

# AOCS Membership Approves Constitutional Changes

"Necessary Modernization," says Governing Board

On September 10, AOCS President R. C. Stillman issued a detailed letter to the Society membership, informing them that the Governing Board had approved several proposed constitutional amendments. After a thorough explanation of these amendments, Stillman expressed the Governing Board's desire to see them become a part of the Constitution, asking that proxies be executed and returned. At the specially-called business meeting in Chicago, Oct. 12, Vice President J. C. Harris carried 1848 validated proxies, representing more than the necessary two-thirds of the voting membership. These and several independent votes were cast for the amendments, making the anticipated change official.

The amendments were, with a single exception, devoted entirely to a general modernization of the Constitution, causing it to better reflect the actual form of the Society today, and erasing any doubt as to the objectives of the Society as they truly exist.

Article II (Purpose of the Society) was amended to delete the last sentence, thus stating the purposes of the Society in terms of its scientific pursuits.

Article XIII (Amendment of the Constitution) was amended to incorporate the AOCS By-Law provision (Article XI) that amendment shall be proposed to the membership by the Governing Board. Of course, as part of an existing By-Law, this measure was already the "law" of the Society. Yet, as a By-Law, it had never been placed before the entire voting-membership for their approval. This Article was further amended to make it clear that constitutional amendments may be proposed at any duly-called meeting of the Society, a matter with which other portions of the Constitution might be interpreted as agreeing or conflicting. In addition, this article was changed to reduce the voting requirements for constitutional amendments from two-thirds to a majority of the total voting membership (that portion of the membership with voting power). This step was taken because past amendments to the Constitution have proven beyond a doubt that two-thirds is too great a number, as measured by the natural interest of the membership. That is, invariably two-thirds of the voting members do not vote (pro or con) on a constitutional change. So, in the past, it has been necessary to "follow-up" proxies with letter campaigns in order to solicit what turns out to be an unnatural vote (number-wise) from the membership. This provision adds considerable stability to the Constitution in that it allows the majority of the voting membership to rule, and not be frustrated by its (the majority's) inability to solicit additional ballots in its favor. It is to be noted that the changes presently discussed required just such follow-up measures in order to gain the needed vote. Finally, a passage was added to this section which made it quite clear that proxy voting on constitutional amendments is valid. In the past, proxy voting has been justified on the basis of Article XII, though Article XII contains other matters which are completely inapplicable to constitutional amendments, such as the business quorum. Were proxies not allowed, two-thirds of the voting membership would have to be physically present at a duly-called meeting in order to change the Constitution. Of course, this is virtually an impossibility.

Article XIV (Duration of Corporation) was amended to extend the term of life of this Society from 50 years, beginning in 1948, to 99 years, beginning January 1, 1964, simply to introduce a greater element of stability into the Society. The law of Louisiana, where the AOCS was incorporated, does not permit perpetual existence of a not-for-profit corporation.

Article XV (Dissolution) was added to the Constitution in order to make specific provision for the distribution of assets of the Society, should it ever disband. As the Constitution was previously silent on the matter, it was ruled that it should be clarified in order to eliminate any question as to the non-profit character of the Society.

## Emeritus Membership Section Also Rewritten

In addition to those amendments described above, the Governing Board also took a critical look at Article V, Section 8, which provides for election of Members Emeritus. The section was amended to provide that past presidents and other members with outstanding records of service to the Society may, upon retirement, be elected Members Emeritus by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board. Having studied similar provisions in the ACS and other constitutions, the Governing Board added the provision that members completing 35 years' active membership automatically become Members Emeritus. The section previously contained no provision for automatic transfer, requiring a Governing Board vote in any case. This provision was added due to the justifiable reluctance of the Governing Board to sit in judgment on the service and accomplishments of their distinguished older friends and mentors. N. D. Embree, Past President and past Chairman of the Emeritus Membership Committee, is to be accredited with a long series of recommendations to the Governing Board which resulted in this admirable amendment.

## U. C. L. A. Announces Advance Research Conference on Gas Chromatography

An Advanced Research Conference will highlight the week of Feb. 1-5, 1965, devoted to gas chromatography at the University of California, Los Angeles. R. L. Pecos, Professor of Chemistry, announces a program of distinguished chemists who will discuss "Progress in Gas Chromatography," emphasizing their own work. On the conference program for Feb. 1 and 2 are: J. H. Purnell, University of Cambridge, England; C. S. G. Phillips, University of Oxford, England; S. H. Langer, University of Wisconsin; Herbert Meyer, Electro-Optical Systems, Inc.; and S. R. Lipsky, Yale University.

The 7th short course in "Fundamental Principles of Gas Chromatography" will be held Feb. 3-5. It is presented in response to many industry requests and is an up-dated version of previous courses. The approach will be non-mathematical, stressing theory only to the extent necessary to understand practical aspects and obtain optimum results. Laboratory demonstrations will be conducted by industry.

The two programs are interdependent and jointly sponsored by the Department of Chemistry, Engineering Extension, and Physical Sciences Extension, with Dr. Pecos as Coordinator.

For additional information, write: H. L. Tallman, Physical Sciences Extension, Room 6532 Engineering Bldg., University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024.

## Chicago Meeting Coverage

Fun . . . Inspiration . . . Exhibits . . . Awards

Watch for complete coverage of the AOCS 38th Fall Meeting, held in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 11-14, 1964, at the Pick-Congress Hotel.

Attendance reached nearly 1,000. More exhibitors featured products and services than at any time in Society history. The Technical Program scheduled more than 100 papers of varied interest to lipid chemists from this country and many from abroad in the sixteen sessions of a full three-day program.