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Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee

Tom Buhl, CHP, Chair

This past year the Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee, through the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s (AIHA) director of government affairs, interacted with a member of the Michigan legislature who was proposing draft legislation that would affect CHPs. Several members of the Health Physics Society (HPS) leadership were also involved regarding the draft legislation’s effects on health physicists. The interactions were successful and we are awaiting further development of the legislation.

In 2006, the American Academy of Health Physics contracted with the AIHA to pursue legislative title protection (protecting the use of the CHP title) and professional recognition for CHPs (defining CHPs as

those individuals certified by the American Board of Health Physics) in conjunction with the AIHA program for certified industrial hygienists. HPS entered into the same arrangement with the AIHA on behalf of health physicists. This program has continued since then to the mutual benefit of all the societies involved.

We would like to thank Kathleen Dinnel-Jones, Barbara Hamrick, Charles Kent, Dan Mantooth, and Bernard Olsen, who are the current committee members, for their service and commitment to our program. The committee would like to extend special thanks to Aaron Trippler, director of the AIHA Government Affairs Office, for his continuing help and support throughout the year.

Part II Examination Panel

Daniel I. Menchaca, CHP, Chair

The Part II Panel workshop was held 5-6 February 2011, just before the midyear meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Seventeen members of the panel were able to attend the workshop. Although this number may seem a bit small at first, attendance was actually quite good considering weather problems, especially icing at Dallas/Fort Worth airport, coupled with the fact that it was Super Bowl weekend and the game was in Dallas. In my own case, my flight was cancelled and I missed the first day of the panel meetings. Many thanks to all who braved travel problems and attended.

Participation on the panel is a very rewarding experience and involves a significant commitment from 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 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 member's 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 the entire panel for taking time out of busy schedules to volunteer for this important task: Vice Chair Glenn Sturchio, Past Chair David Burkett, Erik Abkemeier, Richard Adams, Matthew Arno, Kelly Ausbrooks, John Bliss, Jack Buddenbaum, Derek Favret, Robert Ford, Wayne Gaul, Shawn Googins, Joe Guido, Willie Harris, Benny Hooda, Greg Jones, Curtis Kwasniewski, Bryan Lemieux, Allen Mabry, Bill Maguire, Dennis Quinn, Steve Rademacher, Johnafred Thomas, Tosh Ushino, and Wei-Hsung Wang. Finally, I would be remiss to not thank Nancy Johnson for all her valuable assistance.

If you are interested in participating on the panel, please indicate your interest when you submit your American Academy of Health Physics annual dues, or email me at d-i-menchaca@tamu.edu or Vice Chair Glenn Sturchio at Sturchio.glenn@mayo.edu.

