Opening Address for the Technical Sessions
112th Annual Convention
by
David Peters

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to welcome and thank all our presenters, most of whom have travelled from around the globe to attend the 112th ALCA convention. The following countries are represented - Brazil, UK, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, China, Slovakia and the USA.

We have prepared a very interesting and diversified technical session that will occupy the next 2 days. Each session will have between 3 and 4 speakers and together with our various moderators we will adhere to the indicated schedule, with each speaker being given the opportunity to answer questions at the end of their presentation.

Please note that this year we received more requests than previous years and as such we have increased the number of presenters to 20 but in accommodating this number of presentations it is essential that we adhere to our schedule. It is therefore very important for all of us to respect the time allocated to each speaker and if we start to run over we will need to defer the questions to one of the coffee breaks.

Our speakers will cover a wide variety of issues encompassing the leather spectrum from the science and chemistry, the equipment, the product and also the softer more pleasing aspects of a fantastic raw material.
112th ALCA Annual Meeting  
June 22-25, 2016  
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center  
Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

Technical Program

John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture
“Leather Education - Preserving the Past...Investing in the Future” by Rachel Garwood  
Director of the Institute for Creative Leather Technologies (ICLT), Northampton, UK

Most Recent Advancement in Clean Beaming Technologies by Jurgen Christner, TFL Ledertechnik AG, Basel Switzerland

Brazilian Global Leather Trade by Rogerio de Souza Cunha, CICB, Brazil

Trends in Automotive and Impacts on Leather by Andreas Kindermann, Wollsdorf Leder, Schmidt & Co Ges.m.b.H., Austria

The Over-Engineering of Nature’s Most Beautiful Product by Steve Lange, Leather Research Laboratory, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

The Physical Properties, Morphology and Viscoelasticity of Biobased Sponges Prepared from Un-tanned Hides by Cheng-Kung Liu, United States Department of Agriculture, Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, PA

Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Technologies for Drums by Marco Maroglio, Vallero International, Italy

Sustainable Leather Finish Technology by Marc Oomens, im innovating, The Netherlands

Hybrid Tannage Using a Cationic Syntan (CAT) in Combination with Chrome for a Complete Exhaustion in Tanning by Eric Poles, Silvateam S.p.A., Leather Division, Italy

Development of Collagenous Material Production, Treatment and Drying Techniques: Gelatin from Bovine Dermal Material by Juan Luis Salmeron, IPAP, Spain, and Alessandra Vangelista, Officine di Cartigliano S.p.A., Italy

Modified Smart Collagen Biomaterials for Pharmacy and Adhesive Applications by Jan Sedlack, Technical University in Zvolen, Slovak Republic

Transformative Potential of Digitalization by Roy Shurling, Lectra, Navarre, FL

Update on U.S. Hide Trade by Stephen Sothmann, U.S. Hide, Skin & Leather Association (USHSLA), Washington, D.C.

Complexing Agents and Their Practical Influence in Pickling, Chrome Penetration and Basification by Marcelo Fraga de Sousa, Buckman North America, Memphis, TN

LWG Traceability and Protocols by Sarah Swenson, Prime Asis Leather Company, Exeter, NH

Tanning Technologies and Equipment Offered by the Italian Industry by Giulio Tandura, ASSOMAC, Italy

Utilization of Water-Soluble Carbodiimides in the Modification of Gelatin and Chitosan by Maryann M. Taylor, United States Department of Agriculture, ERRC, Wyndmoor, PA

Green Crust Technology: A Game Changing Chemical Solution for Wet End Processing by Dietrich Tegtmeier, LANXESS Deutschland GmbH, Germany

MACH SENSATION: How to Sell Prestigious Leather by Luca Tisato, Feltre, Italy

Regulatory Challenges Facing the U.S. Leather Industry by John Wittenborn, Leather Industries of America, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Global Trade with China by Chen Zhanguang, Chinese Leather Industry Association (CLIA), China
Presentation and Acceptance of the 2016 Fred O’Flaherty and Alsop Awards
by
Doug Morrison, Jim Haggerty and Simon Yarwood

Doug Morrison
It is my pleasure to introduce Jim Haggerty as the 2016 ALCA recipient of both the Fred O’Flaherty and Alsop Awards.

Jim began his business career after spending 5 ½ years in the U.S. Coast Guard where he served as a Meteorological Technician. Jim began his career in the Chemical Industry at Dewey and Almy Division of W.R. Grace and Company in inside sales and eventually on the road. He marketed Process Chemicals to a variety of industries covering 15 Midwestern States. In 1975, he joined the leather industry at Hamblet and Hayes Division of Ciba Giegy, calling on key account tanneries in New England. He then moved on to Tannin Corporation in the same capacity, covering the Northeast portion of the United States.

In 1986, Jim moved to the Wellington International sales arm of Sirois Leather, serving as International Sales Manager in the U.S., Canada, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea selling lambskin leathers. The lambskins were tanned and finished in New England for the Garment, Handbag, and Personal Leather Goods industries. Jim left the leather business in 1988 and became a licensed Agent and Sales Trainer for a Small Business Health Benefits Association. He was awarded trips to Switzerland and Australia for his production and spent the next 18 months doing in-depth sales and product training across the US.

In 1994, Jim was offered the opportunity to rejoin the leather industry becoming the President of the Columbia Tanning Division of Howes Leather Company located in Brockton, MA. After overseeing a lengthy and extensive renovation, the facility experienced a devastating electrical fire. Howes Leather then made a decision to not rebuild the tannery following the fire.


Through the course of his working career, Jim has served 9 years as Press Secretary of the New England Tanners Club. Jim has been very active throughout his entire membership with the ALCA. He has overseen the annual Fun Runs, sponsored early on by Shoe Trades, but in recent years by World Trades Publishing and it’s titles: World Leather Magazine and leatherbiz.com, and the Tannery of the Year Program.

Jim has enjoyed his friends, his customers, his associates, and the wonderful ALCA Annual Meeting venues that he has experienced through the years.

I wish to acknowledge the Alsop nominating committee of Lori Hyllengren, chairman and committee members: Rob Harvey and Bob White for your selection process. In addition, I wish to acknowledge the Fred O’Flaherty nominating committee chaired by me, and committee members: Susan Green and John Rodden.
In conclusion, a review of our past winners of the Alsop Award and Fred O’Flaherty Award shows that we have never had the same person win both awards in the same year. So this is certainly a special night for Jim.

At this time, I would request Lori Hyllengren to join me on stage for our presentations to Jim.

Thank you.

Jim Haggerty
Mr. Chairman, Madam President, Officers, Alsop and O’Flaherty Committee Members, ALCA Members and Guests,

I have been attending ALCA meetings since 1976 and each year listened to awards with little thought of ever being up at this podium but surprise... surprise; here I am and I’ll bet your are tired of seeing me up here.

I may take a bit more than a brief time but not much... and steal a line from Rachel Garwood’s keynote memorial lecture and say that I too, experienced a most fortunate accident in my early years in the Leather industry. In 1975, I joined a chemical supplier, later Ciba- Giegy, selling to the many Northeast tanneries that existed then. At the same time, they enrolled me in the New England Tanners Club, and I soon became its Press Secretary (a nine year experience) where I met and worked with the media side of the business. This was the lucky break, having regular contact with John Moynihan, Publisher of Leather Manufacturer Magazine and ALCA members. That would prove to be a career long beneficial relationship but I am getting slightly ahead of myself.

I also became a member of ALCA attending annual meetings. In 1980, the Fun Run began co-sponsored by John along with Max Maier of Roit Corporation. The first run was at Buck Hill Falls, PA, and in 1981 at Hilton Head. Due to illness, 1982 was missed but commenced again in 1983 in Hersey, PA, sponsored by Leather Manufacturer and John. Leather Manufacturer stopped publishing in 2001 and the Run was passed, in 2002, to World Leather, which has booked it ever since, for which it is to be commended.

As for the Chemical side of the business, I continued calling on tanneries until 1986 when I left the industry for a few years. In the interim, I began selling lambskin leather to the garment and handbag trades and eventually ran Colombia Tanning, manufacturing and marketing shoe lining leathers, elbow patch and collars and other small pieces tanned from the cow bellies that could not be used for soling. It was then that I bought ads from John Moynihan in American Shoemaking Magazine. The tannery experienced a major fire at the end of an extensive rehab and it was then shut down in 1996. It then was offered the Advertising Sales Managers position for Leather Manufacturer, World Leather, and their affiliated websites as they were developed.

In closing, just know that it has been a wonderful 40-year career for the most part, with great experiences, customers and friends along the way. I am grateful, thankful and honored to have your thanks with these wonderful awards.

Thank you and be well!
Simon Yarwood
Sarah Drayna
[President Sarah Drayna presented Certificates of Appreciation, summarized this year’s Annual Convention and progress of the Association during the past several years. The “gavel” was handed off to incoming President David Peters.]

David Peters
Ladies and gentlemen and fellow council members, it is indeed a privilege and honor to serve as the President of the ALCA. Over the past 112 years this association has recorded, cataloged and witnessed the evolution of our industry. No small feat and something that could not have been done without the unselfish commitment of so many volunteers.

During the past 20 years we have seen a dramatic shift to Asia in the leather manufacturing industries and the ALCA has not only maintained it’s place in our industry but is consistently recognized and respected as the resource for leather science and engineering around the globe. To be a player in our industry, as I am sure all will agree, travel is an essential component and no matter where business takes us around the world, the ALCA is often referenced in meeting rooms, tanning offices and laboratories for the incredible work reported through our Journal, which is often referred to as JALCA.

It is a testament to the editorial board and more specifically Bob White’s leadership that has kept this monthly Journal vibrant and alive. It is my belief and also conviction that the global leather industry needs the ALCA. To the best of my knowledge there is no other entity that focuses their energies and provides a forum for leather such as the ALCA.

What makes this organization so special is our structure, which is reliant upon individuals to contribute their time and resources without compensation. In fact this convention, which provides a forum for current and vital industry topics, is also a key ingredient for sustaining the financial well being of our association. We are here today strictly due to the generous participation of our 22 speakers who undertook to contribute their time and attendance for the betterment of the ALCA.

It should also be noted that none of this would have been possible without the hard efforts and commitment of our secretary, Carol Adcock. She keeps us informed, engaged and as we often slip or slide from pre-agreed time lines she politely and firmly brings us back on schedule.

Once again Doug Morrison has demonstrated his comprehensive command of arranging the venue. His attention to detail is an often taken for granted aspect of things running well. But as my fellow councilors will agree Doug has once again done a terrific job organizing this year’s convention.

I would also like to thank Michael Bley for becoming Vice President and assuming the role of managing the technical program for 2017, which will be held once again at Pinehurst.

I am confident that at next year’s convention we will have another impressive group of speakers and interesting subjects and in this respect I am totally committed to support Mike in achieving his goals and objectives.
The success of our 2017 convention is also based on the commitment of our members and their corresponding resources to support ALCA. I know from discussions with various attendees that they will be engaged and helpful in attracting a wide range of speakers.

Finally I would like to thank Sarah Drayna. There is a need to applaud her commitment and leadership of ALCA these past 2 years.

Sarah brings enthusiasm and vibrancy wherever she goes and through her dedication and hard efforts has helped make the ALCA succeed during her tenure as president. She has been a positive change agent and supported my efforts as vice president and basically set the standard for her successor, Me.

I look forward to leaning on her experiences and marshaling her support in the coming months, as she is a valuable resource for the ALCA.

Thanks again for your participation in this year’s convention, enjoy the rest of the evening and I look forward to seeing you all next year at Pinehurst.
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OGLEBAY RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
WHEELING, WV
JUNE 22-25, 2016

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World Leather Magazine
Comments from the Journal Editor

Dear members, subscribers, authors, leather scientists and June 2016 Annual Convention guests,

The proceedings of our 112th June Annual Convention, including the Wilson Lecture and the Technical Program of June 23-24 are published in this August 2016 issue. The diversity of excellent presentations encompassed major issues affecting the global leather activities. There were about 90 attendees from 10 countries, appropriately in alignment with the increasing more global reach of this Journal.

The Wilson Lecture by Rachel Garwood addressed the critical issue of how we educate the next generations of leather scientists and technologists, and proposals were offered. Many of the presentations were focused on automotive leathers, clean technologies, sustainability and environmental issues.

Next years program will continue this diversity of new technologies, global trends and issues reports. Mark your calendars now for next years Annual Convention, returning to Pinehurst Resort, Village of Pinehurst, NC, June 13-16, 1017.

I want to thank the many people that make this Journal possible and available in both print and the electronic (ezine) formats. For the electronic JALCA subscribers, log-on to alcajournal.com or use the link at our website leatherchemists.org. Your comments and suggestions are strongly encouraged and most welcome – send to jalcaeditor@prodigy.net.

Robert F. White
Journal Editor
June 2016

Bailey Keyser Awarded Scholarship

I am happy to announce this year’s Randy Rowles Memorial scholarship is awarded to Bailey Keyser. Bailey is the son of Craig Keyser and is studying biomedical engineering at the Newark College of Engineering.

Bailey’s career goals involve turning what sounds like science fiction into reality. Bailey hopes to create a sensor located inside the body that can differentiate neural impulses sent from recreated human skin to the brain. In other words, layers of human skin will be grown over prosthetic limbs. By way of the sensor, the skin will be connected to the nervous system and the brain will receive feeling sensations similar to the original limb.

On behalf of the 2016 selection committee, consisting of Sarah Drayna, Beat Shelling, CK Liu, Okey Abara, Nick Latona and myself, we congratulate Bailey and wish him success in achieving his goals.

Lori Hyllengren

Bailey hopes to create a sensor located inside the body that can differentiate neural impulses sent from recreated human skin to the brain.
News Release from the IULTCS

July 4, 2016

Young Leather Scientist Grant to be Sponsored by Lear Corporation

The Executive Committee of the IULTCS is glad to announce that Lear Corporation has agreed to sponsor the 2017 research grant for young scientists. This is the third time the IULTCS grant will be awarded, but the first time it will be sponsored by Lear. The monetary sponsorship is given annually to a young leather scientist, under the age of 30, for a worthwhile leather research project to be conducted at a recognized institution. For the upcoming grant, an increased award of €1 500 will be paid as a single sum to the young leather scientist that submits the winning proposal.

Nathan Mullinix, Vice President of Global R&D for Eagle Ottawa, a division of Lear Corporation noted: “We are very proud to sponsor the grant, which has the objective of encouraging new scientists in the development of chemistry, science and technology of leather”. The award will be administered by the International Union Research Commission (IUR), led by Dr. Luis Zugno. Details of the eligibility requirements and application form are available on the IULTCS website (www.iultcs.org). The submission deadline is October 28, 2016. The IULTCS requests that readers of this announcement forward the information to those institutions and individuals who could benefit from the award.

## End News Release ##

For editorial Information:
Elton Hurlow
Email: elhurlow@buckman.com
Tel: +44 7471 351 247

The monetary sponsorship is given annually to a young leather scientist, under the age of 30, for a worthwhile leather research project to be conducted at a recognized institution.
Council Meeting Minutes
American Leather Chemists Association
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center, Wheeling, WV
June 22, 2016

Officers: Sarah Drayna, David Peters
Councilors: Mike Bley, 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.

April 11, 2016 conference call minutes were previously approved by email.

Results from electionbuddy.com were announced. The new Vice President will be Mike Bley. New councilors will be Joseph Hoefler and Katie Thudium. Mrs. Adcock announced that 107 votes were cast out of the 274 sent out which is 39.1%. This was much in keeping with the usual amount of votes cast. President Drayna reported that due to Mike Bley becoming the Vice President of the Association, this would leave a vacancy on Council since he was a councilor whose term was to expire in June of 2018. Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Shawn Brown as Councilor to fill the vacancy left by Mike Bley. In the event Mr. Brown declines to serve, motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Doug Morrison as Councilor to fill the vacancy. It was later announced that Mr. Brown accepted the position.

2. Convention Items and Meeting with Hotel Staff – Doug Morrison
Council met with the staff of the hotel. All introduced themselves and their duties. It was mentioned that there was a need for a shuttle to the golf course for the tournament that afternoon. The hotel staff indicated they would manage that request.

After the hotel staff left, Mr. Morrison reviewed the overall schedule for the convention with Council. President Drayna commended Mr. Morrison for the excellent job he had done in organizing the convention. Things were running smoothly so far.

3. Old Business – Sarah Drayna, President
Life Member
There were three candidates for life membership in the Association, namely Helmut Fritz, Prasad Inaganti and Roger Langlais. The bios of the first two were previously emailed to 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. Motion was made and seconded and unanimously passed to give Helmut Fritz, Prasad Inaganti and Roger Langlais life status in the Association.

2016 Rowles Scholarship Recipient
It was announced that one application had been received for the 2016 Rowles Scholarship. The committee recommended to Council that the one application submitted be awarded the scholarship. Council previously approved such recommendation. The 2016 recipients of the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship is Bailey B. Keyser, son of Craig and Marianne Keyser who are both attending the convention. The award will be done during the Annual Business Meeting on Friday.

4. Editor’s Report – Robert F. White
Mr. White submitted the following written report:

Dear ALCA Officers and Councilors:
June 14, 2016

Editor’s Report

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

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We have had a dramatic increase in new manuscript submissions, with submissions from countries and labs that have not recently published in JALCA. This greater selectivity has enabled further improvements in quality and diversity of technologies we offer our readers. Our larger more international Editorial Board,
which now numbers 19, enables more focused expertise and in depth reviews. Our August issue will include the Wilson Lecture and report the Proceedings of our June 2016 Annual Meeting. I am now scheduling manuscripts for our December and January issues. We have recently adopted some updated style and formatting changes suggested by our reliable publishing resource KSA&D.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

Discussion was held regarding the Editor’s Report. Mr. Peters said that the number of manuscripts received in 2015 was remarkable. Mr. White said it was one of the highest number received in years. Discussion followed regarding the members of the Editorial Board. Motion was made, seconded and passed that to be on the Editorial Board you must be a member of the ALCA in good standing.

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 reported that the RLC had its usual meeting at the USDA in April. The Education Committee has 3 members who are no longer ALCA members. He spoke about the importance to provide education in the leather industry and how there was a real need for it in the US. He will talk again with Steve Lange about the possibility of merging the Leather Technology Correspondence Course with the University of Cincinnati. If this is not possible he suggested finding alternate options.

President Drayna reported that Mr. Schelling wanted to be relieved of his duties as Chair of the Sustainability Committee. He felt he was making no progress in organizing the main committee with other subcommittees. Discussion followed regarding the viability of the current technical committee and subcommittees and how to organize them to be of use and purpose to our membership. A meeting with representatives from the LWG, LIA and USHSLA along with Steve Lange and David Peters will be arranged regarding US standards. No changes will be made at this time in the technical committee and subcommittees until after this meeting.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Technical Committee Report.

6. Financial Report – Carol Adcock
The council reviewed the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2016 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 327 members consisting of 162 active, 44 active life, 3 active life mutual, 19 active life retired, 18 active mutual, 39 active retired, 35 SLTC, 5 SLTC students, and 2 ALCA students. It was noted that two members and/or friends of the leather industry had passed away since the last Annual Convention. They were Jim Biles d. April 7, 2016 and Mila Aldema-Ramos d. November 15, 2015. A moment of silence will be held for all of them at the Annual Business Meeting. It was also noted that two members, James Haggerty and George Stockman, had been given retired status with the Association.

For 2016, 185 paying members contributed $37,733. There is outstanding approximately $2,629 in dues from the SLTC after subtracting the dues of our mutual members. Subscriptions for 2016 have brought in $11,325 in fees and $3,989 in postage and handling charges. Discounts have been given in the amount of $838.50, making a total of subscriptions and postage and handling charges minus discounts in the amount of $14,475.

Fourteen new members have joined ALCA since the last Annual Convention: eleven active members, one student member and two SLTC including members. The bylaws state, “Any member whose dues are unpaid on April 1st shall be dropped from membership.” Accordingly two members who did not respond to the numerous invoices sent them were dropped from the membership roles for non-payment of their 2016 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 March 31, 2016 our Portfolio was valued at $186,035. For the year the portfolio value has increased by $1,695 since December 31, 2015. As of June 15, 2016 our Portfolio was valued at $183,255.

The following represents the present Asset Allocation Detail

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$183,255</td>
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Respectfully Submitted
Andreas Rhein
Mr. Rhein was absent, but there were no questions about the report. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Ways & Means Committee Report.

8. Annual Convention – 2017 Annual Convention
Mr. Lehman signed the contract for the 2017 convention last year, with a deposit of $5,000 being sent in March of this year. It will be held at the Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, NC. The dates will be June 13-16, 2017. The rates at the Carolina will be as follows:

- Single: $427.09 per night
- Double: $283.43 per person per night

The format for the convention will be like the 2015 schedule. Plans are well underway.

9. Committee Appointments– Sarah Drayna, President
President Drayna announced the following appointments had been previously sent to Council:

- 2017 Nominating Committee: Sarah Drayna (Chair), Steve Gilberg, Gary Rennerfeldt
- 2017 ALSOP Committee: Nick Latona (Chair), Prasad Inaganti, Andy Rhein
- 2017 O’Flaherty Award Committee: Beat Schelling (Chair), Joe Hoefler, Lori Hyllengren
- 2018 Wilson Selection Committee: Alex Campbell (Chair), Dietrich Tegtmeyer, Robert White

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the appointments as written.

10. New Business– Sarah Drayna, President
Formal Organization of 2017 Technical Program Committee
It was felt that the difficult time recruiting a candidate for Vice President this year resulted from the new two year term and having to put together two technical programs in a row. In an effort to help the Vice President with the 2017 technical program, each Councilor was charged with providing one speaker. Mr. Peters felt he could contribute three to five speakers for next year. Discussion followed identifying different companies that should present next year and the registration fee for speakers. It was felt that at least half of next year’s speakers could be obtained during this year’s convention.

Appointment of Councilor to Replace Mike Bley
A replacement for Mr. Bley as a Councilor was approved earlier in the meeting.

Identification of Future Volunteers
A list has been compiled of potential volunteers for the Association in the areas of Officer, Councilor, Convention Committee, Technical Committee, and Selection Committee. The Officers will review this list and try to broaden our base of volunteers.

2017 Convention Vice Chair; 2018 and 2019 Convention Chair
Sarah Drayna was nominated as the 2017 Convention Vice Chair and the 2018 and 2019 Convention Chair. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to appoint Sarah Drayna the 2017 Convention Vice chair and the 2018 and 2019 Convention Chair. As part of her duties, she will recommend a site to Council for both conventions. Mrs. Drayna graciously accepted these positions.

11. Adjournment
The next Council meeting will be Friday, June 24, at 8 am. It will be a short breakfast meeting before the technical sessions begin for the day including the current Council as well as the new members of Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
President Sarah Drayna welcomed Officers, Councilors and Members and called to order the annual business meeting of the 112th 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 3 new SLTC members. Congratulations were extended to two members, James Haggerty and George Stockman, who had met the requirements and were approved for retired status with the Association since the last annual meeting along with three members, Helmut Fritz, Prasad Inaganti and Roger Langlais, who were given life status in the Association.

2. Officers and Council
a. Officer Changes
At the end of the convention, David Peters moves to President and Mike Bley becomes Vice President.

b. Council Changes and Presentation of Certificates
Retiring councilors Gary Rennerfeldt and Chris Koelblinger were thanked for their service and contributions during the past three years. Mr. Rennerfeldt was absent and will be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation during the Banquet. The results of the election were announced and the incoming councilors for 2016-2019 will be Joseph Hoefer and Katie Thudium. The new councilors were congratulated, and appreciation was extended to the Nominating Committee, Steve Lange, Chair, Jeff Miller and Nathan Mullinix, for their service to the Association. It was then announced that Shawn Brown had been approved to fill the vacancy on Council, replacing Mike Bley.

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. He reported that the RLC met April 20 at the USDA. The Methods and Specifications Subcommittee met right after the RLC meeting with the ASTM 31 Committee. One of the main topics was the atomic absorption method. Volunteers were needed to participate in a round robin study on the Atomic Absorption method for unfixed chrome in wet blue. The next meeting will be held September 28 and 29 at the Leather Research Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati.

The Education Committee reported that two students graduated last year from the program and currently 5 students are enrolled. We are looking into possibilities with the University of Cincinnati or other colleges to improve our educational program and make it more interesting for future students.

One of the co-chairs of the Methods and Specifications Subcommittee, Lori Hyllengren, reviewed the guidelines for the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship. She gave the following report:

I am happy to announce this year’s Randy Rowles Memorial scholarship is awarded to Bailey Keyser. Bailey is the son of Craig Keyser and is studying biomedical engineering at the Newark College of Engineering.

Bailey’s career goals involve turning what sounds like science fiction into reality. Bailey hopes to create a sensor located inside the body that can differentiate neural impulses sent from recreated human skin to the brain. In other words, layers of human skin will be grown over prosthetic limbs. By way of the sensor, the skin will be connected to the nervous system and the brain will receive feeling sensations similar to the original limb. This is very exciting science and just think of the people it could benefit someday.

On behalf of the 2016 selection committee, consisting of Sarah Drayna, Beat Shelling, CK Liu, Okey Abara, Nick Latona and myself, we congratulate Bailey and wish him much success in achieving his goals.

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 2017 Nominating Committee were approved:

Sarah Drayna (Chair), Steve Gilberg, and Gary Rennerfeldt
The following appointments approved by Council were announced:

• 2017 O’Flaherty Service Award Committee: Beat Schelling (Chair), Joe Hoefler and Lori Hyllengren
• 2017 Alsop Award Committee: Nick Latona (Chair), Prasad Inaganti and Andy Rhein
• 2018 Wilson Memorial Lecture Committee: Alex Campbell (Chair), Dietrich Tegtmeyer and Robert White
• 2017 Convention Vice Chair: Sarah Drayna
• 2018 and 2019 Hotel Arrangements and Convention Chair: Sarah Drayna

Andy Rhein was appointed to another term as our IULTCS Representative from June of 2016 to June of 2019. Appreciation was given for his willingness to serve again.

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 ezine 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 327 members, of whom 185 are paying members, was announced.

b. Convention Account

A bar chart was shown indicating the income and expenses for the annual conventions since 2009. The chart reflected revenue of $55,150, expenses of $35,623 for a profit for 2015 of $19,527.

c. Convention Attendees

A review of the attendance for 2016 revealed that 15 tanners representing 10 tanning companies, 41 suppliers representing 17 individual chemical companies and 14 individual equipment companies, 11 research scientists representing 6 organizations, and 2 educators representing 2 universities or technical schools were present. Other attendees included 2 ALCA staff, 2 press, 3 consultants, and 9 guests for a grand total of 85.

d. Investments

A bar chart was shown reflecting the portfolio performance since 2008. 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, 2016, our investments were valued at $185,715. The year-to-date liquid earnings were $2,887 ($962/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 12 gold, 8 silver, and 8 bronze donors. ASSOMAC and the Italian Trade Agency sponsored one of the technical sessions, namely Session 5 – Tanning Technologies and Equipment. Buckman again sponsored Larry Shaver, golf pro, to analyze golf swings 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 7 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. 2017 Annual Meeting
   The Association will host its 113th ALCA Annual Meeting at Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, NC, June 13-16, 2017. The 2017 Convention Chair will be Lee Lehman, with Sarah Drayna being the 2017 Convention Vice Chair.

8. 2017 Wilson Lecture
   The 2017 Wilson Lecturer was announced. It will be Federico Brugnoli, Technical Coordinator of the European Sectoral Skills Councils for 3 EU sectors (Fashion, Commerce and Automotive). His bio was given and will be posted on the Association’s website under Annual Convention/Wilson Lecture.

9. In Memory
   There was a moment of silence observed for members and friends in the leather industry who passed:
   - Jim Biles d. April 7, 2016

10. Adjournment
    President Sarah Drayna called for a motion to adjourn the annual business meeting held at the 112th convention of the American Leather Chemists Association. The motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Minutes
American Leather Chemists Association
Oglebay Resort & Conference Center, Wheeling, WV
June 24, 2016

Officers: Sarah Drayna, David Peters
Councilors: Mike Bley, Jeff Miller, Beat Schelling
New Councilors: Joe Hoefler, Katie Thudium
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. New Councilors Joe Hoefler and Katie Thudium were welcomed along with new Vice President Mike Bley. Thanks were extended to outgoing Councilors and Convention Chair Doug Morrison.

2. Handing over of Gavel to New President – David Peters
   President Drayna turned the gavel over to new President Peters.

3. What to Expect Next
   Discussion followed regarding who we are, what we are and where we are going. The need for more revenue was discussed. Two other leather organizations have the same problem but are receiving government funding which helps. We cannot get government funding since we are a domestic association and do not participate in overseas events. President Peters talked to several of the companies that sponsor the Annual Convention asking if they would be opposed to a new structure for the sponsorship campaign. Most said it would not affect whether or not they attended the convention. It was felt that most of the Association’s services were very inexpensive and could be increased. Mrs. Drayna will work on a new sponsorship campaign together with a new pricing schedule for advertisers and sponsors for the 2017 convention which may include advertising in the technical program. We also will investigate expanding the number of pages in the convention brochure.

4. Major Issues Before Council
   Increasing Income of Association
   It was felt that the importance of the Journal was underplayed.
This is something the Association needs to improve.

**Membership Retention and Recruitment**

Members of Council were asked to tell a friend about the *Journal* as well as the Association. Obtaining new members would also help to increase the revenues of the Association.

5. **What is our Vision for the ALCA in the coming years? How ill the ALCA prosper?**

The current objectives of the Association were discussed and how to connect to the new generation and businesses. Mexico was mentioned as a prime player in the leather industry that was not represented very well either at the convention or in the *Journal*. We need to get more involvement from China and India as well. The Association’s vision or mission statement needs to be refreshed. Bob White and Katie Thudium volunteered to work on updating the mission statement and will have something to Council by August 24.

It was also felt that an email survey should be sent out to the convention attendees. We should work on ways to get more tanners to attend the Annual Convention.

A meeting was held with David Peters, Mike Bley, Steve Lange, John Wittenborn and Steve Sothmann regarding the RSL list. Mr. Lange had prepared a list, but there seems to be a disconnect between the operational and commercial side. The result of the meeting was that a joint statement and list will be compiled and signed by the three presidents, namely, David Peters for the ALCA, John Wittenborn for the LIA and Steve Sothmann for the USSHLA, to be given to the LWG with an effort to have the LWG and their members endorse the ALCA RSL list.

President Peters went around the room asking each attendee to tell what they wanted to see happen with the Association. The following things were mentioned:

- Revenue generation;
- Additional use of the *Journal* with such things as editorials;
- Convention sponsorships increased;
- Broader areas of topics covered during the technical program;
- More papers covering leather finishing;
- Coverage during technical program of current hot topics and issues (suggested that Simon Yarwood might be helpful with this);
- More dedication from members and finding next generation of members;
- More education regarding leather;
- More papers relevant to tanners;
- Increase membership by younger generation such as students; find ways to reduce their rates;
- Group papers more by topic;
- Revamp sponsorship campaign of convention.

6. **Wrap up/Next Council Meeting**

Council will hold a conference call the end of July or first of August to discuss Mrs. Drayna’s proposed convention sponsorship campaign going forward. Council will be polled to see when they are available. The fall Council meeting will be a conference call to be set in mid October at a later date.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Adcock, Executive Secretary