



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.

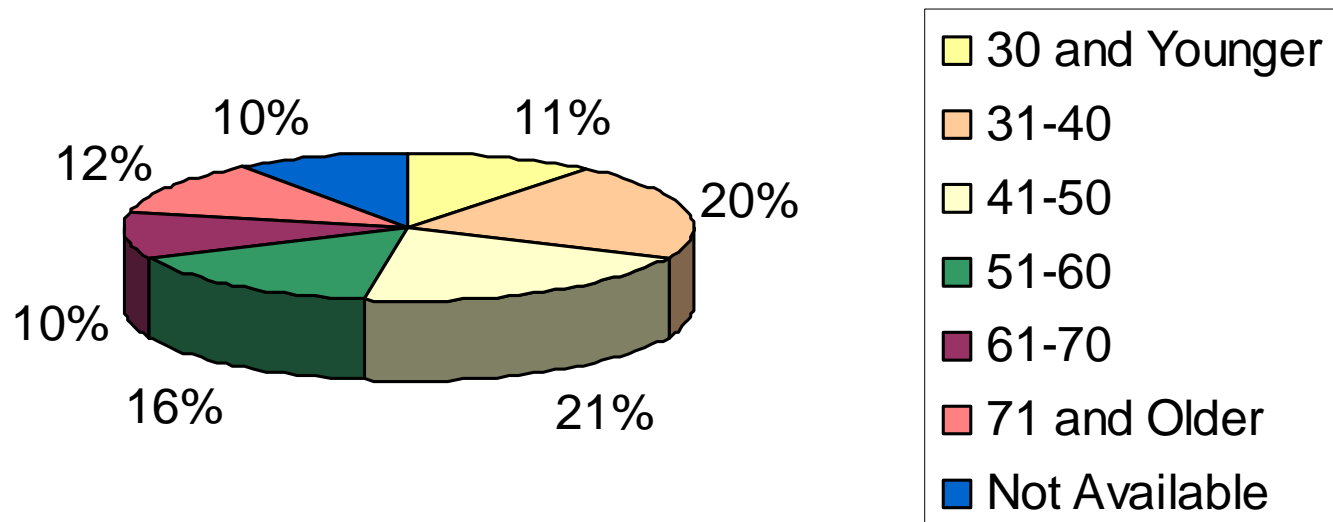


Seniors in the U.S.

- 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





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



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

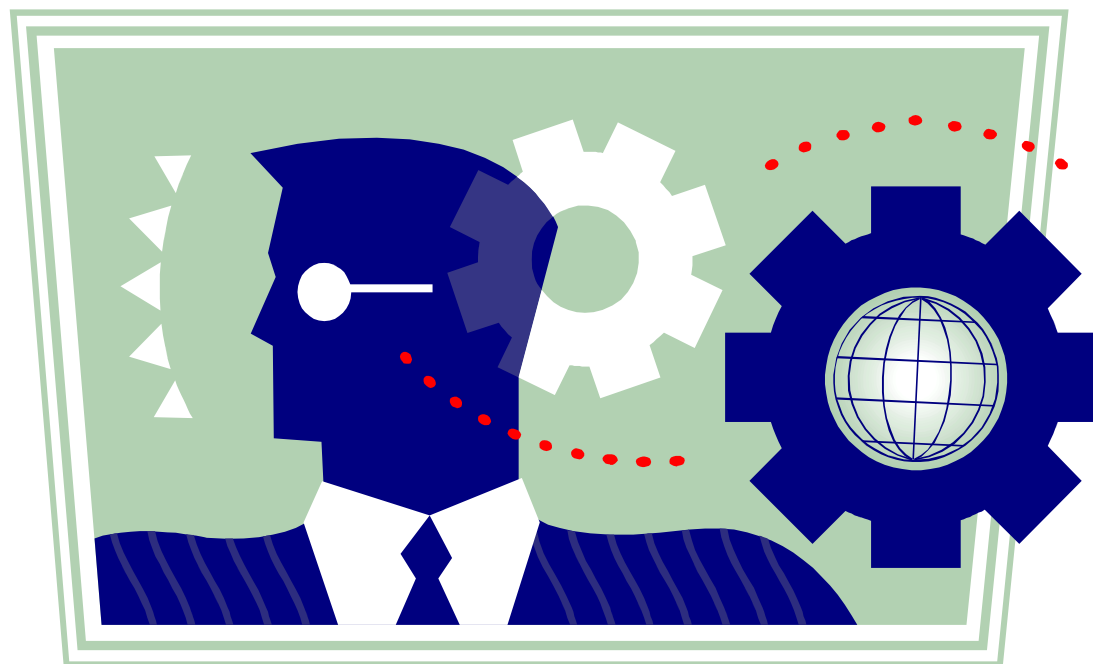
- Articles will appear in ACS publications:
 - *Chemistry*
 - Highlighting seniors and volunteers of all ages
 - *chemistry.org* Newsletter
 - Encouraging outreach to senior members
 - *Cut & Paste* (for local section newsletter editors)
 - With ideas for starting Silver Circle groups in local sections



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



Staff Contact for Senior Chemists

Cheryl Brown

c_brown@acs.org

1-800-227-5558, ext. 4407