



SJV-ACS Call for Nominations for 2026 Executive Committee

The local section of the St. Joseph Valley American Chemical Society is calling for volunteers to run for our 2026 elected offices. This year, the positions listed below are available. Please send your self-nomination to any of the current executive committee members. As an officer of the Executive Board, you will help plan social and outreach events, determine scholarships and other educational opportunities, expand our membership, and advocate for science community-wide.

Chair-Elect (3 yr commitment: Chair 2027 and Past Chair 2028)

The Chair-Elect becomes the Chair the following year and Past Chair the next year. As Chair-Elect, you are instrumental in helping plan the ACS speakers for the following year of your "Chairship". In addition, the local section sends you to an all-expense paid ACS-sponsored vacation/training course in one of our fine cities scattered in the continental USA. As Chair the following year, you will be responsible for running the executive committee meetings and submitting the annual report.

Alternate Councilor (3 yr commitment)

This person is responsible for representing our section at the ACS National meetings when the Councilor is unable to attend. If the alternate councilor goes to the ACS spring or fall meeting in place of the Councilor, then the section pays for the ACS meeting expenses.

Treasurer (1 yr commitment)

Treasurer's responsibility is to keep the books and to write the checks to cover the activities of the local section as well as provide the executive council a monthly "state of the section" financial report. The treasurer also fills out the financial section of the Annual report submitted in January of the next year.

Secretary (1 yr commitment)

The Secretary's responsibility is to document the executive committee meetings through minutes and provide to the ACS National Office the results of the Elections.

FILTERPAPER Contents

Page 1	SJV-ACS Call for Nominations for 2026 Executive Committee FILTERPAPER Contents
Page 2	2025 Executive Committee Officers Announcements
Page 3	National Chemistry Week
Page 4	Local Section Activities



Announcements

2025 Local Section Officers

Chair- Dr. Katie Woolard
University of Notre Dame
C- (415) 847-0623
kwoolard@nd.edu

Chair Elect- James Clark
University of Notre Dame
C- (812) 219-8234
jclark28@nd.edu

Past Chair- Dr. Lisa Ahlberg
Andrews University
W- (269) 815-0024
lahlberg@andrews.edu

Scholarships- Andy Edelbrock
H- (574) 271-9079
Andy.Edelbrock@att.net

Councilor- Dr. Susan Del Valle
University of Notre Dame
C-(813) 482 1628
susan.delvalle@nd.edu

Alternate Councilor- Patsy Boehler
E3Robotics
C- (574) 536-4847
patsy@E3robotics.org

Secretary- Dr. Erica Price
University of Notre Dame
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Treasurer- Jim Manore
Vail Rubber -retired
H- (269) 281-0055
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Filterpaper Committee –
Erica Price
Susan Del Valle
Patsy Boehler

National Chemistry Week –
Patsy Boehler
James Clark

ChemFest on ND campus - The Student Affiliates of the ACS at Notre Dame hosted 'ChemFest' on Friday, March 21. Dr. Kate Biberdorf, a.k.a. "Kate the Chemist," performed a series of demos and wowed the audience.

The evening was closed out with chemistry graduate student Max Wilfinger's Jazz Trio, playing tunes while the audience enjoyed the cool weather as they browsed the exhibitor booths and snacked on liquid nitrogen ice cream treats, made by Prof. Doug Miller.

Many professors exhibited their work with demos designed for everyone to enjoy. Prof. Prashant Kamat demoed electric cars, Profs. Dana Horgan and Dana Lashley both had color fires at their tables. Dr. Marya Lieberman had models to show how antibodies work, and Prof. Juan Del Valle did the classic water-to-wine experiment.

This was the first ChemFest that the students ever hosted, and they are hoping to grow the event to invite students from the local K-12 community next year.



See Page 4 to see more of the SJV Local Section activities this year so far!

Chemistry Olympiad
Chemists Celebrate Earth Week
Travel Awards.



National Chemistry Week



Science + Spooky Fun = Science Spooktacular 2025!

Hosted by St. Joseph Valley ACS & E3 Robotics Center

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds – 17746-D County Rd 34, Goshen, IN 46528

Friday, October 31 | 1–5 PM

Saturday, November 1 | 10 AM–4 PM

Get ready for two days of hands-on fun where chemistry meets creativity and STEM takes center stage!

Science Spooktacular celebrates ACS National Chemistry Week with an unforgettable lineup of STEM experiments, dazzling science demonstrations, and interactive activities from local organizations.

Bring the whole family—kids, teens, and curious adults alike will get to:

- Watch bubbling, glowing, and exploding (safely!) chemistry demos
- Try hands-on activities led by local STEM leaders
- Learn how science makes everyday life magical
- Discover careers in science, chemistry, and technology
- And enjoy a festive “spooky science” atmosphere

This event is free to attend and is the perfect way to make science exciting and accessible to all ages.

We need YOU!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to:

- Help lead science demonstrations
- Assist organizations hosting activities
- Welcome and guide guests

Whether you're a chemistry pro, an aspiring scientist, or just someone who loves seeing kids' eyes light up with curiosity, this is your chance to make a difference.

If you're willing to help, contact James Clark at jclark28@nd.edu or Patsy Boehler at patsy@E3Robotics.org

Let's make this year's Science Spooktacular the most exciting yet!





2025 Local Section Activities

Chemistry Olympiad – Four local students qualified for the National Chemistry Olympiad competition held at University of Notre Dame on Saturday, April 5th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The students from Penn High School and St. Joseph High School (SB) showed off their chemistry knowledge through exam questions and lab practicals



On April 26th SJV ACS had a booth at the Elkhart Environmental Center to celebrate Earth Day with approximately 350 people on the chilly spring day. Here is an anecdote that Patsy Boehler shared:

The day after the Earth Day celebration, I met an 8-year-old who could hardly wait to share what she had learned. With her face still painted from the event the day before, she excitedly explained what she learned at the ACS booth, where she discovered the difference between salt water and fresh water—using carrots as an experiment to show how salt water is “thicker” and makes things float more easily, just like in the ocean. She went on to describe how our bodies use oxygen and release carbon dioxide, even demonstrating how blowing into a green solution could change its color to yellow, shifting its pH from 7 to 6. For nearly three minutes straight, she talked nonstop, bubbling with excitement and pride about her new discoveries. Her joy and curiosity captured exactly what Earth Day is all about—sparking wonder, learning, and a love for science in young minds.



Travel awards - Our section was able to support eight undergraduate and graduate students with a St. Joseph Valley Section Travel Award to attend the national ACS meeting in San Diego. All students are ACS members, and all students presented their own original research. We are so proud to be supporting the scientists of tomorrow!