



# American Institute of Chemical Engineers

## Dallas Section

### **AIChE Dallas Section Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (January 23, 2025)**

A Dallas Section Executive Committee meeting was held via Zoom on January 23, 2025, starting at 7:00 pm with 5 participants. The list of meeting attendees is provided below:

#### Meeting Attendees

- 1) Jennifer LaCour, Chair
- 2) Aaron Hanks, Secretary
- 3) Billy Jack "B.J." Riddle, Treasurer
- 4) Fernando J. Aguirre, Past Chair
- 5) Jaimie Sutherland, Director

#### Minutes

- Jennifer presented the slide deck for the section meeting.
- Fernando recommended adding a bullet point about the science fair judging opportunity.
- February, March, and April still need speakers. Fernando will give Jim Muhitch the first shot at presenting in February.
- Beth Hilburn may be able to give a talk.
- B.J. noted that \$9.99 had been taken out of the old Personal checking account to make a PayPal payment that was not authorized. Chase Bank reclaimed the money from PayPal and put it back into the account. That account was then closed and the cash assets transferred into the new Business checking account. Also, one day after the Christmas party, an attempt was made by an unknown source to take about \$6.50 out of the Business checking account. The transaction was denied by Chase. B.J.'s debit card was cancelled and a new one issued. There is \$400 in Dues Income that has been sent by AIChE HQ in New York destined for the AIChE Dallas Local Section account but never arrived. All requests to redirect the Dues Income funds were quality assurance checked by Chase Bank and were found to be accurate and on time. The lost Dues are being audited by AIChE HQ and AIChE Dallas Local Section is awaiting the findings. The financial statements have been adjusted to be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices as we await arrival of the Dues from AIChE HQ.
- Some of the staff at Two Guys from Italy were not familiar with the standing agreement to allow AIChE to use the private room at no charge. EC to discuss with the staff during the Tuesday meeting to verify if it was just a matter of staff being unfamiliar with the arrangement or if there is a change in policy.
- Fernando has made an introduction with the AIChE Spring Meeting committee and let them know about the Dallas Section and asked them to let us know how we may be of service. He is waiting to hear back from the committee.
- Plant Tour – B.J. is working to be introduced to the chemical engineers, invite them to our AIChE Dallas Local Section meeting, and potentially setting up a tour of a Univar plant in Garland.



- Fernando proposed to continue to offer an incentive to waive local dues for 1 year for 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees in order to encourage new members. *Following the meeting, an email vote was conducted, and the proposal was approved by 4 votes in favor and no votes against.*
- There are around 350 national members located locally, but only around 50-70 local members.
- Fernando reminded B.J. that Jason Ballengee had paid for 2 years of local dues last year. B.J. will take an action to request national to list Jason as a local member since he has paid locally.
- K-12 outreach – Jennifer presented an idea of putting together chemistry themed demonstration kits to hand out at Earth Day, the science fair at Fair Park, or similar large gathering. AIChE’s website lists some ideas for demonstrations. Jennifer will bring it up at the section meeting.
- Jennifer shared some ideas from the Society of Women Engineers to encourage more engagement from members such as a book club, and member spotlight.
- Jaime proposed that it would be interesting to see how many of the 50-70 local members have attended a meeting in the last year since it seems odd that people would join the local section but not attend. Fernando will look into the metrics and let us know what he finds out at the Tuesday meeting. The group discussed that it may be worth doing a survey to find out why local members are not attending.

Minutes recorded by Aaron Hanks  
January 23, 2025