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Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee

Tom Buhl, CHP, Committee Chair

The Title Protection and Professional Recognition (TP-PR) Committee pursues CHP title protection (legislation prohibiting and penalizing the unauthorized use of the CHP title) and professional recognition (legislation defining CHPs as those individuals certified by the American Board of Health Physics), mainly through sponsoring bills at the state legislature level in a joint program with the Health Physics Society (HPS) (for health physicists) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) (for industrial hygienists).

The committee officially began in 2006 when the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) joined with the HPS to participate in the ongoing AIHA program, which had been operating for over 15 years. The AAHP provides the AIHA Government Affairs Office with text for proposed CHP TP-PR legislation in states that the AIHA is approaching that year and supports the CHP portion of the legislative process, such as with reports, testimony, and response to questions.

An important part of the program is to identify legislators willing to support our proposed legislation. During the 2009 legislative sessions, individual legislators in Nevada, Connecticut, and Wisconsin were contacted

but, unfortunately, sponsors were not identified.

In addition, last year a bill was introduced into the Hawaii legislature and underwent a “sunrise review” for consideration during the current legislative session. The committee prepared a letter of support for the legislation for the AAHP president’s signature and sent it to the legislative sponsor. Later last summer, the committee submitted a detailed report to the Hawaii state auditor who was conducting the review. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of this effort.

Finally, last December the HPS, AIHA, and AAHP renewed their “Tripartite Agreement” to jointly pursue title protection and professional recognition for their society members.

Current committee members are Kathleen Dinnel-Jones, Barbara Hamrick, Judson Kenoyer, Debra McBaugh, and Bernard Olsen. The willingness of these individuals to serve on the TP-PR Committee and support its program is greatly appreciated by the Academy.

The committee also wishes to thank Aaron Trippler, director of the AIHA Government Affairs Office, for his help and support throughout the year.

Part II Examination Panel

Andy Miller, Chair

The Part II Panel Workshop was held 30-31 January 2009, just before the midyear meeting in San Antonio. Twenty members of the panel were able to attend the workshop.

Participation on the panel is a very rewarding experience and involves a significant commitment for each of the panel members. In exchange for their hard work, panel members obtain a significant number of recertification points and can receive travel support for attendance at the workshop during the midyear meeting. If you are

considering serving on the panel, here is a synopsis of what you can expect each year during your four-year term.

After the examination is given in July, grading activities begin. Panel members and American Board of Health Physics Board members work in teams of three to grade each of the questions that are assigned by the panel chair. A panel member typically grades one core question, which all candidates are required to take, and one topical question, which a candidate elects to complete

during the examination. The team leader compiles the results for the team and ensures that the grades from each of the three graders are consistent. This process is usually completed by the early fall.

In the late fall, the new panel chair makes question assignments for each panel member. Typically each member works to develop two questions—one 50-point question from one of the core topics of health physics (personnel dosimetry, shielding and activation, measurements and instrumentation, and biological effects of radiation) and one 100-point question from one of the topical areas (accelerators, environmental, fuel cycle, medical, power reactors, university, and general health physics). These questions are submitted to the chair in time for formatting for the Panel Workshop. This is usually completed a few weeks before the Panel Workshop.

The Panel Workshop is an intense two-day period of review and improvement to develop questions and stock solutions from each of the submitted questions. At the end of the workshop, the top three choices for each core question and each topical area question are selected for further consideration. The panel chair takes these questions and prepares them for the balloting round.

A few weeks after the workshop, the balloting round begins. Each panel and board member ranks the 12 core questions and the top three questions for the topical portion of the exam. The panel chair tallies the results and begins the final question-development process. This ends the panel members' duties until the grading process begins in the summer.

These individual panel members put in a tremendous effort during this process that supports both the candidates and the current CHPs. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all for participating: Vice Chair David Burkett, Past Chair Pat LaFrane, Kelly Ausbrooks, Jack Buddenbaum, Bob Burkhart, Jeff Chapman, Wayne Gaul, Joe Guido, Willie Harris, Benny Hooda, Greg Jones, Ken Krieger, Bob May, Dave McLaughlin, Dan Menchaca, Ron Mlekodaj, Hans Oldewage, Gus Potter, Dennis Quinn, Glenn Sturchio, Krzysztof Szornel, Johnafred Thomas, David Tucker, Tosh Ushino, and Wei-Hsung Wang.

If you are interested in participating on the panel, please indicate your interest when you submit your AAHP annual dues, or contact me at andy.miller@vanderbilt.edu or Vice Chair David Burkett at david.burkett@va.gov.

