

CORNELL IOWA COLLEGE  
1853

MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

Department of Chemistry

May 23, 1955

Members of the Council, Midwestern Association of Chemistry Teachers  
in Liberal Arts Colleges:

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Albion College  
Albion, Michigan

Dr. Joseph P. Huselton  
William Jewel College  
Liberty, Missouri

Dr. Stephen F. Darling  
Lawrence College  
Appleton, Wisconsin

Dr. William D. Larson  
St. Thomas College  
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dr. Frank O. Green  
Wheaton College  
Wheaton, Illinois

Dr. Ben H. Peterson  
Coe College  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dr. E. Eugene Weaver  
Wabash College  
Crawfordsville, Indiana

Dr. Delta W. Gier  
(Vice-President)  
Park College  
Parkville, Missouri

Dr. Frederick J. Matthews  
(Secretary-Treasurer)  
Beloit College  
Beloit, Wisconsin

There have appeared no objections to the date of October 28-29 as the time for our next annual meeting at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. In fact it appears to have been generally approved. So I think we may consider that confirmed.

Dr. Strong of Earlham has sent information about transportation into Richmond. They are 70 miles east of Indianapolis on U. S. 40 which runs past the edge of the campus. The main line of the Pennsylvania railroad between St. Louis and the east goes through Richmond. The Lake Central Airlines fly into the Richmond airport from Chicago and Cincinnati. It is also only about 40 miles to the Dayton airport where a number of larger airlines have a terminal. For those driving from the Chicago area, they are on Route 35 and for those from the north Route 27 is available. Bus transportation is available along a number of these routes.

A few weeks ago our former secretary, Dr. Ben Shawver of Monmouth, wrote that the report of the Grinnell meeting would be forthcoming as soon as he could find time to get it in shape to send to our membership. No doubt that will be coming out soon.

At the time of the A. C. S. meeting in Cincinnati, members of the Advisory Committee on Research had a meeting. Present with Harry Lewis as chairman were Joe Danforth of Grinnell, Garrett Thiessen of Monmouth, Gerrit Van Zyl of Hope, Ed Fuller of Beloit representing the Committee on the Teaching of Chemistry of the Division of Chemical Education of the A.C.S., and Larry Strong of Earlham who will be our host and chairman of MACTLAC at our annual meeting next October 28-29. As reported by chairman Lewis the discussion of this committee centered about "what might be done in connection with research in the Midwestern colleges and particularly what might be developed for the program next fall. Among the specific subjects were: (1) Would it be feasible for the committee to write to industry for money for research support in the individual colleges of the Association? It did not seem to be a good idea to set up some fund for distribution by the Committee. (2) A second subject dealt with some kind of a way to get across to the presidents of our colleges the importance of the program in the hopes that thereby there might develop some financial support from the colleges. (There was some suggestion of trying to get a joint meeting of presidents with the chemistry teachers, but that did not seem feasible.) (3) Still another idea was that we might suggest to people in schools who are looking for research ideas that the best place to get these ideas would be to set up chemistry literature courses and to study researches of others and pick out weak points in those researches. Thiessen of Monmouth has used this method very successfully." Some other examples were cited on particular forms of research programs, such as that of Van Zyl at Hope, and the opinion was expressed that it would be very good if the Mid-West Conference could hear of the work being carried on at Earlham on soil chemistry. On writing to Dr. Strong about this possibility I have the reply that their group working on this soil research would be glad to present a report of it. Finally the committee decided that it would put out another questionnaire at an appropriate time before the meeting next fall to get a similar type of information to that received last year. They want to learn what the trends are in our group of colleges.

Dr. Lewis also mentioned that he had been approached by people from Kentucky wondering whether there was any possibility that their state could be included in the conference. Also a number of persons from Ohio Colleges would like to come but felt that they should have special invitations. Possibly we might pick out certain schools with strong liberal arts programs and apprise them of the possibility that their teachers can become associate members like those we now have from Ohio Wesleyan.

There was varied response from you to my general letter of March 16 concerning suggestions about our discussion topics. The majority of you did favor some form of listed topics sent out to our membership early next fall before the meeting, or at the meeting time, to be used as perhaps suggestive points of departure in our customary informal procedure of arranging the group discussions. Some of you have already sent a list of proposed topics. If these and the rest of you will send in additional topics we will throw them into the hopper and see what sort of a blend or choice we may come up with for a list to be sent out to our membership early next fall before the meeting. Three of you, Carnoll of Albion, Mathews of Beloit, and Peterson of Coe, have suggested a consideration of the critical problem of high school science instruction, no doubt with special reference to chemistry for us. Should this be one of our topics for group discussion or might it be one for consideration by our entire assembled group with a possible resource speaker to lead off in case a good one can be secured?

Dr. Frank O. Green of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, has written that they have discussed the possibility of inviting MACTLAC to meet with them in the fall of 1956. They move into their new chemistry building this coming fall, so would be well situated to take care of us. He mentions that their only reason for hesitating is that there has been some reference to the desirability of having a meeting in each of the other states before an Illinois college is again chosen. The previous Illinois college meeting was at Monmouth where our Association had its birth. As most of you know this was a meeting of chemistry teachers by special invitation from Monmouth in celebration of their Centennial. We have since had a meeting in the north part of our territory at Lawrence College and the Institute of Paper Chemistry, the next was in the "far west" at Grinnell College, the one this coming fall will be in the "far east" at Earlham. Except for a "south" college, we might well have the next at about the center of our territory, at which Wheaton would qualify. If any of you from another state or section of our territory feel that you have a priority claim on the 1956 meeting, please let us hear from you.

May I again suggest to each of you state representatives that you do whatever seems advisable in the way of promoting increased membership among the eligible liberal arts colleges of your state. I believe that our secretary, Fred Matthews, has sent you copies of our membership list and of the liberal arts colleges of our territory, which will give you the necessary information base to work from.

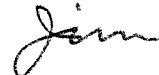
Members of Council, MACTLAC

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Thank you for your replies to my previous letter. I shall appreciate any and all comments for the "good of our order" as they occur to you at any time this summer and early fall, and of course the earlier the better.

With best wishes to all of you for a fine summer vacation -- in case you take one.

Cordially yours



J. B. Culbertson, President  
MACTLAC

P. S. -

Dear Fred:

Have you had word from Ben Shawver on that "mailing" he mentioned in his letter of March 30 to Dr. Strong of Earlham, copies of which were sent to you, Bill Oelke and me? It was to include a report of the Grinnell meeting. Whenever that is ready to go out to our total membership it might be convenient also to send other information in that one mailing: such as the date and place of our fall meeting; information on transportation to Richmond, Indiana; and requests for discussion topics. Do you think this mailing should go to the membership so as reach them soon - say early this summer?