
LIFE LINES

Sandra Stenzel studied applied natural science at the Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany between 2002 and 2007. Since 2007, Mrs. Stenzel works as a PhD student at the Research Institute of leather and plastic sheetings in Freiberg in the Department Leather/ Biopolymers. In her PhD thesis, she investigated a DNA based marking system for leather. Another focus in her scientific work is the animal species identification in leather and pelt.

Joerg Bohrisch studied chemistry at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. There he finished his doctorate in organic chemistry in 1995. After a short period in R&D of polymeric standards in a small company he changed to Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. From 1996 on he is as laboratory head involved in various projects dealing with synthesis, properties and applications of biogenic and synthetic polymers. His main focus is the improvement of natural polymeric resources for applications in technical processes or medical devices, for example.

Michael Paech studied chemistry at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. There he finished his doctorate in physical chemistry in 1997. After a period of different working places abroad and in Germany he entered Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Science in 2006. As laboratory head he was involved in various projects dealing with synthesis, properties and applications of synthetic functional monomers and polymers.

Michael Meyer studied biology at Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany and process engineering at Bergakademie, Freiberg, Germany. He finished his doctorate in 2001 in macromolecular chemistry at Technical University Dresden,

Germany. Since 2002 he is the head of department Leather/ Biopolymers of the Research institute of leather and plastic sheeting, Freiberg, Germany. The main focus of his scientific work is R&D of collagen materials and their characterization especially for the medical device industry. (Recently published in *JALCA* **109**, 314, 2014)

Gladstone C. Jayakumar, see *JALCA* **106**, 68, 2011

S. Sangeetha, see *JALCA* **107**, 213, 2012

K. Sreeram, see *JALCA* **106**, 239, 2011

J. Raghava Rao, see *JALCA* **93**, 156, 1998

Balachandran Unni Nair, see *JALCA* **93**, 156, 1998

Mohan Vedanayagam is a PhD Research Scholar working in the Chemical Laboratory, CSIR-CLRI, Chennai, India.

Tewodros kassa Teddy is an M.SC Leather Technology student working in LIDI, Ethiopia.

Anna Bacardit, see *JALCA* **101**, 284, 2006

Jorge Diaz, see *JALCA* **108**, 401, 2013

C. Casas, see *JALCA* **109**, 32, 2014

Luís Ollé, see *JALCA* **101**, 284, 2006

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

PINEHURST RESORT, PINEHURST, NC

JUNE 10, 2015

Officers: Sarah Drayna, David Peters

Councilors: Goetz Hagen, Gary Rennerfeldt,
Andreas Rhein, Beat Schelling

Executive Secretary: Carol Adcock

Editor: Robert F. White

Convention Chair: Doug Morrison

1. Welcome – Sarah Drayna, President

President Sarah Drayna called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

March 16, 2015 conference call minutes were previously approved by email.

Results from electionbuddy.com were announced. New councilors will be Mike Bley and Jeff Miller. Mrs. Adcock announced that 108 votes were cast out of the 268 sent out which is 40.3%. This was much in keeping with the usual amount of votes cast.

2. Convention Items and Meeting with Hotel Staff – Doug Morrison

Jim Barr welcomed us back and asked his team to introduce themselves. The Carolina and Holly Inn are completely filled. Mr. Barr reviewed the schedule and back up plans in case of rain. He said guests needed to show their ID cards in the Carolina Dining Room especially for breakfast. Golfers were asked to leave their clubs with the bellman. He pointed out that Chipping in to the Fountain would be tonight and suggested we obtain prizes for the event. He was instructed to get golf certificates for both the winner and loser of the event as well as doing the same for the Nite Light Putting Contest on Thursday evening.

3. Old Business – Sarah Drayna, President

Life Member

There was one candidate for life membership in the Association, namely Ward H. Tudor-Roberts. His bio was previously sent to Council and was approved by Council. The criteria for life status in the Association is that the member has been a paying member of the Association for forty (40) years.

In addition, Mrs. Drayna recommended Eleanor M. Brown for life status in the Association. Mrs. Brown will move to wool research with the USDA, and it was felt that her contributions to be Association should be rewarded with life status. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to grant Eleanor M. Brown life status in the Association.

2015 Rowles Scholarship Recipients

It was announced that three applications had been received for the 2015 Rowles Scholarship. The committee sought approval from Council to award two scholarships since no scholarships were given out for 2013 and 2014. Council previously approved such recommendation. The 2015 recipients of the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship are Heidi Rowles, daughter of the late Randall Rowles, and Mike Rennerfeldt, son of member Gary Rennerfeldt. Heidi was notified by the committee and sent a check for \$500. Mike will be present during the Annual Business Meeting of the Association to receive his check.

4. Editor's Report – Robert F. White

Mr. White submitted the following written report:

Dear ALCA Officers and Councilors:
June 8, 2015

Editor's Report

Comparative manuscripts activity for the 12-month periods June through May:

	<u>2014 – 2015</u>	<u>2013 – 2014</u>	<u>2012 – 2013</u>
Received	87	74	75
Rejected/withdrawn	37	26	33
Approved	38	32	30
In Process	12	16	15

The increase in received is partly due to new submissions from important laboratories (and countries) that have not participated in recent years. I believe this has enabled further improvements in quality and diversity of technologies we offer our readers. Our contributing research institutions are keeping

JALCA at the leading edge of technology: much nano and most recently, DNA and quantum physics/chemistry manuscript submissions.

There is still much pre-editing work with authors (mostly English language, references and format editing) in an attempt to present reviewers' with "cleaner" manuscripts. Kadir Donmez and Steve Lange recently joined the Editorial Board, which now numbers 19. Our August issue will include the Wilson Lecture and report the Proceedings of our June 2015 Annual Meeting. I am now scheduling manuscripts for our October issue. KSAD keeps us on plan with web *Journal* uploads the first day of every month.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

Discussion was held regarding the Editor's Report. It was felt that the *Journal* is continually improving under the leadership of Mr. White. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Editor's Report as written.

5. Technical Committee Reports– Beat Schelling

Mr. Schelling announced that he would give a report at the Annual Business Meeting regarding his Sustainability Committee as well as brief reports on all subcommittees. He reminded Council that Steve Lange would be giving a report during the technical sessions about the RSL Initiative.

6. Financial Report – Carol Adcock

The council reviewed the Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2015 as well as the Profit and Loss Statement and Budget vs. Actual for the same time period.

The Membership and Subscription Report was also reviewed. The ALCA currently has 334 members consisting of 174 active, 43 active life, 3 active life mutual, 19 active life retired, 15 active mutual, 37 active retired, 35 SLTC, 7 SLTC students, and 1 ALCA student. It was noted that two members and/or friends of the leather industry had passed away since the last Annual Convention. They were David G. Ouellette d. September 9, 2014 and Lowell Rasmussen d. October 3, 2014. It was brought to the attention of Council that another friend in the leather industry had died, namely Irwin Feuer who died January 2, 2015. His name will be added to the power point presentation for the Annual Business Meeting.

A moment of silence will be held for all of them at the Annual Business Meeting. It was also noted that one member, James Ignatowski, had been given retired status with the Association.

For 2015, 190 paying members contributed \$37,785. There is outstanding approximately \$2,821 in dues from the SLTC after subtracting the dues of our mutual members.

Subscriptions for 2015 have brought in \$10,540 in fees and \$4,050 in postage and handling charges. Discounts have been given in the amount of \$858, making a total of subscriptions and postage and handling charges minus discounts in the amount of \$13,732. Seventeen new members have joined ALCA since the last Annual Convention: thirteen active members and four SLTC including both regular and student members. The bylaws state, "Any member whose dues are unpaid on April 1st shall be dropped from membership." Accordingly nine members were dropped from the membership roles for non-payment of their 2015 dues.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Financial Report as presented.

7. Ways and Means Committee – Andreas Rhein, Chair

Andreas Rhein, Chair for the Ways and Means Committee, submitted the following written report prior to the meeting:

As of June 1, 2015 our Portfolio was valued at \$ 226,082! For the year the portfolio value increased by \$ 6,723.

During the time period of 12/31/1996 to 06/01/2015 (19 years) the portfolio total returns are \$ 310,375 or \$ 16,335 per annum.

The following represents the present Asset Allocation Detail

Cash	\$2,622	1.20%
Fixed income	\$49,836	22.0%
Equities	\$140,340	62.1%
Alternative	\$19,400	8.60%
Others	\$13,884	6.10%
Total	\$226,082	100%

Respectfully Submitted
Andreas Rhein

Mr. Rhein continues to have a good communications with the Morgan Stanley representative, Greg Canon. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Ways & Means Committee Report.

**8. Annual Convention – Doug Morrison
2016 Annual Convention**

Mr. Morrison reported that he signed the contract for the 2016 convention in November of last year. It will be held at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, WV. The dates will be June 22-25, 2016. Two deposits are due this year, with the first being sent in prior to this year's convention. The second one will be due December 21, 2015. There are three

different rates for rooms depending on the type of room desired. The rates will be as follows:

Single

Intermediate: \$302.25

Deluxe: \$326.27

Premium: \$358.26

Double

Intermediate: \$216

Deluxe: \$228

Premium: \$244 – all per person per night

The format for the convention will be more like the old schedule with golf prior to the official opening of the convention.

9. Committee Appointments– Sarah Drayna, President

President Drayna announced the following appointments had seen previously sent to Council and had been approved:

2016 Nominating Committee: Steve Lange (Chair), Jeff, Miller, Nathan Mullinix

2016 ALSOP Committee: Lori Hyllengren (Chair), Rob Harvey, Bob White

2016 O’Flaherty Award Committee: Doug Morrison (Chair), Shawn Brown, Susan Steele

2017 Wilson Selection Committee: Andy Rhein (Chair), Alex Campbell, Elton Hurlow

10. New Business– Sarah Drayna, President

2016 Convention Chair

Doug Morrison has been named the 2016 Convention Chair.

2016 and 2017 Convention Vice Chair

A volunteer has submitted his name for consideration as the 2016 Convention Vice Chair. President Drayna needed to check with this individual to make sure he knew that the expectation is that the Convention Vice Chair would become the Convention Chair. After the Council meeting, President Drayna checked on this issue and sought approval of Council for this recommendation as well as the 2017 Convention Chair. Council approved Leroy Lehman as the 2016 Convention Vice Chair and the 2017 Convention Chair.

Council has a candidate in mind for 2017 Convention Vice Chair and 2018 Convention Chair. A vote on this was tabled until later.

Technical Committee Organization – Sarah Drayna and Beat Schelling

Council will hold a call in July to further discuss the technical committee as well as objectives for 2015 / 2016.

RSL Update

Steve Lange, Chair of the RSL Subcommittee, joined the Council meeting to give an update on his RSL Initiative which he will be presenting during technical sessions. Mr. Lange received lists from five wet/blue suppliers and compared them. He compiled one list from the five lists and took it to the RLC meeting in April for their review and discussion. The main part of the list that has not been decided is the limits. A meeting will be held on Friday at lunch to discuss this matter with several people who are attending the convention, including Sarah Swenson of PrimeAsia Leather Company.

Open Forum for 2015/2016 Projects

Tabled until July Council Call.

2016 Technical Program

Mr. Peters did the bulk, if not all, of the 2015 technical program by himself. Council was reminded that part of their job description is as follows:

“Participate as part of the Technical Program Committee including assisting the Vice President with the Technical Program for the Annual Convention including soliciting presenters, presenting speakers and moderating sessions.”

It was suggested that the deadline to submit abstracts should be as early as possible to avoid the last minute rush in getting the Technical Program printed.

Funding of speakers was discussed along with additional publicity of the convention. Both of these items will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

11. Adjournment

The next Council meeting will be Friday, June 20, at 7 am. Thursday evening the second meeting of Council was canceled. That agenda will be discussed during a conference call in July.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Adcock, Executive Secretary

AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
11TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
PINEHURST RESORT, PINEHURST, NC
JUNE 12, 2015

President Sarah Drayna welcomed Officers, Councilors and Members and called to order the annual business meeting of the 11th Annual Convention of the American Leather Chemists Association.

1. New Members:

A warm welcome was extended to the 12 new active members who joined the association during the past year along with 4 new SLTC members. Congratulations was extended to one member, James P. Ignatowski, who had met the requirements and was approved for retired status with the Association since the last annual meeting.

2. Officers and Council

a. Officer Changes:

There will be no officer changes this year since their term is now for two years.

b. Council Changes and Presentation of Certificates:

Retiring councilor Goetz Hagen was thanked for his service and contributions during the past three years and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Councilor Susan Steele was also thanked for her service and contribution during the past three years, but she was unable to attend the convention. A Certificate of Appreciation will be mailed to her. The results of the election were announced and the incoming councilors for 2015-2018 will be Mike Bley and Jeff Miller. The new councilors were congratulated, and appreciation was extended to the Nominating Committee, Steve Lange, Chair, Mike Bley and John Rodden, for their service to the Association.

3. Technical Committee Reports:

President Drayna introduced Beat Schelling to give the report for the Sustainability Committee as well as reports for the other subcommittees under the Sustainability Committee.

Mr. Schelling reported that his committee was looking for ways to help the membership with their problems or challenges. He solicited help for the committee and encouraged members to join his committee.

He said the RLC subcommittee had met April 23 at the USDA with the ASTM Committee meeting the day before. The ASTM Committee continues to work on the D-31 method.

The Education Subcommittee has 6 students enrolled. They are encouraging new young people in the leather industry to take the course. They also need more members on the subcommittee.

The RSL Subcommittee just heard from the Chair of that subcommittee, Steve Lange, during the technical session. Mr. Lange outlined what his subcommittee was doing and how they hope to be of more help and a resource to the membership.

One of the co-chairs of the Methods and Specifications Subcommittee, Lori Hyllengren, reviewed the guidelines for the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship. They had three applicants this year with there being no applicants in 2013 and 2014. The subcommittee sought approval from Council to award two scholarships this year in view of no scholarships being awarded the past two years. Mike Rennerfeldt, son of member Gary Rennerfeldt, was one of the recipients and was presented with a check in the amount of \$500. Since the other recipient, Heidi Rowles, was unable to attend, Mrs. Hyllengren read a note from her as follows:

Setting up this scholarship in my dad's name was the perfect way to honor him. It integrates his love of the leather and science industry with education, which he always felt was invaluable. I am humbled and honored to receive this scholarship from an association of people who knew my dad and worked closely with him. I have often said that I wish he was still here to accompany me on this journey; he was always my biggest supporter. You have given me a sense of support not only from him but also from an organization that was very important to him. No matter what accolades I may receive in the future, this will always be the most meaningful award. My dad was my hero and those of you who knew him and worked with him know what an incredible person he was. Thank you for this tremendous honor.

President Drayna thanked Lori and Nick Latona as co-chairs of the subcommittee.

4. Committee Appointments:

The By-Laws state: "The composition of the Nominating Committee shall be reported to the membership at the annual meeting, and shall be subject to ratification by the active

members there present.” This motion was made at the Business meeting and the following members of the 2016 Nominating Committee were approved:

Steve Lange (Chair), Jeff Miller, and Nathan Mullinix

The following committee appointments approved by Council were announced:

2016 O’Flaherty Service Award Committee: Doug Morrison (Chair), Shawn Brown and Susan Steele

2016 Alsop Award Committee: Lori Hyllengren (Chair), Rob Harvey and Bob White

2017 Wilson Memorial Lecture Committee: Andy Rhein (Chair), Alex Campbell and Elton Hurlow

5. Editor’s Report: Robert F. White

Mr. White gave the following report:

I want to welcome Kadir Donmez and Steve Lange to our Editorial Board, which now numbers 19. I certainly want to recognize and thank our continuing EB members for their faithful service; Dr. Meral Birbir, Chris Black, Dr. Eleanor Brown, Dr. Anton Ela’mma, Elton Hurlow, Prasad Inaganti, Dr. Cheng-Kung Liu, John Moore, Dr. Edwin Nungesser, Dr. Roger Pinto, Dr. Mila Aldema-Ramos, Dr. J. Raghava Rao, Andreas Rhein, Dr. Bi Shi, George Stockman, Maryann Taylor and Brandon Yoemans.

Manuscript submissions increased this year due, in part, to new submissions from laboratories (and countries) that have not participated in recent years. I believe this has enabled further improvements in quality and diversity of technologies we offer our readers. Our contributing research institutions are keeping *JALCA* at the leading edge of technology: much nano and most recently, DNA and quantum physics/chemistry manuscript submissions.

We continued to publish 45 manuscripts per year and upload the *e-zine Journal* to our website on the first day of each month. I am now scheduling approved manuscripts for our October issue.

I want to thank those presenters at this Annual Meeting that promptly submitting their manuscripts. We will begin publishing these important contributions in September. I strongly encourage more comments and suggestions from our readers, either as letters to the editor or blog in our leatherchemists.org open access Networking: Forum

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

6. State of the Association:

a. Membership Review:

A total membership of 334 members, of whom 190 are paying members, was announced.

b. Convention Account:

A bar chart was shown indicating the income and expenses for the annual conventions since 2008. The chart reflected revenue of \$49,655, expenses of \$24,448 for a profit for 2014 of \$25,207.

c. Convention Attendees:

A review of the attendance for 2015 revealed that 20 tanners representing 11 tanning companies, 44 suppliers representing 17 individual chemical companies and 7 individual equipment companies, 7 research scientists representing 3 organizations, 1 educator representing 1 university or technical school, and 2 end users were present. Other attendees included 2 ALCA staff, 2 press, 4 consultants, and 12 guests for a grand total of 94.

d. Investments:

A bar chart was shown reflecting the portfolio performance since 2007. The chart compared first quarter earnings versus the average portfolio value.

The report was included on the slide, which read as follows:

As of March 31, 2015, our investments were valued at \$225,256. The year-to-date liquid earnings were \$3,476 (\$1159/mo). We feel our investments, money market and recovered funds are well positioned to endure volatility and earnings pressure as we still see in the market.

Respectfully Submitted
Andreas Rhein

e. Sponsorship:

This year’s meeting had a three level sponsorship program. They were Gold for a donation of \$1,000, Silver for a donation of \$750, and Bronze for a donation of \$500. There were 10 gold, 7 silver, and 8 bronze donors. Eagle Ottawa LLC sponsored one of the technical sessions, namely Session 2 – Automotive. Buckman again sponsored Larry Shaver, golf pro, to analyze golf swings during the cocktail reception on Thursday evening. A list of the specific sponsors for each category was shown. The association is very indebted to the generosity of all the sponsors.

In addition there were 3 exhibitors and 6 program advertisers. Appreciation was also extended to these generous supporters.

7. New Business:

a. Website info:

Everyone was reminded to go to the Association’s website at www.leatherchemists.org for information about the

Association as well as updates on next year's convention. The website has a wealth of information on the history of the Association as well as the updated membership directory.

b. 2016 Annual Meeting:

The Association will host its 112th ALCA Annual Meeting at Oglebay Resort & Conference Center in Wheeling, WV, June 22-25, 2016. The 2016 Convention Chair will be Doug Morrison, with Leroy Lehman being the 2016 Convention Vice Chair.

8. 2016 Wilson Lecture:

The 2016 Wilson Lecturer was announced. It will be Rachel Garwood, Director of the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies (ICLT). Her bio was given and will be posted on the Association's website under Annual Convention/Wilson Lecture.

Appreciation was given to the 2016 Wilson Selection Committee, Alex Campbell (Chair), Kadir Donmez and Khorshed Alam for their work in selecting a lecturer.

9. In Memory:

There was a moment of silence observed for members and friends in the leather industry who passed:

David G. Ouelette d. September 29, 2014

Lowell D. Rasmussen d. October 3, 2014

Irwin Feuer d. January 2, 2015

10. Adjournment:

President Sarah Drayna called for a motion to adjourn the annual business meeting held at the 111th convention of the American Leather Chemists Association. The motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

ELTON HURLLOW RECEIVES AWARD

The *JALCA* Editorial Board, manuscript authors, the Annual Convention John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecturer, the Association President and Council are essential elements of the ALCA. Elton Hurlow has and continues to be a major contributor in all these ALCA activities. We are most pleased that he has received the following well-deserved recognition as announced by his employer, Buckman Laboratories International, Inc.:

“Elton Hurlow, Buckman's Leather Division Manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, has recently been awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his contributions to the global leather industry and its organizations by The Senate of the University of Northampton. The conferment occurred in July, and the oration at the ceremony was given by Prof. Emeritus Tony Covington, a globally leading leather chemist.

Hurlow is well-known in the leather industry and has been an active member of professional industry organizations for some time. He is currently involved in leadership positions with the

Leather Working Group (LWG), International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS), and the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC). He is a Past President of the IULTCS and the American Leather Chemists Association (ALCA). Prior to his 18-year tenure with Buckman, Hurlow worked at the Leather Industries Research Institute (LIRI) in South Africa, and then moved to the USA where he worked in various capacities at Pfister and Vogel, AR Clarke and the USLH group.”

Buckman further announced it has merged its Europe, Middle East and Southern Africa leather business into one leather division. Effective immediately, the division will be led by Elton Hurlow, formerly Global Market Development Manager – Leather with Buckman International in Memphis, Tenn. Hurlow will relocate to Europe as soon as possible.

Robert F. White,
JALCA Editor
August 18, 2015

Few people realize that Leather Making is the world's oldest manufacturing process, thus the world's oldest industry. Tanning—the process of converting hides and skins into leather—is also the world's first science.

Also, because of the pure craftsmanship involved, tanning may well be the world's first art form.



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Anyone who doubts that a sheepskin has up to 30,000 fibers per square inch has only to count them.

NOTHING TAKES THE PLACE OF LEATHER

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