a printable format (e.g., PDF) available of the online newsletter. Answer: we anticipate that the vendors will glad to have electronic links for their advertising, a printable PDF version will be available online, Council will consider a fee-for-print service of the newsletter.
- Danielle Gray, the Chair of the Education Committee, reported that the EC is working on a Certified Crystallographers Program, and needs some volunteers to help set the standards. Gray will be contacting the SIG chairs to try to strong arm people to help set the standards.
- Stephan Ginnell, a member of the Meeting Committee, announced one possible way to reorganize the meetings, by embedding more workshops into the regular session instead of having the workshops the day before the meeting, and to extend meeting by one day. During this extra day, there could be a half day excursion. What's the cost? The extra day is a personal cost for hotel and meals.

The costs of workshop would be rolled into the cost of the meeting. The vendor days would stay the same.

- A suggestion for meeting improvement included a request to record all sessions so that people that can't attend can listen at home. This would require having an online way to connect to the meeting.
- Another suggestion was to have more hands-on, interactive offerings that take place during the meeting that might attract younger scientists.
- Allowing more people to give oral talks by making the time allotted (shorter) was another suggestion for meeting improvement.
- Another suggestion was made to encourage each speaker to take 5-8 students out for a meal, either prior to or after the session.

**ACTION ITEM:** For the 2020 meeting, **Stevens** will provide either a separate printed list of meeting attendees, or a list in the meeting program. **By 2020 meeting.**

#### **Agenda Item 11. Adjournment.**

Andy Howard moved and Carrie Wilmot seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.