

President's Annual Report

ACHS Annual Council Meeting

Hyatt Regency, Savannah, Georgia

February 20-23, 2003

1. Following the February 2002 Annual Council Meeting in Baton Rouge, in addition to updating appointments on existing ACHS committees, I appointed a Long Range Planning and Strategic Issues committee, chaired by Tom Sweeney, to survey member societies and determine priorities relating to honor societies. Tom's committee completed an excellent report that was extremely helpful to the new Board of Directors at their June meeting in East Lansing.
2. In the spring, I developed the president's letter for an earlier mailing than usual to university administrators. Because of national attention to problems relating to the honors community, I thought it urgent that ACHS voice its established position on maintaining high standards and alert the academic and honors communities concerning non-certified so-called honors groups.
3. I scheduled a Board of Directors' meeting for June 11-14 at the ACHS headquarters in East Lansing, Michigan. This first meeting of the new Board of Directors proved to be highly productive in three areas: (a) board training, (b) strategic planning, and (c) positive actions. (Please see the mid-term report as to the specifics of this meeting.)
4. To keep the membership informed about the new Board's plans and actions, at the suggestion of the Board, I prepared a mid-term report that was disseminated early in the fall of 2002.
5. In keeping with the Association's endeavor to establish connections and/or partners in the academic and honors community, Dorothy Mitstifer and I participated in the NCHC annual conference in Salt Lake City in November of 2002. We served as panelists in a session chaired by NCHC's past president Hew Joiner that was entitled "Partnerships in Honors: Combining Efforts in a Common Cause."
6. At the beginning of the past year, I renewed the charge to the Standards & Definitions Committee to implement a compliance review of ACHS member societies. Appointing John LaPrade as chair of the committee, I assisted him in developing a format for the review. That committee has functioned efficiently in completing an intensive review of 24 societies—a commendable and time-consuming process.
7. With a change in ACHS governance approved last February, it was necessary to develop a selection process and to appoint a committee for choosing an executive director for ACHS. Under the able leadership of Jim Viehland, whom I asked to serve as chair, that committee provided candidates for Board interviews.
8. I was pleased to accept invitations to participate in special celebrations of two member societies—Gamma Theta Upsilon and Pi Gamma Mu.
9. The past year was an especially busy one in inaugurating the new policy governance with a Board meeting that included board training, strategic planning, and the general business of the Association. I am convinced that the new Board is primed to make ACHS a more viable organization and a stronger voice in the honors community. My highest commendations go to these new Board members for their willingness to serve on their own time and expense and to their unwavering commitment to the mission of ACHS. They provide a forceful leadership that will continue to enhance the image and stability of ACHS.
10. I must add that the effective communication and the implementation of my responsibilities and those of the Board were due largely to the efficiency of our Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Mitstifer. I personally appreciate her sincere commitment to the Association's history, its mission to maintain high standards, and its vital role in the academic and honors community.