Senior Chemists – An Untapped Resource

Eli M. Pearce
Objectives

- Describe the growing numbers of seniors in the U.S. and ACS.
- Identify ACS incentives for senior members.
- Describe senior chemists committees and local and national involvement and initiatives.
- Discuss what ACS should be doing for seniors.
- Provide information about opportunities for partnering/promoting events with other organizations.
Seniors in the U.S.

- The numbers of seniors are on the rise.
- In the 2000 U.S. census:
  - The total population was 281 million.
  - There were 35 million individuals age 65 and over.
- By 2011, the first wave of the 65 million Baby Boomers will turn 65.
Seniors in the U.S.

- By 2030 there will be 70 million individuals in the U.S. age 65 or older.
- U.S. citizens are volunteering 20% more than they did 20 years ago, and seniors are responsible for nearly all of this increase.
The ACS “Silver Circle”

Older Members Make up a Significant Percentage of ACS Membership

Demographics

- 30 and Younger: 10%
- 31-40: 12%
- 41-50: 16%
- 51-60: 10%
- 61-70: 20%
- 71 and Older: 21%
- Not Available: 11%
Is ACS Engaging Senior Chemists?

- Some membership incentives are already in place.
  - Retired member status:
    - Must have 30 years paid membership and be retired
    - May place free ads in C&EN 6 times per year seeking part-time employment
    - Dues reduced by 50%
  - Emeritus member status:
    - Must have 35 years paid membership, be retired, and over 70 years old
    - Pay no meeting registration
  - 50 year members:
    - Receive C&EN at no cost
    - Pay no dues
    - Pay no meeting registration
Is ACS Engaging Senior Chemists?

- ACS Member Insurance Program offers Insurance plans for:

  - Accidental Death & Dismemberment
  - Health
  - Term Life
  - Retirement
  - Long Term Care
  - Disability Income
  - Hospital Indemnity
  - Auto & Homeowners
  - Professional Liability
Is ACS Engaging Senior Chemists?

- Senior Chemists Committees exist in some Local Sections.
- However, in the 1999 *Mature Career Chemists Survey* (CEPA), a majority of respondents reported not having been to a local section function in recent times.
Involve Your Seniors

- Communicate with them regularly via:
  - Local Section publications
  - Local Section and Division newsletters
  - Local Section and Division Web sites
- Even if they have been a member for a long time they may not know what support is available to them—create a brochure with local opportunities.
Involve Your Seniors

- Start volunteers with small, specific, measurable tasks.
- Ask them what they prefer to do and make offers accordingly.
- Consider that some may shun computers while others may not.
- Offer a computer training course.
Local Sections with Committees

- California
- California Los Padres
- Delaware
- Erie
- Kanawha Valley
- Mark Twain
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Jersey

- Northeastern
- Orange County
- Orlando
- Pittsburgh
- Richland
- Rochester
- Santa Clara Valley
- Southern Arizona
- Southern California
- Washington
- Western Maryland
- Western New York
Senior Chemist Committee Profile

- Rochester Retired Chemists Committee
  - Started 20 years ago.
  - Usually meets three times a year.
  - Luncheon meetings with speakers.
  - Good attendance is attributable to the fact that they call members to remind them and get reservations.
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Hold meetings at lunchtime or early evening.
- Hold social as well as academic/educational events.
- Recognize 50-year members.
- Invite spouses to some of the activities.
- Serve as a Student Affiliates Chapter Advisor.

- Andrea Bennett, a_bennett@acs.org, ext. 6166
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve as a resource for local news reporters seeking scientific information.
  - Michael Bernstein, m_bernstein@acs.org, ext. 6042

- Serve as a resource for and provide reliable information to local legislators.
  - Brad Smith, b_smith@acs.org, ext. 4479

- Become a member of the Legislative Action Network and contact federal legislators.
  - chemistry.org/government/lac
  - Brad Smith, b_smith@acs.org, ext.4479
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve as mentor or coordinator of local section programs:
  - National Chemistry Week
    - A celebration of chemistry! Held annually in October.
      - Judith Jankowski, j_jankowski@acs.org, ext. 6078
  - Kids & Chemistry
    - Hands-on workshops and science kits to introduce children to science.
      - Patricia Galvan, p_galvan@acs.org, ext. 6168

- Judith Jankowski, j_jankowski@acs.org, ext. 6078
- Patricia Galvan, p_galvan@acs.org, ext. 6168
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve as mentor or coordinator of local section programs:
  - Chemistry Olympiad
    - A multi-tiered, national chemistry competition for high school students.
      - Cecilia Hernandez, c_hernandez@acs.org, ext. 6169
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve as mentor or coordinator of local section programs:
  - Chemists Celebrate Earth Day
    - A day to recognize environmental chemistry. Held annually on April 22.
    - Marisa Burgener, m_burgener@acs.org, ext. 4458
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve as mentor or coordinator of local section programs:
  - Project SEED
    - Summer employment in research labs for economically disadvantaged high school students.
    - Cecilia Hernandez, c_hernandez@acs.org, ext. 6169
Local Section Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Go to elementary schools and give presentations and demonstration shows.
- Establish a section-run mentor program for middle and high school students.
- Team up with high school chemistry club members during outreach events.
National Level Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Career Services—Career Consultant Program
  - New consultants always needed.
  - Consultants must be approved by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs.
  - Consultants are trained annually.
    - Karen Dyson, k_dyson@acs.org, ext. 4432.
National Level Senior Chemist Involvement—Examples

- Serve on a committee/task force.
  - Contact Local Section Officers/Councilors

- Support an ACS Division.
  - chemistry.org/divisions

- Participate as a speaker in the ACS Speaker Service.
  - Deb McLaughlin, d_mclaughlin@acs.org, ext. 4613

- Review materials as service to an office or publication.
  - ChemMatters, Terri Taylor, t_taylor@acs.org, ext. 6341
  - Chemistry, Patricia Martin, p_martin@acs.org, ext. 4577
ACS Initiatives for Senior Chemists

ACS staff contact
- Cheryl Brown
- c_brown@acs.org
- 1-800-227-5558, ext. 4407

Email for senior chemist issues/concerns
- silvercircle@acs.org
ACS Initiatives for Senior Chemists

- Articles will appear in ACS publications:
  - *Chemistry*
    - Highlighting seniors and volunteers of all ages
  - *chemistry.org* Newsletter
    - Encouraging outreach to senior members
  - *Cut & Paste* (for local section newsletter editors)
    - With ideas for starting Silver Circle groups in local sections
ACS Initiatives for Senior Chemists

- **Newsletter Article for Local Section Officers**
  - Listing benefits of creating a Silver Circle Committee and reaching out to senior members.

- **Silver Circle Starter Kit**
  - Will be based on the YCC Starter Kit.
  - Collection of suggestions, tips and best practices from senior members.
What else should we be considering?
Other opportunities

- Contact a local Big Brothers Big Sisters organization at www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org to share chemistry with children.
- Team up with local after school programs.
- Visit www.mentoring.org to find local mentoring opportunities by zip code.
- Visit www.aarp.org to find local community service opportunities by zip code.
Other opportunities

- USA Freedom Corps
  - www.usafreedomcorps.gov
  - Launched on Jan. 30, 2002 to foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility.
  - Largest clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities ever created with millions of opportunities with 60,000 organizations.
  - Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America, and Citizen Corps programs are all part of the USA Freedom Corps.
Other opportunities

- Become a chemist-participant in the Freedom Corps’ Silver Scholarship Program.
  - Volunteer 500 hours of service tutoring and mentoring students in after school programs.
  - Earn a $1000 scholarship for a child or grandchild.
Other opportunities

- National Senior Service Corps
  - National network of projects to match older volunteers with opportunities in their communities.
  - Oversees three programs:
    - Foster Grandparent Program
    - Senior Companion Program
    - Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
  - [www.joinseniorservice.org](http://www.joinseniorservice.org)
Staff Contact for Senior Chemists

Cheryl Brown

c_brown@acs.org

1-800-227-5558, ext. 4407