



**NEACT ANNUAL MEETING
Committee Reports
June 23, 2026 7:30pm
Virtual Meeting**

President's Report, Frank Hoek

President Elect's Report, Chris Koutros

**New England Association of Chemistry Teachers
President-Elect's Report**

Submitted by Christopher Koutros
June 15, 2026

Newsletter Distribution and Engagement

From March through June 2026, monthly email newsletters were distributed to the membership. These communications highlighted NEACT events, news from relevant divisions of the American Chemical Society, and featured a new "Cool Resource of the Month" segment. The newsletter format continues the established structure initiated by Frank Hoek, which includes a standard introduction, historical chemistry facts, event calendars, ChemChats, division meetings, and sections for member involvement.

Analysis of the statistics from the past three months indicates strong engagement, with a consistent 66% open rate. Notable click-through activity included 24 clicks for the Summer Conference and 19 for ChemChats. During this period, four recipients chose to unsubscribe. Detailed engagement metrics are provided in the table below.

Month	Total Recipients	Delivered (Rate)	Bounced (Rate)	Opened (Rate)	Total Clicks (Rate)
April	356	348 (98%)	8 (2%)	230 (66%)	47 (7%)
May	366	353 (96%)	13 (4%)	232 (66%)	60 (9%)
June	279	270 (97%)	9 (3%)	178 (66%)	30 (9%)

Collaboration with NESACS

I participated in several committee meetings with the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS). Since our initial joint meeting last summer, a committee of NEACT and NESACS leadership have met monthly to develop collaborative initiatives aimed at encouraging high school students to explore careers in chemistry. Two of these initiatives have progressed into formal programs scheduled for launch at the upcoming NEACT Summer Conference.

I personally piloted one of these programs with my students. A NESACS-affiliated scientist volunteer visited the school to discuss their career path and professional role in the pharmaceutical industry. Following the presentation, students performed a caffeine extraction and recrystallization experiment from supplements. This activity was selected for its relevance to pharmaceutical work and its feasibility within a standard classroom timeframe using accessible equipment.

Recordings Organization

In partnership with Sue Klemmer, I published four ChemChat recordings to the NEACT website. Furthermore, I successfully linked 58 YouTube recordings from various virtual workshops and conferences spanning 2020 to 2024. I provided direct access to the programs from previous Summer Conferences as part of this work. Future objectives involve better curating the collection by identifying high-value material while removing or

archiving sessions that are no longer useful, like those about obsolete technology or emergency remote instruction.

Officers and Committee Members NEACT 2025(as of 6/25) Elected as of 6-25/ Appointed 2025				
	Executive comm Chair - Jerusha Vogel			
Exec	Officer / CommitteChair	Due for renewal	First	Last
V	President (25-27)	not elected	Frank	Hoek
EV	President-Elect (25-27)	spring 2027	Chris	Koutros
V	Immediate Past-President (25-27)	not elected	Jerusha	Vogel
EV	Treasurer (24-26)	spring 26	Katherine	Fogarty
EV	Membership Secretary (25-27)	spring 27		
EV	Recording Secretary (24-26)	Spring 2026	Susan	Schmidt
EV	Northern Division Chair (25-27)	spring 27	Judith	White
EV	Central Division Chair (25-27)	spring 27	Sean	Regan
EV	Western Division Chair (24-26)	spring 26	Donna	Kaiser
EV	Southern Division Chair (24-26)	spring 26	Teresa	Arey
A	Publicity Agent (25-26)	appointed	Nicole	Ager
A	Web Site Coordinator (25-26)	appointed	Kristen	Vanderveen
A	Listserv Moderator (25-26)	appointed		
A	Auditor (25-26)	appointed	Donna	Kaiser
A	Curator, Archives (25-26)	appointed	Mary	Madden

**Officers and Committee Members NEACT 2025(as of 6/25) Elected as of
6-25/ Appointed 2025**

A	ContactHours/PDP Chair (25-26)	appointed	Karen	Flint
A	Resident Agent (1 yr)	appointed	Katherine	Fogarty
A	TimmAwardSelectComm(23-26)	appointed	Jerusha	Vogel
A	TimmASComm (25-8),	appointed	Kathy	Siok
A	TimmAward SelectComm (24-7)	appointed	Mary	Madden
A	JohnSwistakSelectComm(24-27)	appointed	Wendy	Czerwinski
A	John SwistakSelectComm(23-26)	appointed	Mary	Madden
	Chem Chat Coordinator	appointed	Sue	Klemmer
	Registrar Chair Summer Conference	appointed	Kathy	Siok
	Programming Chair of Summer Conference	appointed	Kristen	Vanderveen
E V	Treasurer - Endowment/Timm(24-27)	spring 27	Kathy	Siok
E V	TrusteeEndowment/Timm(25-28)	spring 28	Mary	Madden
E V	TrusteeEndowment/Timm(23-26)	spring 26	Meledath	Govindan
E V	Nominations* Chair is past president	spring 27	Jerusha	Vogel
E V	Nominations (23-26)	spring 26	Leslie	Bishop
E V	Nominations (25-28)	spring 28		

June 2026 Membership Secretary Report

June 15, 2026

The elected membership secretary was unable to fulfill the role, so I continued in it for another year. The Wild Apricot website continues to be an excellent platform for maintaining NEACT's membership. As of June 15th 2026 we have 173 active members (20 more than this point last year) of which 28 are complimentary, 11 are emeritus, 9 are honorary and 125 are regular members.

Respectively submitted,
Jerusha J. Vogel
NEACT Membership Secretary

ChemChat report for 2025-26 Sue Klemmer

ChemChat Annual Report for NEACT 2026

June 11th, 2026
Sue Klemmer

Ten ChemChats were held between August 2025 and June 2026. (The October 'Chat was cancelled due to an issue on my end.) The average signups were about 25 and the average attendance was about 9. The smaller sessions allowed opportunities for participants to really dig deeply into 1-2 aspects of the topic, while the larger sessions opened us up to a broad range of ideas and questions.

All the topics were generated by participants. Participants include a rich mix of college and high school teachers as well as researchers, retirees and non-classroom educators such as museum staff. Few participants have requested professional development credit but that process has been smooth.

On the technical end, I have started adding the recorded chat when it includes multiple references to websites and programs. The NEACT website work on documenting ChemChats is a work in progress (thank you, Chris!) and I expect over the next year there will be a transition to briefer News reports and more information available on the videos page.

ChemChats will pause for July and restart August 13th, continuing the 2nd Thursday of each month timeline. I expect to run sessions on AI and phenomenon-based teaching, as those topics are highly popular, keep being requested, and change over time. The other topics I will continue to elicit from participants.

8/21	25	12	48%	Chem in the Real World
9/11	25	7	28%	Google Classroom
10/9	cancelled			Favorite Demonstrations
11/13	30	9	30%	AI in the Chemistry Classroom: What's New?
12/11	26	9	35%	Holiday Chemistry
01/09	24	4	17%	Favorite Demonstrations
2/12	24	5	21%	Electrochemistry
3/12	25	11	44%	Prepping for the AP Chem Test
4/9	19	6.5	34%	Thermodynamics
5/7	22	4	18%	Phenomenon-Based Chemistry: we digressed into teaching/assessing/learning in the age of AI
6/11				Books and Articles: For Teachers and for Classes

NEACT Northern Division Report 2025-26

Judith White

Northern Division Fall Meeting report from November 2025

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, held a meeting at UNH Durham in the Parsons Science complex from 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM. A total of 14 participants attended from New Hampshire and Massachusetts. One participant was an Elementary School Teacher who was looking to connect with science teachers in the area as well as to experience what the college would provide. There were retired educators as well as presently employed as high school teachers. Most participants were from the public school sectors.

Registration included name badges, coffee & muffins, fellowship introducing UNH chemistry graduate students along with a mug with the UNH Chemistry Logo as a gift for participating. A lunch reception was provided with time to network.

The following program was followed:

UNH Graduate student Aylin Aykanat provided a presentation on “MOF’s (Metal-Organic Framework) Research” along with classroom connections. Carmela Amato-Wierda UNH Chemistry Professor spoke on the UNH “Outreach & K-12 partnerships”. Tours of the UNH Parsons Hall and the University Instrumentation Center

were held. A hands-on MOF's lab for Middle & High School was presented with ready-to-run student materials provided for participants to take with them. Sean Regan of NEACT Central Division presented a workshop on "Conditional Formatting & Spreadsheets". After the Lunch Break there were additional workshops provided such as "Ten Classic Chemistry Demonstrations" and "Cochineal Dye" Make and Teach packets. The entire day spanned from 10:30AM to 3:00PM.

There was a follow-up/repeat of this program on Feb. 7, 2026 at UNH Durham from 10am - 2am. Trey Raymond coordinated this - there were approximately 5 teachers who participated.

For Fall 2026 Northern Division Meeting: I am meeting via Zoom with the Chemistry Department Chairman of Saint Anselm College (my Alma Mater) tomorrow morning to explore the possibility of holding the Northern Division Fall Meeting there in late October or early November 2026. Also, UNH Durham has been asking if they can host a second meeting as we did last October.

NEACT Southern Division Report 2025-26

Teresa Arey

The Southern Division held a meeting on September 18th at BJ's Brewhouse in North Attleboro, MA. The meeting was a Back to School Social/Make and Take. The items in the Make and Take provided teachers with materials for a range of topics including thermodynamics and dimensional analysis.

There were around 8 attendees, a number of which were first time attendees of NEACT. One was also a first year teacher. The social part of the meeting was a great way to give advice and resources to the new teacher, and demonstrate the invaluable resource of networking and collaboration NEACT provides.

NEACT Central Division Report 2025-26

Sean Regan

On Saturday, March 21, 8 chemistry teachers attended 'The Role of Enzymes in Produce Food Waste' hosted at Framingham State University from 9-11 AM. Dr. Vinay Mannam, Chemistry and Food Chemistry professor from FSU, hosted the event and

took participants through the role of enzymes in produce waste with an experiment utilizing spinach extraction based on different humidity and freshness settings. Attendees chose a spinach sample with a certain humidity or freshness setting, used a mortar and pestle to grind the spinach, and added isopropanol to filter and extract the green pigments from the spinach. The colors from each sample were compared at the end from different groups to determine the amount of degradation of pigments from enzymes from the differing variables. Attendees were given the materials to use with their classes in the future!

Following this event, attendees were invited to Jack's Abby Brewing in Framingham for lunch and an exclusive brewery tour (the first tour of any kind at their brewery in over four years!). The brewery tour was designed to showcase the chemistry behind brewing beer and the attendees left fascinated and wanting more!

NEACT Western Division Report 2025-26

Donna Kaiser

The Western Division in-person “Make and Takes” professional development meeting took place on Saturday morning May 16, 2026 and was attended by 21 people. Patricia Rinaldi hosted the meeting at Wilton High School. Patricia Rinaldi, Jerusha Vogel, Brendan Wilkosz, Steve Sobolewski, Mark Langella, and myself presented and shared our very best puzzles, activities, labs, and demonstrations with attending colleagues. After completing a short exit survey, participants were also provided a google folder with editable files from the workshop. Here is what was shared with the group [NEACT Western Division Meeting Make and Takes Shared Doc](#). All of the shared activities can be integrated into a high school chemistry class and align with major chemistry topics.

Mark Langella of PWISTA (New York) shared two of his famous activities with the returning and newly registered NEACT members. They were: the Planck’s Constant Demo Kit - LED Exciter Box and Inter-molecular attractions lab. He also shared information about NEACT on his PWISTA distribution list. You can learn more about his activities at his site [mini concepts](#).

All in all, this Division Meeting was successful and a very positive experience for all - attendees appreciated the activities, particularly since the meeting was “in person” and several new members joined NEACT as a result!

NEACT Publicity Report 2025-2026

Nicole Ager

An email account, **neactcommunications@gmail.com**, was established to centralize NEACT communications and publicity materials, providing continuity and easier access to organizational resources.

Throughout the year, event announcements were regularly shared through NEACT's social media platforms and within numerous chemistry teacher communities on Facebook. Communications primarily focused on promoting ChemChats, the NEACT Summer Conference, conference proposal submissions, Division Meetings, and other member opportunities.

In addition, event information was distributed through partner organizations and professional networks, including AACT, NSTA, MAST, CSTA, MSTA, RISTA (through RIDE), NHSTA, and VSTA, helping to extend NEACT's reach beyond its current membership.

A Member Monday spotlight initiative was launched to highlight members, showcase classroom successes, and increase engagement on NEACT's social media platforms. While the program provided an opportunity to feature members and their work, participation and audience engagement remained limited.

Efforts were also made to develop a broader network of contacts at colleges, universities, and related educational organizations to support outreach to prospective members and early-career educators. Although only a small number of contacts were added during the initial phase of this initiative, the framework has been established and could be expanded through future collaboration with the Executive Board and Membership Recruitment Committee.

ContactHours/PDP Certifications Report

Karen Flint

Certifications for 2025-2026 school year
Issued Certifications from the 2025 summer conference only.

6 Massachusetts PDP Certificate issued
17 Certificates of Attendance with CEU hours issued.

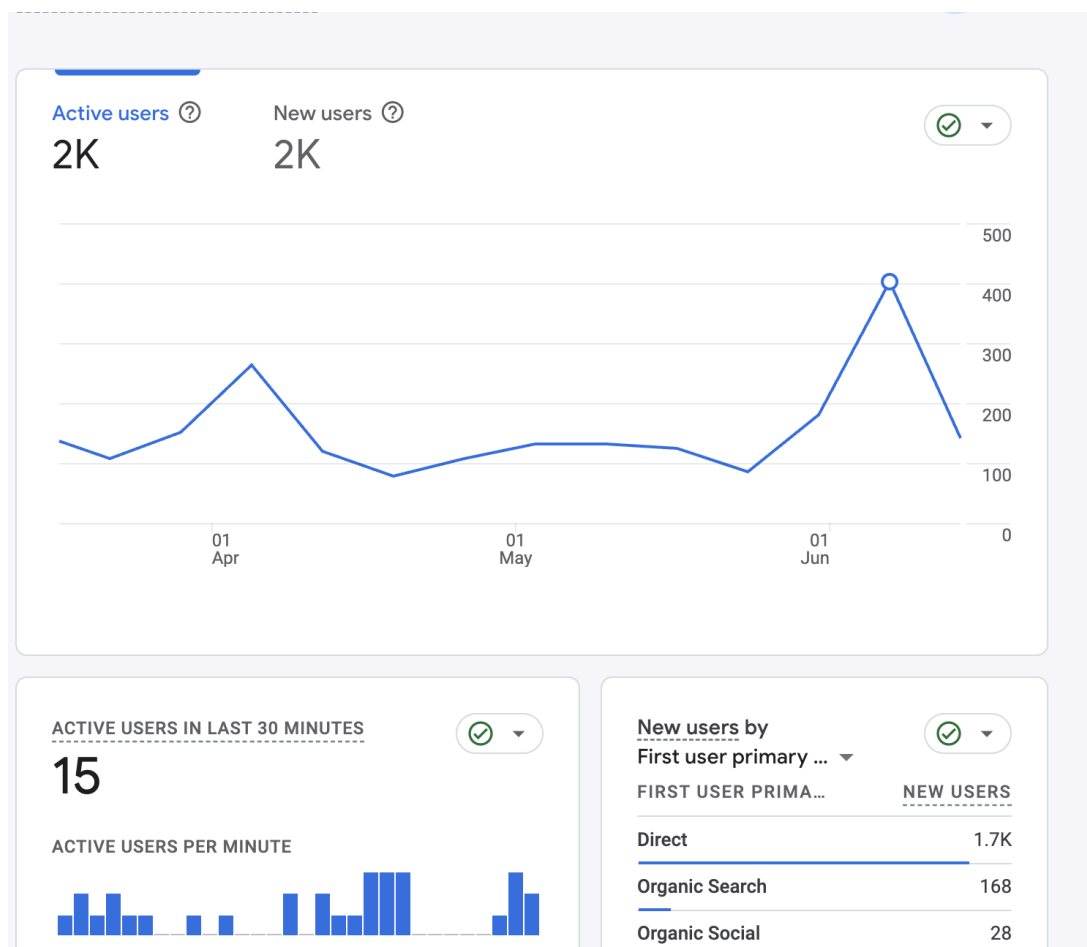
NEACT Web Committee Report Kristen Vanderveen

The NEACT website continues to function well.
Conference registration is currently open
Since May 2025 we have posted 15 events on the website

Officer elections on the website are currently in progress

Website use always increases as we get closer to the summer conference
From Google Analytics

[Link to Google Analytics report for the last 90 days](#)



Curator of Archives
Mary Madden



NEACT Curator of Archives Report
June 12, 2026

1. The following was sent to the NEACT Archives at Wesleyan University via USPS: obituary of Stephen Stepenuck.

2. Since receiving Treasurer's data from Katherine last summer (2025), I have examined and composed a list of NEACT treasury balances from 1998 through 2025.
The NEACT treasury has grown, irregularly at times, from (rounded) \$33,000.00 to \$73,000.00 in 27 years. The early 2000s saw a decline in funds which coincided with challenging times for NEACT regarding officers/ committee turnover and declining membership. There was one anonymous donation during this time; its donor remain anonymous despite my attempts to reveal the source. Recent years (2020-present) have seen a significant increase in our coffers due partly from the Timm Family donation but primarily from banking opportunities researched and taken by Kathy Siok's pursuit with Executive Committee approval.

3. NEACT archives have undergone a shift from hardcopy to online platforms. We have the NEACT Website that houses many important categories, a Facebook page, a YouTube channel, and numerous email files that reside with each of us. We do not have control over the platforms that house our memories. My goal as Curator of Archives is to ensure the preservation of materials for the future, materials that can still be printed or shared or shown at conferences. To this end, I will ask a small number of officers to join me to decide the following:
 - a.) What should be saved? What would future researchers want to find?
 - b.) What instruments are available now for archiving? Subscription? What tools provide stable, preservable copies of the materials we wish to save?
 - c.) What about Social Media? Our advertising for meetings and summer conferences? How do we preserve them outside of paper brochures?
 - d.) What will be our primary digital repository system? 125 years of paper exists in Wesleyan University's Special Collections: 22.75 linear feet of archival boxes in a temperature controlled building. A complete, categorized description of our holdings has been available online since 2023 via <https://archives.wesleyan.edu/repositories/scs/resources/>
 - e.) How do we manage the reliability of AI generated materials for storage?

Looking forward to your sage advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Madden, Curator of Archives, NEACT

2026 NEACT Summer Conference Committee Update May 2026
Kristen Vanderveen and Kathy Siok

Draft conference program can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/NEACT2026>
Details may change and edits are still in process

We have over 30 presentations on the schedule. One final decision to make is the destination for the field trip on Wednesday afternoon

Registration Pricing Registration is currently open

Early bird pricing through June 30 - Regular pricing starting July 1

Registration includes daily sessions, AM refreshments and Lunch

- *\$125 for 1 day – Early bird pricing \$100*
- *\$175 for 2 days – Early bird pricing \$150*
- *\$225 for 3 days – Early bird pricing \$200*

Dinners will be additional at about \$25 - \$35

Field Trips may involve some additional cost TBD

- *We may establish a student price if needed.*

There will be scholarships available as usual

Scholarship: CMSACS has provided \$2k for the conference for general purposes and up to 5 registration scholarships for attendees from Worcester county (work or teach).

Monday, August 3 Welcome by Arne Gericke, Dean of Undergrad Studies at WPI

Three confirmed keynote speakers:

Alexi Khechfe, Commonwealth Fusion Systems (Devens, MA)
Monday afternoon)

Carissa Keen, Boston College

Monday morning

Amy Caudy, Matterworks

Tuesday morning

Registration is currently open and we already have 24 people registered for the conference. We are advertising the conference via the website, Facebook, social media

We have established a good working relationship with WPI representatives.

Kathy - Registration, Finances, Liaison with WPI for logistic details

Kristen - Speakers, schedule

Exec board meeting: Sunday night with dinner at WPI Conference Room (about 5PM?)

- Catered by WPI: simple dinner choices TBD
- Private meeting room until 9PM

Accommodations at Courtyard by Marriott (Very close to WPI)

Has a bar and snacks in the lobby. **Guaranteed price \$149 per room + tax until July 3rd**

Parking will be extra.

This will be advertised on the registration on the NEACT website.

We have reserved a block of rooms for our participants. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights

Total of 50 room nights.

Rooms include: (1 king + 1 sofa bed or 2 queen beds) All appropriate for double occupancy.

We are committed to pay for a minimum of 25 room nights.

Event support from the WPI STEM Education Center

- Liaison with WPI Business Partners

- o Events Office – submit and manage event requests; coordinate scheduling, room setup, and event logistics including day of support if any issues arises
 - o Catering – place orders, confirming special requests are taken care of, and coordinate delivery timing and setup,
 - o Facilities – coordinate room setup and special requests.
 - o IT / ATC (Technology) – request and coordinate audiovisual equipment, event technology setup, technical support, and onsite event logistics.
 - o Admissions – arrange campus tours and coordinate schedules for attendees
 - o Campus Police – coordinate parking passes for conference participants
 - o Space Management – request and coordinate access to locked space (I3 Lab office)
- **Wifi Guest Pass** – coordinate guest WiFi access with IT and prepare printed instruction sheets for each room
 - **Campus Map** – create a customized campus map highlighting designated parking locations and clear walking directions to ***Innovation Studio(s)***
 - **Signage** (Wayfinding and Room Signs) – create outdoor wayfinding signage with logo and name of event, guiding attendees from the parking garage to Innovation Studios, and room signage
 - **Fun event/field trip options** – connect with Worcester community organization for fun event (ie, Ecotarium, Worcester Art Museum STEAM Tour)
 - **Promoting and finding speakers**
 - o Attendance – Share on STEM Education Center social media and in monthly newsletter in May, June and July as well as promote on other networks.
 - o Workshop Presenters – Personal outreach to Chemistry Faculty, Teachers and Pre-Service Teachers at local colleges in MA.
 - **Promoting Conference**
 - STEM Education Center Newsletter**
 - o May 6th– Save the Date – General
 - o June 4th – Registration details (speakers, topics, tours, cost to attend)
 - o July 1st – Don't forget to Register!
 - **Social Media** – Share social media posts to repost on *STEM Education Center Social Media* and *Central Mass STEM Network Social Media*

Exhibitors

o WPI STEM Education Center setting up a table to promote the center and PD opportunities.

Invitations to Vernier and Beyond Benign Others?

Publicity by NEACT

- Sharing Social media posts with WPI
- Sending Conference information to New England Teacher organizations
RI, Mass, CT, NH, VT, ME
- Executive Committee sharing information with colleagues (word of mouth)
- NEACT Website emails