



# NCS NEWS

September 1998

*A Publication of the National Capital Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers*

*September Meeting of the National Capital Section of the AIChE*

## “How Can AIChE and Congress Improve Your Retirement Security?”

*Dr. Gerhard Frohlich, AIChE Vice President, and  
Brian Dougherty, AIChE Government Outreach Director*

**Date and time:** 6pm, Wednesday, September 23, 1998;

**Location:** Orleans House, 1213 Wilson Blvd, Rosslyn, VA;

**Reservations:** Call Victoria Guvanasen at 703/736-4544.

*Please see the top of page 2 of this newsletter for more information.*

AIChE believes the increasing job mobility of engineers together with their growing work for small firms and in temporary, contract, and self-employment arrangements is adversely affecting their pension coverage, accumulation, and portability. These growing trends call into question the long-term retirement security of chemical engineers. AIChE Vice President Gerhard Frohlich will share his vision of a fully portable occupational retirement plan for engineers and scientists and discuss how AIChE is working with other engineering and scientific societies toward such a system. Dr. Frohlich will also discuss his goals for AIChE in 1999 and the important role of local sections.

Brian Dougherty, AIChE Government Outreach Director, will brief the section on key legislation that will affect employee pensions and how the debate on Social Security is driving reforms to the private pension system. Shorter vesting, improved portability, administrative relief, and improved coverage for small businesses will be key goals of lawmakers next year. As a former legislative aide on Capitol Hill, Brian will also discuss how NCS and other local sections can impact the debate.

Dr. Frohlich will become AIChE President in January. He also serves on AIChE's Government Relations Committee (GRC) and as chair of the Engineers and Scientists Joint Committee on Pensions, which includes over 15 professional societies representing almost one million members. As chair of the GRC Subcommittee on Professional Development, Dr. Frohlich is the primary author of AIChE's policy statements on retirement income issues, "Engineering a Secure Retirement." Dr. Frohlich is retired from Hoffman-La Roche, Inc., where he was General Manager of Central Engineering and Vice President of the corporation. During his 40-year career as a chemical engineer, Dr. Frohlich has been engaged in the development, design, and construction of chemical and pharmaceutical facilities. He holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Polytechnic University of New York and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of New Jersey.

*Maria K. Burka, Chair,  
703/306-1371*

*Thomas J. Wallen, Past Chair,  
540/752-5305*

*Daniel E. Wiley, Vice Chair,  
202/293-6189*

*Karen L. Orzechowski, Esq.,  
Secretary, 202/775-8383*

*Victoria M. Guvanasen, Treasurer,  
703/736-4544*

*Directors: Basil "Bill" C. Dumas,  
540/372-7084; Craig Matthiessen,  
202/260-9781; Jan V. Sengers,  
301/405-2983*

*Chester F. Clark, Membership,  
301/743-6599*

*Advisory Committee: Gary Poehlein,  
703/306-1370; John Bobalek, 202/874-2265*

*Robert J. Lutz, Awards &  
Nominations, 301/435-1944*

*Mobolaji E. Aluko, Professional  
Development, 202/806-6624*

*Matthew Davey, Government  
Interaction, 703/893-4106*

*David M. Richmond, External Affairs,  
301/320-5509*

*Jill R. Clauss, Jobs Program  
Coordinator, 703/396-1529*

*Raymond A. Adomaitis, Editor and  
NCS Website Coordinator, 301/405-2969,  
[www.ench.umd.edu/NatCapAIChE](http://www.ench.umd.edu/NatCapAIChE)*

**Meeting Information/Directions:** The September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will take place at the Orleans House, 1213 Wilson Blvd, Arlington (Rosslyn), VA, 22209, phone: 703/524-2929. It is located ½ block from the Rosslyn Metro Station, just across the Key Bridge from Georgetown. Free parking is available at the Riggs Bank on Wilson Blvd., about one block away. Social hour begins at 6pm with a cash bar; dinner starts at 6:30pm and the program begins at 7:30pm. Please call NCS Treasurer Victoria Guvanaseen (phone: 703/736-4544; fax: 703/471-4180; e-mail: vmg@hgl.com) by September 18<sup>th</sup>.

The menu selections are: prime rib of beef (\$18), baked chicken (\$18), New York strip steak (\$24), stuffed shrimp (\$21), and broiled haddock (\$18). Prices include tax and gratuity; all entrees include oven-roasted potatoes, salad bar, bread, coffee or tea, and ice cream.

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## FROM OUR CHAIR

**Welcome back!** After the summer hiatus, this is the first newsletter for 1998/99. I want to introduce our new executive committee, provide a preview of our programming plans for the coming year, and ask for feedback from the membership on the directions we are moving. We are operating under the new by-laws, and have three newly elected directors, in addition to the elected past chair, chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. Listed below are names, affiliations, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the Executive Committee of the National Capital Section of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, July 1998 to June 1999.

### Elected Members

Past Chair: Thomas J. Wallen  
(Rappahanock Engineering)  
540/752-5305, tjwallen@erols.com

Chair: Maria K. Burka (on leave from NSF)  
202/363-5951, mburka@nsf.gov

Vice Chair: Daniel E. Wiley  
(U.S. DOE on assignment to EPRI)  
202/293-6189, dwiley@epri.com

Secretary: Karen L. Orzechowski, Esq.  
(Nath & Associates)  
202/775-8383, nathintelprop@compuserve  
(Attention: Karen Orzechowski)

Treasurer: Victoria M. Guvanaseen (HydroGeoLogic)  
703/736-4544, vmg@hgl.com

Directors:

1998-2001: Basil "Bill" C. Doumas  
(retired - Dow Chemical)  
540/372-7084, Billdoumas@1bigred.com

1998-2000: Craig Matthiessen (U.S. EPA)  
202/260-9781, matthiessen.craig@epa.gov

1998-1999: Jan V. Sengers (University of Maryland)  
301/405-2983, js45@umail.umd.edu

### Ex-Officio Members

Program Co-Chair:  
Jan V. Sengers (University of Maryland)  
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Membership:  
Chester F. Clark (NSWC)  
301/743-6599, 940@chem.ih.navy.mil

Advisory Committee:  
Gary Poehlein (NSF)  
703/306-1370, gpoehlei@nsf.gov

John Bobalek (BEP)  
202/874-2265, jbobalek@aol.com

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(Attention: Matt Davey)

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Jobs Program Coordinator:  
Jill R. Clauss  
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**July Meeting:** The first meeting of this executive committee was held at noon on July 2 at the AIChE Washington Office on I Street, NW. The group discussed programming for the coming year, what we think are the objectives and expectations of the Section's membership, as well as the roles and activities of the various committees. In every newsletter this year, we will try to have a committee chair describe their activities, starting with this issue in which Dave Richman reports on External Affairs activities proposed for the 1998/99 Year. We are planning to print a membership directory this year since our last one was printed in 1993-94. Chester Clark is working on this project. If you are planning to move, or know of someone who has moved and has not been getting their newsletters, please let Chester know at the above address. Robert Lutz noted that he planned to get an early start preparing for the selection of student award recipients. As in the recent past, we will have bimonthly meetings, rotated around DC, Maryland and Virginia, in an effort to get as many of you to attend as possible. We are planning to have mostly evening meetings interspersed with a few luncheon meetings.

**Website:** Our website, run by Ray Adomaitis located at [www.ench.umd.edu/NatCapAIChE](http://www.ench.umd.edu/NatCapAIChE) is up and running and I encourage members to browse and learn about section and AIChE activities. A question that the executive committee has been debating is whether or not to print and mail out hard copies of our monthly newsletter, to just make it available to everyone on our website, or both. Later this year we plan to do a survey of the membership on this issue. The largest portion of our expenditures is the printing and mailing of newsletters; on the other hand not everyone has access to the web. Suggestions and comments about content and appearance of the website should be sent to Ray at [adomaiti@isr.umd.edu](mailto:adomaiti@isr.umd.edu).

**September Meeting:** The first meeting of the year will focus on pending legislation and its potential impact on retirement benefits. We hope even younger members will want to attend this September 23rd, evening presentation, as it is bound to affect everyone's future.

**WISE (Washington Internships for Students of Engineering):** Bill Doumas served as a mentor for one of the interns this past year and is planning to be a mentor again next year. AIChE is looking for another volunteer to mentor from the professional/technical perspective (they already have volunteers to mentor from the legislative/political perspective). If anyone is interested, please contact Bill at [Billdoumas@1bigred.com](mailto:Billdoumas@1bigred.com).

**AIChE Headquarters:** has moved to 3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5901.

Maria K. Burka, Section Chair

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: PLANS FOR 1998-99 YEAR

The National Capitol Section is unique among AIChE's local sections because of our location and membership. The Washington metropolitan area has a highly diverse population and is a center of high technology. Our membership solves problems at the cutting edge of technology and deals with issues of national and societal concern. In the coming year, we will seek to exploit this unique position along several fronts, maintaining and expanding current external affairs activities and becoming involved in new areas of public outreach.

First, our Section intends to expand its efforts to assist our local membership in professional development, including networking and exposure to the various facets of chemical engineering involved in management, policy development and implementation, and information technology. We intend to get more of our members involved in local community activities or issues in which their technical and analytical expertise can contribute to well-informed decisions.

Each year we have been invited to hold a meeting at one of the many embassies here in Washington. This second program benefits us as well as the host nations because of the valuable information we gain about their approaches to the support of science and engineering and its importance to their economies and the challenges they face. This certainly will continue.

A third program is the "National Engineering Aptitude Search+" (NEAS+). This involves distribution of self-assessment packages to help students decide whether to pursue technical careers -- 2,100 students used them in 1997. JETS needs engineering sponsors for its Sponsor One Student (SOS) program. The goal is to identify high school students interested in engineering who would benefit by this self-assessment and assist them in preparing for the test, taking it, and understanding the results and how to use them.

This program provides stimulating opportunities for members to interact directly with local high schools and teachers. Our more recent graduate engineers, in particular, may be inspired to return to high schools, share their education and work experiences with students, and help them with career choices.

Our Section also intends to increase local industry involvement by contacting offices of major corporations in this area through our membership. We want to encourage greater participation by people from local firms at our meetings, including presentations of their chemical engineering activities, and, in general, increase networking among chemical engineers across a spectrum of activities.

We plan to increase our outreach to the general public,

possibly through volunteer efforts with local jurisdictions, community groups, or consumer groups. For example, one interesting opportunity we plan to pursue is to work with the Environmental Protection Agency by encouraging retired (or any) chemical engineers who are willing to provide local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) with technical assistance in their chemical emergency prevention, preparedness, and response planning efforts. We also may consider acting as a local advisory committee to address current issues or concerns. This approach is similar to that of the AIChE's national Government Program Advisory Committee (in which our section played a seminal role).

On a more personal level of involvement, perhaps our members might participate under the NCS aegis in activities such as a hazardous waste collection day, recycling awareness, a park cleanup, conducting a neighborhood improvement project, producing educational materials for use in schools, sponsoring an information booth at a community event, or presenting a symposium for the community.

If you have any comments or suggestions for increasing our local involvement, including your own interest in any of the identified areas, please send them to me by e-mail, DMR0313@aol.com, or call me at 301/320-5509.

David M. Richman, External Affairs

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## THE NEW EDITOR

As the new editor of the National Capital Section Newsletter, I would like to thank Victoria Guvanasekera for all her help in putting together this first issue.

Also, because I may be new to most readers of the Newsletter, allow me to give you a brief summary of my background: after receiving my B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and working for Amoco, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University from 1988-90. I came to the University of Maryland in 1990 as a postdoctoral fellow/research scientist; currently, I hold an appointment as an Assistant Professor jointly between the Chemical Engineering Department and Institute for Systems Research. My students and I work in the area of simulation, primarily for semiconductor device manufacturing and separation processes.

I look forward to getting to know more NCS members through my new role as editor of the Section newsletter.

Ray Adomaitis  
Editor and Website Coordinator

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