

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS
IN LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Office of the Secretary-Treasurer
Earlham College
Richmond, Indiana

March 21, 1965

TO: MACTLAC Members in Good Standing

SUBJECT: Report of the Twelfth Annual Meeting, held at Lake
Forest College on October 23-24, 1964

Last year we reported that the Wabash meeting had set a new attendance record but this year the attendance was still larger, with approximately 200 members and guests present. An interesting program and good weather, combined with excellent arrangements by Jack Coutts and his colleagues, helped to make this a most enjoyable weekend. One innovation which was tried this year was to have as many attenders as possible housed in one large motel. Although a few difficulties were encountered, this seemed to work fairly well and is worth trying again.

The Friday afternoon program consisted, as usual, of discussion groups. With the large attendance we found that the six scheduled groups were not enough and it was necessary to split two of the groups in half in order to have reasonable-sized groups. Brief summaries of the discussions are enclosed for your information. The banquet on Friday evening was followed by a panel discussion on "The Impact of the New High School Chemistry Courses on College Curricula", with Ed Haenisch representing ChemStudy and Larry Strong representing CBA. On Saturday morning Dr. Howard Classen, from the Wheaton College physics department, gave a fascinating talk on the Noble Gas Compounds, telling us something of his participation in their discovery and the present status of research in this area. This was followed by an equally interesting talk by Dr. Ralph Pearson of Northwestern University on his theory of Soft and Hard Acids and Bases. Dr. Pearson showed how this approach can usefully organize and explain a lot of information about acid-base reactions of all kinds.

One of the major topics for the Saturday business meeting was a presentation by Harry Lewis of the report of the Constitutional Review Committee. This committee, which was appointed last year, has very usefully reviewed the history and present status of MACTLAC and has proposed several changes in the constitution. The most significant proposals are 1) to extend the geographical area to include the eastern portions of North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, and 2) to drop the category of associate members, and limit membership to teachers in private liberal arts colleges (but to accept present associate members as full members). The proposed changes will be voted upon at next year's meeting. Copies of the report were distributed at Lake Forest and any other member who wishes may obtain a copy by writing to me at the above address. It is hoped that members who would like to make comments concerning the proposed changes will send these to me in advance of the next meeting so that they may be considered by the Executive Council just prior to that meeting.

The attention of MACTLAC members was called to the untimely death of Walter Thwaite of the Research Corporation during the past year. On behalf of MACTLAC your secretary wrote to the president of the Research Corporation expressing our appreciation for Walter's continued interest in MACTLAC and its member colleges. A recent reply stated in part "We have endeavored to find an individual for our midwestern office who could follow in Walt's footsteps. Last November Mr. Brian Andreen was chosen for this post. I am sure the members of MACTLAC will welcome Mr. Andreen, individually and collectively, and that they will help him, just as he will be devoting his time to helping academic science as representative of Research Corporation in the Midwest."

The officers for the current year are:

President: Martin Allen, College of St. Thomas
President-Elect: Courtland Agre, Augsburg College
Secretary-Treasurer: Wilmer Stratton, Earlham College

The newly-elected state representatives, chosen in caucus by members present from their states are:

Indiana: Philip Kinsey, Evansville College
Illinois: Leland Harris, Knox College
Iowa: William Deskin, Cornell College
Michigan: Irwin Brink, Hope College

The state representatives who have another year to serve are:

Minnesota: Chester Shiflett, Macalester College
Missouri: Joseph Huselton, William Jewell College
Wisconsin: Robert Rosenberg, Lawrence College

The 1965 meeting will be held at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin, on October 15-16. Bob Rosenberg will be program chairman.

The 1966 meeting will be held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

I would like to take this occasion to remind you again of two continuing activities of MACTLAC. One is the Teacher Placement Directory. Persons knowing of openings in MACTLAC schools or people looking for positions are encouraged to write to Dr. Arild Miller, The Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wisconsin. The other is the Physical Chemistry Laboratory Manual Project. This group is accumulating some good material, but if this manual is ever to be published it will need much more active support from MACTLAC members. May I suggest that each of you who has anything to do with teaching physical chemistry and instrumental courses consider whether you have any new or modified experiments which might be suitable for this manual. Send all experiments or inquiries to Dr. William Oelke, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

Sincerely,

Wilmer J. Stratton
Wilmer J. Stratton