

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS  
IN LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  
Earlham College  
Richmond, Indiana

April 15, 1964

TO: MACTLAC Members in Good Standing

SUBJECT: Report of the Twelfth Annual Meeting, held at Wabash College  
on October 18-19, 1963

The twelfth annual meeting set a new record for attendance, with 175 members and guests present. Ed Haenish and his colleagues had done an admirable job of making arrangements for the meeting and, despite the unexpectedly large attendance, everything worked out quite well. The afternoon program consisted, as usual, of discussion groups, brief summaries of which are enclosed for your information.

The banquet on Friday evening was an enjoyable occasion, and was followed by an interesting and provocative talk by Quentin (Pete) Peterson of Wabash College on "Faculty Research in Liberal Arts Colleges." Pete took many of us by surprise with what he had to say, and forced us to re-examine our philosophy toward undergraduate student research. He argued that student participation in research requires a good deal of faculty time in training and supervision and that the student often accomplishes very little. The student may actually benefit to a greater degree by classroom contact with a faculty member who is himself actively pursuing research activities without the involvement with student assistants. After Pete's talk, there were informal tours of the science buildings and opportunities to talk with Wabash faculty in the various sciences about their research activities.

On Saturday morning we had a lively panel discussion on, "The Role of Descriptive Chemistry in the College Curriculum." The panel consisted of three outstanding chemistry teachers from larger institutions -- Harry Sisler, University of Florida; Robert Brasted, University of Minnesota; and M. Kent Wilson, Tufts University. Everyone agreed that descriptive chemistry is still important, but it was difficult to define what is meant by descriptive chemistry or to agree on how best to teach it. We had hoped to have Harry Lewis report on a recent survey of research in MACTLAC colleges but, due to his wife's illness, he was unable to attend. He did prepare a mimeographed report which was distributed, and additional copies may be obtained by writing to him at The Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wisconsin.

At the business meeting, the executive council recommended that the time has come to review the organizational structure of MACTLAC. In particular, the increase in attendance at the annual meetings and the increasing number of people applying for associate membership pose some questions about the nature of the organization. A committee consisting of Harry Lewis (Chairman), Dick Ramette, Jack Powers, and Perry Moore was asked to study the matter and report next fall. William Oelke (Grinnell College) presented a report of the MACTLAC Physical Chemistry Lab Manual Project, and urged people to submit experiments for testing and possible inclusion in the manual.

The officers for the current year are:

President: Paul Carnell, Albion College  
President-Elect: Martin Allen, College of St. Thomas  
Secretary-Treasurer: Wilmer Stratton, Earlham College

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

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

The state representatives who have another year to serve are:

Illinois: Jack Coutts, Lake Forest College  
Indiana: Henry Weaver, Goshen College  
Iowa: Emmitt Jacob, Drake University  
Michigan: Jacob DeYoung, Alma College

The 1964 meeting will be held at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, with Jack Coutts as program chairman. The dates are October 23-24.

The 1965 meeting will be held at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Although it is a little late in the year, I might remind you that MACTLAC has a Teacher Placement Directory, designed to bring together individuals looking for teaching positions in MACTLAC colleges and institutions seeking faculty members. Individuals may write to Arild Miller, The Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wisconsin, giving name, address, degrees, and fields of teaching competence. Colleges are encouraged to inform Arild of openings which are available. In addition, colleges might wish to notify Arild of any of their recent graduates who may be interested in teaching positions in liberal arts colleges.

Sincerely,

*Wilmer J. Stratton*  
Wilmer J. Stratton

Financial Statement

Balance as of 1 January 1963	\$497
Income (dues) during 1963	\$308
Expenses during 1963	\$327
Balance as of 1 January 1964	\$478

Membership as of January 1964 275