



THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

Spring 2019 No. 115

2018 Interim Meeting of ΙΣΠ National Council



National Council met in Los Angeles, CA, in July 2018 for two days to plan the 2020 National Convention, expand the support they give to members, and make it easier than ever to join Iota Sigma Pi. Everyone left with big plans for the future of the organization. Here, we summarize the topics that were discussed and the future goals that were set. Each National Council Officer presented her annual report detailing the progress her office had made over the year on the designated tasks and the goals she had for the next two years. From these discussions, several new initiatives were launched.

A Database Modernization Initiative

Teresa Bixby, National Webmaster, in conjunction with the Iota Sigma Pi Database Modernization Committee, presented options for a new Iota Sigma Pi website and online database to the National Council. The goals for the new website were to enable existing members to create an account, update their information, connect with other members to learn more about professional opportunities, and ultimately to pay dues. Potential members will be able to apply for membership, upload supporting documents, and pay initiation fees, making it seamless to become a member. With teamwork and the talent of the members, the committee found a cost-effective solution and the website is now in the beta testing phase! Realizing that not everyone is a fan of online processes, the National Council agreed to also keep the existing method of application and dues payment via paper as an option. (continued on next page)

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Interim Meeting (continued)

Introducing the Mini-Iotan

To approach the goal of improving communication with members from another angle, National Council decided to introduce the “Mini-Iotan”. This is a monthly email which will focus on one or two topics and two issues have since been published. The first, sent out in December 2018, focused on the Iota Sigma Pi Awards Program and the following month’s edition will focus on the High School Award. These mini newsletters will serve to keep everyone updated on important and timely topics in between full Iotan issues.

Iota Sigma Goes Virtual

Everyone felt strongly about the potential for virtual meetings as a tool for sustained communication among National Council members to fuel progress as well as a tool for reaching out to chapter officers. Therefore, National Council has begun holding monthly virtual meetings to review achievements from the last month and set objectives for the next. Additionally, each National Council member will be hosting a virtual meeting with the respective chapter officers. Megan Sassin, National President, held the first meeting with chapter presidents which was well-received. Valuable information can be shared in these meetings to help improve both chapter officers’ and National Council’s effort in supporting our members. This platform is also being considered for holding seminars that can reach the whole organization.

Triennial National Convention

National Council met representatives from our hostess chapter, Calcium from Irvine, California. They will be working closely over the next two years with National Council to plan a productive, supportive, and enjoyable Triennial Convention. Stay tuned for more announcements as we approach the triennium in 2020.

Sharing the Value of Iota Sigma Pi

The meeting was adjourned after each member shared why she values being involved in Iota Sigma Pi. Interpersonal and professional connections along with opportunities for leadership, growth, and mentorship were among the top listed values. In addition, Iota Sigma Pi has provided a safe place for women in chemistry discussions, for exposure to varying leadership styles and women scientists of all ages. Finally, members cited the opportunities for outreach activities, social events, and supporting the success of women chemists. We hope that all of you can find similar value in your membership in Iota Sigma Pi and are working to make that list even longer as more of our goals are achieved.

Kelsey Bohn, National Secretary



Iota Sigma Pi
National Honor Society
for Women in Chemistry

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Value of Membership

I have enjoyed serving as the President of Iota Sigma Pi and the opportunities it has given me to meet many of you, to understand what you need from this organization, and to develop strategies to



implement methods to ensure that the value of your membership is evident. After much reflection and conversations with many members, I strongly believe that the value of membership in Iota Sigma Pi is our network. Iota Sigma Pi is large enough, at 10,000 members, that it should be able to help you land your dream position and/or provide personal support for difficult professional situations yet it is small enough that the networking could occur on a personal and informal level. It is this aspect, networking on a personal level, that sets membership in Iota Sigma Pi apart from your membership in other larger professional organizations.

We have not always capitalized on our network, and I have learned that to have an effective network, an organization must have a detailed, up-to-date, and secure database of its members. I have set this as **Priority #1** for this triennium and the Database Modernization Committee members (Teresa Bixby (AuI), Caitlin Bannon (Ca), Sophia Dill (La), and Stephanie Santos-Diaz (Pu)), worked together to canvas commercial options for an easy-to-maintain and cost-effective database. Teresa Bixby, Iota Sigma Pi webmaster, has been hard at work implementing the solution, which is a brand new and interactive Iota Sigma Pi website.

I am excited to say that we are in the beta stage of testing the new website, which also compiles/maintains a secure database. Now, I am reaching out to every single member as making this vision (personal networking) into a reality requires a **team effort!** In the very near future, you will be asked to access the new website, create an account/log-in credentials on the website, and then update your information. The information you provide will be automatically entered into the database (instead of hand entered by our Records Chair!) and will ultimately be available for networking among Iota Sigma Pi members. This database is secure, will not be sold or shared with non-Iota Sigma Pi entities, and you will have control over what information is available to fellow members. By working together and in just a short time, we will have created an extremely valuable asset only available to members of Iota Sigma Pi- an accessible network of women chemists who support each other in our personal and professional endeavors! Thank you to the Database Modernization Committee, and thank you in advance to each of you for interacting with the new website!

As we all work together on completing **Priority #1**, the National Council is moving forward with **Priority #2**- providing opportunities for personal interaction between NC and members and between members of different chapters/MALs. We have kicked off communication between NC and members by launching virtual meetings between an NC officer and their respective chapter counterpart. We began with me and chapter Presidents- we spent time getting to know each other (forming a more personal relationship!) and discussed challenges each chapter is facing and strategized possible solutions. *(continued on page 5)*

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why Is IΣΠ Important to You?

I want to take a moment and thank each of you for your efforts in making your Iota



Sigma Pi chapter successful! I have enjoyed learning more about each chapter by serving as your National Vice President. I value the

impact the chapters and members have on promoting women in chemistry, along with the many contributions each of you make through your education endeavors and research.

My role as your National Vice President is three-fold and consists of the following activities: (1) to serve as a liaison between chapters and the National Council, (2) assist chapters with their programming to maintain vitality, and (3) to help establish new chapters or revitalize deactivated chapters. I am happy to report that I am currently working with women in Oregon to reactivate the Niobium Chapter and with a group of women in Alabama to start a new chapter in Montgomery.

Iota Sigma Pi relies on its members to make the organization unique and beneficial, and thus, I want to reach out to you to learn more about why Iota Sigma Pi is important to you and how I can better support you and your chapter. I am interested in hearing your responses to the following questions:

1. How do members of your chapter interact? What ideas do you have that would help increase interactions between members within your chapter?
2. What programs does your chapter offer? What programming would you

like to offer, but need support to make it happen?

3. Do you live near a group of MALs and are interested in forming a chapter?

These are questions I challenge you to think about. If you are in an active chapter or near a group of MALs, please get together, discuss your ideas, and report back as a group to me at

<vicepresident@iotasigmapi.info>

In an effort to increase interaction between NC and chapters, I will be hosting a virtual meeting for chapter vice presidents (date to be determined) in which we can discuss the aforementioned questions and share your chapter successes and areas that are challenging for your chapter. This will also be a great way to network with members across the country!

National Council was challenged at the Interim meeting to develop more effective methods for communicating with our members and chapters. To that end, I have decided to move from a static annual chapter report to a more fluid and periodic reporting of chapter activities. For chapters that would like to participate in this new method of reporting, I will send you a Google Doc that can be used to communicate your activities as they happen (no need to remember the details a year later!). Please be on the lookout for an email from me with the Google Doc link and a date for the Vice Presidents virtual meeting. If you prefer to submit an annual report, please know that it is still an option. If you choose to use the periodic chapter update, then please feel free to let me know what you like and dislike. I know that with two-way communication we can make this new method very successful.

(continued on page 5)

Heading to the 257th ACS Meeting in Orlando?

Join us for an Iota Sigma Pi-Sponsored "Happy Hour" on Sunday Night, March 31, 2019!

At this ACS National Meeting, we will be partnering with the Chemistry Women's Mentoring Network (ChemWMN) for an evening-based activity. I will announce the details of the happy hour later, but please reserve Sunday evening for an opportunity to have drinks and appetizers with Iota Sigma Pi members and other women affiliated with the ChemWMN network.

Looking for an added incentive to attend?

The first five Iota Sigma Pi members to arrive at Happy Hour will receive a \$5 Starbucks Gift Card. It will help you recover on Monday AM from the drinks with fellow Iota Sigma Pi members Sunday night... 😊

RSVP to the MAL Coordinator by March 15, 2019 (mal.iotasigmapi@gmail.com) so we can reserve an appropriate amount of space at the venue.

Ellen Matson
MAL Coordinator

Vice President (continued)

Lastly, don't forget about mini-grants! If you are in an active chapter and need money for chapter programming this grant is for you. National Councils loves promoting its chapters by providing financial assistance for your activity. Please go to www.iotasigmapi.info/minigrant.html for more information on mini grants for your chapter.

Patty Wiley
National Vice President

President (continued)

More of these virtual meetings will be taking place for other officers and for MALs. If there is a topic you think would be great to discuss in a virtual meeting (e.g., Q&A with a government scientist, which I recently did with Ca chapter), please let me know, I would be more than happy to help set up the meeting.

I thank each of you for your support and for your membership in Iota Sigma Pi. It is a privilege to serve as your President. I am always available to help you and your chapter out in any way that I can, just send me an email and let me know what you need.

Megan Sassin
National President

SHOP AND SUPPORT Iota Sigma Pi!

Iota Sigma Pi is now a participant in the Amazon Smile program. You can shop and support women in chemistry at the same time. To join Amazon Smile, go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/> and login using your regular Amazon password. Choose your charity as "Iota Sigma Pi National Council".

For current subscribers to Amazon Smile, use the direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6093887> to change charity to Iota Sigma Pi. Then keep shopping, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us at NO cost to you. **Try it out today!**

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**News from the 2020 Triennial Convention Hostess Chapter:**

Convention Date will be posted soon! Location: Southern California (near U Cal/Irvine)

A full committee of seven Calcium Chapter members has been formed. We have subcommittees focusing on the following areas: executive, logistics and scheduling, website and registration, and fundraising.

Some of the more immediate tasks we are working towards are website development, contacting local companies for fundraising, and drafting a Convention schedule. We have started looking for an artist to help us complete and polish our logo draft.

Note: The IΣΠ Triennial Convention consists of a series of business meetings interspersed with social events. It includes talks and panels by award-winning women chemists, as well as time for exploring the area.

Would you be interested in joining the 2020-2023 National Council?

Curious about the roles and responsibilities of National Council members?

Click on the “Rules and Regulations” link to find out more: <http://iotasigmapi.org/membership/forms.html>

Detailed position descriptions can be provided upon request. Please send inquires to Dr. QuynhGiao Nguyen, Immediate Past-President <Quynhgiao.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov>

It's not too soon to consider volunteering for the 2020-2023 term.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE**Update to Annual Dues Process**

It is now easier than ever to pay your Iota Sigma Pi dues using updated methods and multi-year options!

Annual dues can be paid anytime between January 1st and June 30th.

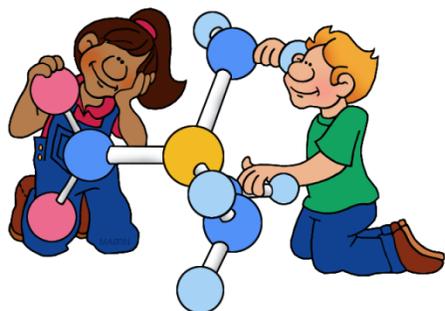
National Council has created an online dues form: <https://goo.gl/forms/YJDJKF6cB86kEoHN2> and dues can now be paid three different ways:

1. **PayPal** via the Iota Sigma Pi website: <http://iotasigmapi.info/membership/paydues.html>
2. **Venmo** to @ISPNationalCouncil
3. **Mail** a check payable to Iota Sigma Pi to:

Wynne Kandur
P.O. Box 75
Brentwood, MD 20722

Please contact our National Council Treasurer, Wynne Kandur (ispnctreasurer@gmail.com), if you have any questions!

Announcing Family-friendly Travel Awards!



Recent articles published by C&E News, Nature, and Science highlight distinct challenges associated with raising a family and attending conferences. Specifically, these articles note that a lack of child care (particularly for infants and toddlers) often impedes the ability of women scientists to attend career-boosting conferences. In a response to this apparent need, Iota Sigma Pi has decided to initiate a travel award designed to increase the ability of members to attend

conferences with their children. We are proud to announce that \$500 travel grants are now available for members who need support travelling with family to a meeting

Iota Sigma Pi Members-at-Large Family Friendly Travel Award

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: The criteria for selection are primarily need-based; however, the strength of results to be presented and the importance to the member's career will also be considered. Receipt of the travel award is also contingent upon being accepted to be a presenter at the conference of choice. (Awardees will be required to provide proof of presentation before funds will be dispersed.)

Number of Awards: Number of awards will vary depending upon both available funds and suitable candidates.

Due Dates: Applications for the Family Friendly Travel Award will be reviewed three times annually. The deadline for submissions is based on conference date.

November 1st (previous year) for travel between January and April

March 1st for travel between May and August

July 1st for travel between September and December

Application Materials:

- Abstract for Presentation (This award will only provide support for members presenting at a National Meeting.)
- CV, including all previous publications and presentations
- Justification of need (Explain in 300 words or less how this award will facilitate travel in the context of familial obligations.)
- Statement explaining the impact of the meeting on your career (< 200 words)

Requirements for Awardees: The awardee must submit a brief statement summarizing her experience at the National Meeting (including a photo of herself at the meeting - maybe even with her mini-attende). That would be awesome! Awardees must also acknowledge support from the Iota Sigma Pi Members-at-Large Family Friendly Travel Award during their presentation.

Questions or applications: Email IΣΠ MAL coordinator, Ellen Matson,
Mal.iotasigmapi@gmail.com

CHAPTER NEWS**Lanthanum Brownie Science Day**

The Lanthanum Chapter of Iota Sigma Pi hosted a Brownie Science Day at Sweet Briar College. Twenty-five girls participated representing four troops from Lynchburg, Evington, and Charlottesville, VA.

The girls completed activities to earn three different patches. These were the Home Scientist, Money Manager and Painting patches. They also enjoyed eating lunch in the college's dining hall.

Sweet Briar College and the Lanthanum Chapter have been hosting this event for the last 19 years!



Brownies earning their badges.



Eager volunteers waiting for their Brownies.



Home Scientist at work



Waiting for the Brownies to arrive

For the Home Scientist badge the girls exploded a film canister and learned about static electricity. For the Painting badge the girls made a still life painting with finger paints and learned about how an artist works. For the Money Manager badge, the girls shopped in a “store” to make purchases that fit within their allotted budget.

CHAPTER NEWS

Aul Hosts Multiple Events



During the summer months AuI, had their annual board meeting to discuss and decide on activities for the following year. This brainstorming session focused on when/where meetings occur, potential speakers, outreach events and fundraising ideas. This year, AuI co-hosted an event with the American Chemical Society student chapters of Saint Xavier University and Lewis University and ACCA. Students from those universities were invited to present research posters and attend a presentation about careers in STEM. In October, AuI hosted a booth at the ACS Chicago Chapter's Chemistry Day event which took place at the College of DuPage. The theme of the 2018 Chemistry Week was "Chemistry is Out of This World." To represent this theme, AuI had examples of several meteorites for guests to see and touch as well as a poster featuring Celia Payne-Gaposchkin who had determined that the sun's atmosphere was not earth-like but was composed of hydrogen. In December, AuI had a joint holiday meeting with the ACS Chicago Chapter. During this meeting, fundraising items were raffled off including four hand-made cutting boards, each one featuring different molecules. The money raised during these raffles funds future outreach events such as AuI's semi-annual student symposium.

2018 Iota Sigma Pi Outstanding Young Women in Chemistry Award Winners

The following is a list of students who received the Iota Sigma Pi Young Women in Chemistry Award for 2018. Students are nominated by a high school teacher for their academic achievement in chemistry. Each school may nominate one student per year. *Congratulations to all of the award winners!*

Student	High School	Nominator
Abelhouzen, Avery	Success Academy	Charmain Brammer
Azir, Rebecca Ramsis	Millis High School	Robert Mullaney
Beattie, Julia	Denver Christian School	Barry Meyer
Brown, Gabriele	Mullen High School	Peter Spiessbach
Castro, Daniela Jaelene	Golden Gate High School	Ryan McQuade
Chaudhuri, Natalie	All Saints Episcopal School	Matt Ryan
Crews, Enice L.	Castle Park High School	Darci Kimball
Delgado Marquez, Lorena	Arrupe Jesuit High School	Stephan Graham
DiSpirito, Julia	Mount Saint Charles Academy	Kristen Couture
Doerr, Madison	Air Academy High School	Derek Stach
Duran, Kayla	Central High School	Kim Hemenway
Fitzpatrick, Riley	St. Mary's Academy High School	Greta Glugoski-Sharp
Gudapati, Kaavya	Alpharetta High School	Sonha Payne
Haas, Liana Ellynn	River Ridge High School	Brian Wurster
Handel, Jillian	Lynbrook High School	Kevin Tranchina
Hayduke, Allison	Seminole High School	Laurie Vaughn
Hess, Hannah	Upper Dauphin Area High School	Todd Smeltz
Holmstoen, Tessa Berit	Heritage High School	Corey Brueckner
Hussain, Summer	Pleasant View School	Farhana Chowdhury
Imes, Katelyn	Mesa Ridge High School	Jeff Thomas
Kim, Jung	Aquinas Institute of Rochester	Theodore Mancini
Kummel, Michelle Tsi-Ying	Palmer High School	Reed Carlson
Landauer, Olivia	Rock Canyon High School	David Ferguson
Lane, Salsabila	Saint Joseph Academy	Jesus Abrego
Lee, Katherine Hannah	Masuk High School	Jen Nyquist
Levenson, Kira Yuan	Algonquin Regional High School	Catherine Burhat
Liebe, Delaney G.	Castle View High School	Roger Felch
Lysak, Adriana	Legend High School	Nicholas Ciarvella
Ma, Carolyn	Saratoga High School	Janny Cahatol
Manetsch, Melissa	Libertyville High School	Sherri Rukes
Mason, Mirielle	Cheyenne Mountain High School	Janie Mueller
McCullough, Nicole	Papillion-LaVista South High School	Amy Vavruska
McInnes, Abigail Grace	Sheldon High School	Arlene Laurison
Miller, Cara Elizabeth	East Syracuse Minoa Central High School	Sarah Maine
Mohrlang, Jessica Ann	Columbine High School	Daniel Price
Molacek, Lea	Poudre High School	John Knight
Pashak, Lindsey	D'Evelyn Junior/Senior High School	Eleanor McGee
Pillai, Midhula	Marple Newtown High School	Dennis Andrews

Student	High School	Nominator
Plaster, Eleanor	North Canton Hoover High School	Steven Wood
Prieto, Melanie	Enterprise High School	Susan Hanifl
Rainer, Noah	Montezuma-Cortez High School	Eric Chandler
Rexwinkle, Amber Shea	Grand Junction High School	Karen Owen
Rosier, Gioia Alexandra	Coffee High School	Ashley Vickers
Schieving, Elizabeth	Denver School of the Arts	Lisa Bradley
Schmerge, Aubrey Elisabeth	Windsor High School	Glenn Peterson
Schoeni, Malena	Thornton High School	Laura Robertson
Schrass, Leah Elizabeth	S.H. Rider High School	Stacie Martin
Schroth, Tara	Fairport High School	Elizabeth Burns
Sherrill, Sarah Mikayla	Central Davidson High School	Jonathon Poore
Simpson, Isabelle	Animas High School	Steve Smith
Steube, Carolina Rodriguez	Pinewood School	Sabra Abraham
Szumski, Katherine	Horizon High School	Kirk Davis
Tahti, Olivia	Douglas High School	Patricia Fitzpatrick
Tolen, Tori Danielle	Central High School	MaryAnn Dudley
Velazquez-Maldonado, Juana	Southwest Early College	Laura Marschke
Villarreal, Xiomara	O'Connell College Preparatory School	Nina Corley
Wang, Jennifer Yu	University of Chicago Laboratory Schools	Zachary Hund
Weber, Courtney	Cox Mill High School	Jessica Enlow
Williams, Cory	Bishop Garcia Diego High School	Heather Shafer
Xu, Katherine Yang	Conestoga High School	Jean Mihelcic
Yarema, Genevieve	Grosse Pointe South High School	John Theisen
Yu, Xinyu	Rutgers Prep School	Joan Zanfardino

Margaret Workman, Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies

ΙΣΠΙ MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Did you know that each Chapter (including MAL) has the opportunity to receive one mini-grant per triennium to support a proposed activity? To find out more, go to our website's forms page (www.iotasigmapi.info/forms.htm) and click on "Minigrant Applications" for more details.

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