

**2024 SERMACS Steering Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**  
**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – 8:04 AM**  
**Building 2 Floor 4 Room 204 J**  
**Complimentary Breakfast from 7:30am - 8:00 am**

Attending Local Section Representatives

Alabama	Kevin Shaughnessy
Carolina-Piedmont	Jordan Poler
Chattanooga	Jared Pienkos
Coastal Georgia	Mitch Weiland
East Tennessee	Richard Mayes
Eastern North Carolina	Elizabeth Walters
Florida	Carmen Gauthier
Georgia	Cheryl Trusty
Hampton Roads	Dmitry Liskin
Lexington	Brent Eldridge
Nashville	Jennifer Mckenzie
North Alabama	Olaf Nachtigall
Orlando	Michel Johnson
Savannah River	Chris Bannochie
South Carolina	Bhavya Singhi
Southwest Georgia	Gopeekrishnan Sreenilayam
Tampa Bay	Christian Tang
Tennessee-Virginia Highlands	John Engleman
Virginia	Tom DeVore
Virginia Blue Ridge	Kim Lane
Western Carolinas	Zachary Davis

Other attendees:

Name	Local Section	Role
Mary Engelman	Tennessee Valley Highlands	Past Chair of SERMACS Board
Katherine Glasgow	Central North Carolina	Past Meeting (2023) general chair
Chris Chouinard	Western Carolina	Future meeting (2025) general chair
Ajay Mallia	Georgia	Current meeting (2024) general chair
Mark Mitchell	Georgia	Current meeting (2024) program chair
Sara Hubbard	Central Arkansas	SW Region Board Chair
Tim Brewster	Memphis	SERMACS 2026 General Chair
Alyson Frietas		ACS Staff
Will Lynch	Coastal Georgia	SERMACS Treasurer
Tracy Hamilton	Alabama	SERMACS secretary

Cliff Padgett	Coastal Georgia	SERMACS chair
Brianna Blevins		ACS Staff
William Alexander	Memphis	
Brent Feske	Coastal Georgia	Chair elect of SERMACS Board

1. Introduction (ACS Staff/Board of Directors and Executive Committee) – Chair of SE Region – Cliff Padgett
2. Review and Acceptance of 2023 Steering Committee Minutes – Secretary – Tracy Hamilton approved unanimously
3. Treasurer – Will Lynch (Financial Report)

\$265,980 total funds, \$85,157 in meeting loss funds

Year net formally \$26,695.17, but 2022 and 2023 deposits came in.

Board expenses are stable, about \$19K

John Engelman moved, Chris Bannochi seconded, \$20,850 is approved unanimously

4. Elections
  - a. Nominations for Chair-Elect (2023 – 2025): 5-minute candidate presentations, followed by election.
    1. Mary Engelman
    2. Chris Bannochie
  - b. Nominating Committee (Call for Volunteers) – none from the floor

Chris Bannochie won 18-10

5. Current officers
  - a. Treasurer Will Lynch term (2023-2025)
  - b. Secretary Tracy Hamilton term (2023-2025)
  - c. Cliff Padgett, Chair, will become past Chair of SE Region in 2025
  - d. Brent Feske, Chair-elect, will become Chair of SE Region in 2025
  - e. General Chair of 2023, Katherine Glasgow, rotates off
  - f. General Chair of 2024, Ajay Mallia
  - g. General Chair of 2025, Chris Chouinard
  - h. representative from SERMACS 2026, Timothy Brewster, rotates on in 2025

Zach Davis from Western Carolinas, Tracy Hamilton from Alabama are the nominating committee  
Cheryl Trusty is willing to run for Secretary for next term (2026-2028)

6. Local Section Bids for SERMACS 2029
  - a. Jordan Poler (Carolina-Piedmont local section)

Jordan Poler is chair of Carolina-Piedmont

The bid presentation was pointing out that the last SERMACS Carolina-Piedmont had one of the largest attendances in the history of SERMACS, and turned over \$100K in profit. They already have

high interest from industry. The food and beverage provided for attendees was substantial. There are plenty of hotels in downtown Charlotte, and a major airport hub in the city.

Chris Bannochie moves to accept bid, Katherine Glasgow seconded, passed unanimously

7. Upcoming Meeting Reports:

- a. 2025 – Orlando (Final Budget Approval) – Chris Chouinard and Chris Avery (General Co-Chairs)

DoubleTree at SeaWorld October 26-29, 2025

Theme of SERMACS 2025 is Chemistry in the Sunshine

Website is professional, clean design

Key officers are in place:

1. General Co- Chairs – Christopher Chouinard, Clemson University  
Chris Avery, US Global Change Research Program/ICF
2. Program Chair – Vasileios Anagnostopoulous, University of Central Florida (UCF)
3. Treasurer – Van Quach, Seminole State University, Current Orlando Section Treasurer
4. Exhibition Chair – Michel Johnson, Current Orlando Section Marketing/Communications Chair
5. Education Chair – Christopher Randles, University of Central Florida (UCF)

Other Key People:

Michael Hampton, UCF – Previously served as SERMACS 1987 – Orlando General Chair

Darlene Slattery (Awards Chair) – Current Orlando Section Councilor

Nicole Lapeyrouse, UCF (Grad Fair Chair) – Current Orlando Section Chair

Laura Sessions, Valencia College (Website Committee) – Orlando Section Alt Councilor

Duy Le, UCF (Website Committee)

8 breakouts in one building, 8 in another, expo, posters in different building (ask Chris C for Powerpoint)

Discounts for park tickets

SERMACS Board Business meeting Wed morning October 29, 2025

SERMACS, Inc approved the budget for expenses, \$367,861. The SERMACS, Inc liability is \$36,786 The budget was based on conservative attendance numbers (2039, which is fewer than SERMACS alone in 2024)

- b. 2026 – Memphis (Preliminary Budget Approval) – Timothy Brewster and William Alexander (General co-Chairs)

Theme: Molecules in Memphis: Bridging Chemistry and Society

Key chairs are in place

General Chairs Tim Brewster and Will Alexander

Program Chairs Nathan DeYonker (UMemphis) and Will Eckenhoff (Rhodes)

Treasurer Mike Brown (UMemphis)

Expo Chair Chuck Garner (UMemphis)

Grad Fair Chair Kim Brien (Rhodes)

New Local Section Chair (probably) Kerry Barnett (St. Jude)

Tim Brewster will be SERMACS Executive board representative

Two floors, one entrance with easy to control admission

All convention center vendors need to be used

St Jude will be major target sponsor

Going to combine Southern Chemist award with SERMACS awards banquet

Wed to Saturday

A preliminary budget was presented. Net revenue \$434K, Net expenses \$376K (Food & Beverage 75K, Audio Visual 125K)

- c. 2027 – Savannah – Brent Feske and Will Lynch (General co-chairs)

No contract yet, the 2019 meeting was signed 18 months out

Brianne Blevins will do site visit

- d. 2028 – Virginia Beach – Dmitry Liskin and Kyle Lambert (general co-chairs)

- 8. Immediate Past Host Section Report – Durham – Katherine Glasgow

The theme Superheroes of Chemistry – Chemistry Con was a lot of fun for participants

Co-affiliated meetings Southeastern Magnetic Resonance Conference, UNC Solar Energy Research Center Annual Conference, and the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Local Section

\$103,450 in sponsorships, the organizers used matching only for symposia rather than set amount plus matching

Expenses higher than budgeted, mostly extra F&B. Revenue much higher than expected.

Final profit: \$102,556.36 (\$20,511.27 issued to SERM)

The annual report will be converted to PDF for website

Main lessons learned

NC Local section had 6 executive committee members identified in bid; recommend increase to at least 8 for bid

Identify person to confirm information on website is correct

Having SERMACS executive team involved in Awards Banquet (which was implemented subsequently in 2024) to provide consistency between meetings is welcomed

9. Officer Reports:

- a. 2024 General Chair – Ajay Mallia (Update on SERMACS 2024)

Near records of abstract and attendees

Ajay said the meeting will financially breakeven

10. New Business

- a. SERMACS Philosophy on Registration Fees. (Will Lynch)

Will proposes giving guidance on advance registration to 50% of National meeting fees. With a gap in the premium, associate, nonmember to drive membership

Will Avery agrees the help goes both ways, to help local sections with membership numbers and it will add local section dues, to give more LS members in a section also.

Mary Engelman points out ACS membership gives free membership to one division.

Chris Bannochie asked Brienne Blevins if Regional Meetings is going to three time-based registration periods: early, advance, regular.

Will Lynch would be willing to draft a philosophy, talk to executive committee, then send to Steering committee for comment.

Chris Bannochie said any process would need several iterations with M&E to get the numbers for registration fees straight.

b. Awards Ceremony Procedures (Mary Engelman)

Cliff Padgett will be on awards committee for 2025, and contact the SERMACS/SWRM 2025 Awards chair

Upcoming Award Anniversaries

20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stan Israel at SERMACS 2025,

20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ann Nalley at SERMACS 2026

\$1000 is enough for High School teacher award, differing policies between SERMACS and SWRM for two teachers made it awkward in the past

Will Lynch proposes dropping the \$1000 from the budget since CHED gives them \$1000

Sarah Hubbard says SWRM is going to give an honorarium to their teachers

There was much discussion of different proposals, so

Mary Engelman proposed **Will Lynch working with small group (include Tim Brewster, Kevin Shaughnessy, Will Lynch, Chris Chouinard, Sara Hubbard (SWRM), Cheryl Trusty)**