

American Academy of Health Physics American Board of Health Physics

N-E-W-S

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 1996

Kenneth R. Kase, CHP President, AAHP, 1996

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Contributions to the CHP News and the "CHP Corner" should be sent to Nancy M. Daugherty, editor. (See 1996 AAHP ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER, pg. 11, for address & phone numbers.)

Strategic Planning for the AAHP

On January 8, 1996, in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Winter meeting of the AAHP Executive Committee began with a two-hour Strategic Planning session. The process continued for another four hours on January 10, and will conclude at the summer meeting in Seattle.

During the two sessions in Scottsdale we discussed various viewpoints about who or what the AAHP is, what we want to be, what services we provide, our targeted audiences, and measures of our success. We identified some long range goals and short term objectives and developed a mission statement.

In July we plan to complete the strategic planning process by developing an implementation strategy including programs, budgets and procedures. The Executive Committee is being led through this process by John Billett, the Director of Public Affairs for the HPS.

The Executive Committee business meeting began after the first strategic planning session with reports of the 1995 officers. This was followed by the installation of the officers for 1996. Much of the meeting was devoted to a final

detailed review of the proposed Bylaws revisions to prepare them for the ballot. By now you all have had the opportunity to cast your vote, and I hope that the outcome will result in approval of the new Bylaws so that the AAHP and ABHP can begin to function within the new structure.

Some concern has been expressed about the guidelines for applying the Standards of Professional Responsibility (formerly called the Code of Ethics) as defined in the Bylaws. The review of charges brought against any member of the Academy for violation of the Standards is the responsibility of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee. The Committee is also responsible for reaching a conclusion and forwarding a decision to the AAHP President. Comments and concerns about the guidelines for handling such charges should be brought to the Chair of the PS&E Committee. Changes to these guidelines do not require Bylaws changes, nor a vote of the entire Academy membership.

Professional Development

While at the meeting in Scottsdale, I had a discussion with Bill Mills and Dick Vetter about the relationship between the AAHP and the HPS. Dick agreed to work on some proposals for developing more cooperative efforts between the two organizations. We all believe that the focus of the AAHP should be on maintaining the professional identity of the health physicist. The development of Standards of Practice can help in this effort, and both Bill and Dick are very supportive of the AAHP effort in this area.

Based on the responses to the membership survey that were published in the September 1995 issue of the "CHP Corner," there is some misunderstanding of the meaning of Standards of Practice. These are not the Standards of Professional Responsibility discussed above; nor are they the kind of technical standards that might be developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) through the Health Physics Society Standards Committee. Standards of Practice address how various aspects of health physics are practiced. For example, we might have an AAHP Standard for Radiation Safety Training of Hospital Staff that would specify who should be trained, the subject matter, the level of detail, and the qualifications of the trainer. Or we might have an AAHP Standard for Qualifications of Campus Radiation Safety Officers that would specify the degree requirement, post-graduate training requirements, and experience requirements. There are many more such standards that could be envisioned.

Joe Ring and the Professional Development Committee are working on a process for developing and gathering comments and input regarding such standards. They expect to have a draft protocol and some suggested topics for standards for the July meeting. A procedure for final AAHP adoption of proposed standards also must be developed.

Whatever the process is, it will take the hard work and support of the CHP community to make it valuable to us. I look forward to getting many of you involved in this effort before the year is over.

The Professional Development Committee also is completing a career brief for the AAHP and HPS to use to help people understand the role of the HP and to encourage students to enter the profession.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education
Committee, under Chair Dave
Snellings, is developing the criteria
and process for earning CECs
through self-study programs. They
plan to present their proposal to the
AAHP Executive Committee in
Seattle.

Dick Toohey has arranged for three excellent continuing education courses that will be presented in Seattle:

- Health Physics at Research Reactors.
- New (April 1996)
 Transportation Regulations.
- Health Physics Records Management.

Please see page 10 for further description of course content.

These classes represent a continuation of the outstanding continuing education opportunities that the Academy is able to offer because of your support.

Professional Issues: Hospital RSOs

The NRRPT has petitioned the NRC for rulemaking that would amend the NRC regulations to include acceptance of NRRPT registration as fulfilling some of the training requirements for a radiation safety officer. This would substitute NRRPT registration for the 200 hours of training and for 9 months of the one year requirement for supervision by an RSO.

Based on the comments that I received on this issue from the Executive Committee, I decided to take no action on this petition. Although we may agree that the qualifications for an RSO should be more strict, a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist is likely to be better qualified than some of the other individuals that can satisfy the current regulatory requirements for RSO.

Professional licensing is another area of concern, but this is an issue that must be dealt with at the state level. I would be interested in any ideas of how the AAHP might be of help to the CHP in states that are considering licensing legislation that could impact on the professional health physicist.

Annual Meeting

The AAHP is a maturing organization. To date we have held our annual meeting in conjunction with the Health Physics Society's Annual Meeting, and that may be very appropriate. However, scheduling conflicts have arisen with this arrangement.

In recent years the Academy has offered continuing education courses and an AAHP topical Special Session at the Annual Meeting. Does this serve the membership well? Do we need more time to address those issues that may be important for the CHP, but of little interest to others in the HPS?

A problem that I have with the current arrangement is that the AAHP Special Session is concurrent with scientific and technical sessions of the HPS meeting. Our session is treated as just one of several sessions and, as such, causes conflicts in determining how to spend one's time. This may limit what we can offer to the Academy membership. Also, the AAHP Open Business Meeting may conflict with the noontime PEP sessions and force another choice that detracts from the Academy's activities.

I am interested in hearing your ideas about how to make the AAHP work better for CHPs. Should we consider adding the AAHP meeting onto the end of the HPS meeting? We could start on Thursday afternoon and continue through Friday, for example. Let me know what you think.

In any case, for now, plan to attend the AAHP Special Session at 8:30 and the Open Business Meeting at 11:00 on Wednesday morning in Seattle and participate in your Academy. I look forward to seeing you there.

General Items

The continuity of operations for the AAHP depends on the work of the

Program Director, Nancy Johnson and the Executive Secretary Dick Burk. They are tremendous resources for the Academy. Nancy, in particular, is the center of operations and can be relied on to provide you any information you might need about the AAHP or to help you find it.

The AAHP Executive Committee makes the policy decisions that affect the functioning of the Academy. To make it the organization that you as a Certified Health Physicist want, we need your ideas. Please let us know about activities that you think would be appropriate for the Academy.

One of the ways the AAHP functions is through its committees. The President-elect, Jerry Martin, is in the process of appointing committee members for 1997. You can indicate your interest in serving by contacting Nancy Johnson or Jerry directly, or by indicating your choice of committee on your maintenance fee envelope. We need active membership on these committees.

I am honored that the Academy membership elected me to serve as President for 1996. I want to hear from you about your ideas and concerns, and especially about what you think the purposes and activities of the Academy should be. If you give me your input before the July meeting, I can be sure that your ideas are considered as part of the strategic planning process. I view my job this year as one of both leading the Academy and representing you as a Certified Health Physicist through your professional organization.

FROM THE CHAIR JUNE 1996

Thomas E. Buhl, CHP Chair, ABHP, 1996

Certification Application Report

A frequent request the Board receives from applicants is for more detailed information on the requirements for the radiation protection written report. During the past year the Board has expanded its guidance to applicants on what's expected in this report.

While initially submitting an unsatisfactory report does not lead to an unsuccessful application, it does result in delay while the candidate is contacted and asked to submit an acceptable report. The expanded guidance is meant to be an aid to the applicant to avoid unnecessary delay and make the application process go more smoothly.

Because the radiation protection report is the only direct example of the applicant's work that is reviewed by the Board in the application, it has an important place in the certification process. As stated in the ABHP Prospectus, this document must be written solely or principally by the applicant and reflect a professional health physics effort. The report should be a comprehensive and complex effort that illustrates the applicant's judgment in dealing with health physics issues, and must be on a topic for which the ABHP tests and certifies expertise.

The guidance expands on what is given in the Prospectus, gives examples of acceptable topics and reports and discusses some types of reports that have been problematic in the past. As an example, a report describing how a procedure was followed in performing a task generally would not be acceptable because the full use of the applicant's judgment would not be evident. On the other hand, a comprehensive evaluation of a facility, that included health physics judgment such as an assessment of possible off-normal situations and how they can be dealt with, would be satisfactory.

Computer software has sometimes been submitted as the radiation protection report. Software can be acceptable, but again the emphasis is on demonstrating a professional level health physics effort. The software should demonstrate the use of substantive health physics judgment, rather than just be the translation of an existing health physics methodology into a code.

In general, reports describing graduate research are not acceptable unless they can be shown to have a strong connection with professional health physics. Candidates are expected to have completed some professional level effort outside of an academic degree program that meets the requirements of the radiation protection report.

Improving the application process is an on-going effort. The expanded guidance will make the process go more quickly by reducing the number of Board requests to applicants for additional reports.

LETTERS:

Results of the Part I Exam





[The author of the following letter was not identified. However, the question posed is of general interest, so we are printing it here with a response from Tom Buhl, Chair of the ABHP. nancy d]

Question: More timely notification possible?

For the record, could someone tell me why it takes six months to machine grade an exam? I do realize that there is a certain "procedural correctness" in simultaneously releasing the grades for the ABHP Exam Parts I and II, but six months!

Reality check:

- Passing all or part of a professional examination is fast becoming a necessity for career advancement.
- Evaluation for advancement in corporate America usually takes place only once a year.

Hence, if the information is not available at the time of evaluation, advancement opportunities may be lost! Moreover, if you have taken a look at the Placement Center lately, then it is all too obvious that those of us lucky enough to have a job must look for advancement from within the position.

I do appreciate all of the hard work by the exam staff and volunteers. The staff where I took the test did an excellent job. From the November '95 edition of the "CHP Corner," I see that seating for the test was 303 and 193 for Parts I and II, respectively. I believe that Part I should have taken about 303 minutes to grade with an additional day for statistical study. Scores for the Part I exam should have been available to the applicants within two weeks of the exam.

Part II, understandably, takes longer to grade. With this in mind, aside from Certification by the ABHP, what relevance do the scores from Part I have to Part II?

I would appreciate information concerning these questions. Also, I am interested in knowing if these policies are currently under any review or reform.

Sincerely,

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Response: There's more to it than grading

Tom Buhl, CHP Chair, ABHP

This question -- can the Part I
Examination results be sent to the
candidates sooner than is currently
done -- comes up often, and we
appreciate the opportunity to
discuss it here. The answer is that
the electronic scoring of the answer
sheets is only part of the grading
process, and that there is also a

following period for performance assessment for the Examination.

While the preliminary results of the Part I Examination are available relatively quickly since the Examination is graded electronically, considerable effort remains before the results are finalized. This effort is necessary in order to ensure the quality of the Examination and the grading process. This includes review of the scoring results and grading statistics by the Part I Panel Chair. possible distribution of some questions to the Part I Panel members for discussion, manually inspecting the answer sheets of all candidates just below passing to ensure that a smudge or erasure did not cause them to fail, and comparing the performance of the Part I Examination with a predetermined Passing Point. If the Examination coincides with a Passing Point Workshop (held every third year) the results of the Passing Point Workshop are compiled and incorporated into the Examination review.

Finally, the Board meets to review. discuss, and approve the results of the Part I Examination. The results of the Part II Examination. which are not available until October or early November, are also required to be approved by the Board. The Part I results assessment is completed prior to the considerable task of scoring the Part II Examination. Given the timing, however, it is still most reasonable for the Board to review and act upon both the Part I and Part II Examinations during the same meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Nancy M. Daugherty, CHP

Changing Times for the CHP

HPS President Elect Dick Vetter spoke at our Central Rocky Mountain Chapter annual technical meeting this past spring. Dick discussed, among other things, factors that are influencing employment opportunities for HPs. Examples included the reduced budgets of both DOE facilities and commercial nuclear power plants.

I was caught in one of several RIFs at a geosciences engineering firm last winter, and I nodded in agreement as Dick elaborated. My parting from my employer was amicable on both sides; the layoff was strictly a result of my company's cost-cutting measures and its desire to outsource several of its peripheral services.

Following the RIF, I decided to try free-lance consulting and was surprised at the number of opportunities that became available as a result of my Certification by the ABHP. A CHP is specifically required in many of the current requests for proposals.

When I took the ABHP Exam, it was not with the intent of furthering job opportunities. At that time there was plenty of work available with or without Certification. In today's more competitive climate, the CHP designation is a definite asset.

I'm a people-person at heart and enjoy the family atmosphere of the traditional work environment, as well as a variety of HP challenges. As a result, I'm pleased to have been offered and accepted employment with the Radiation Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. I hope now I can focus on the primary benefit of ABHP Certification: the advancement of the profession of health physics.

RESPONSE TO "STIRRING THE POT"

Leroy F. Booth, CHP

Les Slaback has revived some interesting questions regarding topics of concern to all of us. (See "Stirring the Pot," in the December, 1995, CHP News.)

The first addresses the concept of specialty certification. Les states that the Power Reactor specialty provided us experience with the effort and resources needed for specialty exams. I hope those lessons are not lost. The Board and Panel effort required to prepare a single specialty exam is enormous. I shudder to think of what it would take to implement several of these, in addition to the Comprehensive exam. From a purely practical position, I believe that multiple specialty exams are beyond the capability of the ABHP, as presently constructed. In addition, as Les points out, power reactor HPs gradually drifted away from the Power Reactor specialty in favor of the Comprehensive exam, hopefully because of the perceived value of Comprehensive certification. One

final comment on this subject: I have always been uncomfortable with specialty certifications as they tend to imply expertise in a given area, rather than the inclusive technical competence intended with Comprehensive certification. I'm told there are important legal distinctions between the two.

If I shudder at specialty exams, 1 shake and quake at the thought of restoring oral exams. It's not clear if Les was considering oral exams for all candidates (including Part 1 only candidates?) or only for the few who are close to a passing score on the written exam, as was the case in the past. He has a more favorable memory of the oral exam process than I. It was certainly subjective, and in some cases inconsistent, in that questioning often went down different paths, depending upon the candidate's answers. The Board developed guidelines and procedures to minimize these problems, but they were never fully resolved. What would be gained by adding oral exams to the certification process? Perhaps another piece of evidence that a candidate is qualified, but at a high cost in terms of time and effort, and with some risk or liability because of the subjective nature of the procedure. Personally, I am confident that the current written exam is doing a good job of identifying competent candidates.

1996 CHP SALARY SURVEY

Gary Lautenschlager, CHP Midwest Chapter, HPS

The 1996 CHP Salary Survey is underway! Please take a moment

to complete the survey form on the following page and return it to Nancy Johnson, Program Director, AAHP, by **July 15, 1996**. The results will be published in the December, 1996, CHP News. So that you are counted, please get your responses in now!

This survey is intended for CHPs. Please confirm your certification by checking "yes" for the question "ABHP Certified?". Many health physicists have requested that a salary survey of all HPs be taken. I also would like to see such a survey. However, at present, I do not have the resources for this large of a project. I am promoting efforts to conduct a survey of all health physicists next year; please contact me if you'd like to help.

In response to comments received on the 1994 CHP Salary Survey, this year's survey form has been modified.

Please check only one description for "Primary Job Responsibility." I realize that this may pose a problem for some, but it will greatly simplify the data analysis. Check the one description that best describes your professional responsibilities.

For "Annual Base Salary," please indicate your annual gross income. Do not add a dollar value of any additional benefits to that income. If your employer does provide additional benefits as part of your total compensation package, please indicate this by checking "yes" for the question "Do you receive health, vacation, and/or retirement benefits from your primary employer?".

If you have any comments or questions regarding the survey, please call me at (708)840-8360 email:

GLauten@aol.com or Lauten@admail.fnal.gov

The AAHP is our organization, and the AAHP Executive Committee welcomes our comments and suggestions. If you have other comments for the Committee, please include them on a separate sheet with your completed 1996 CHP Salary Survey form.

WANTED: CHP NEWS EDITOR

(Can you spell "consensus"?)

It's time for new blood and fresh ideas for the CHP News and the "CHP Corner." The AAHP Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to be the next editor AAHP publications. these Currently, the CHP News is published semi-annually and co-HPS distributed with the Newsletter. The "CHP Corner" is a full-page column appearing in the remaining months' HPS Newsletters. However, you, as editor, will be free to negotiate changes in schedule or content.

Benefits: No money. This is a volunteer position. But, the AAHP, ABHP, and HPS Newsletter folks are great to work with.

Costs: A significant commitment of time and energy. But it's worth it! The current editor will provide OJT and electronic files of logos and layouts.

Contact Lee Booth, Chair, AAHP Nominating Committee (pg. 11), if interested.

1996 CHP SALARY SURVEY

Remove this perforated page, complete the survey and FAX it to Nancy Johnson, Program Director, AAHP (703) 790-2672; or fold and mail it to the address printed on the self-envelope by July 15, 1996. Thank you in advance for your input.

Primary Employer Type Choose only one primary employer
☐ Federal Government ☐ Commercial ☐ Consulting Firm ☐ Nuclear Power Utility ☐ State Government ☐ Medical Facility ☐ University ☐ Military ☐ Government Contractors ☐ Self-Employed ☐ National Laboratory ☐ Other
Employment Status
Formal Education Bachelors Health Physics Ph. D. Health Physics Masters Other Field Masters Health Physics Bachelors Other Field Ph.D. Other Field
Years of Experience in Health Physics ☐ 4 to 6 Years ☐ 6 to 10 Years ☐ 10 to 15 Years ☐ 15 to 25 Years ☐ > 25 Years
ABHP Certified? Yes No If no, please do not participate in this survey
Other Certifications
☐ ABIH ☐ ABNM ☐ AOBR ☐ PE ☐ ABMP ☐ ABR ☐ ABSNM ☐ BPS ☐ NRRPT ☐ Other
Primary Job Responsibility Choose only one
□ Accelerators □ Medical Physics □ Radiochemistry □ Administration □ Mining and Milling □ Radiological Assessment □ Air Quality □ NORM □ Reactors, Other □ Applied Health Physics □ Nonionizing Radiation □ Regulations/Standards □ Dosimetry □ Nuclear Medicine □ Research □ Education □ Radon □ Waste Management □ Environmental □ Radiation Biology □ Other □ Fuel Cycle □ Radiation Safety Officer □ Instrumentation □ Radiation Safety/Surveys
Annual Base Salary Indicate annual gross income from primary employer
Do you receive health, vacation, and/or retirement Yes No benefits from your primary employer ?

Place Stamp Here

Nancy Johnson, Program Director American Academy of Health Physics 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd, Suite 402 McLean, VA 22101

THE AAHP AT A GLANCE

Nancy Johnson Program Director, AAHP

NUMBER OF CHPs:	1995	1994	FINAL 1	1995 EXAM S	STATISTICS:	
Comprehensive	909	866		mber of Appl		674
Power Reactor	50	58	Total Number of Candidates:			548
Dual	32	37			I Examinees:	304
Emeritus	156	164	(150 pas			
					<pre>II Examinees:</pre>	194
Inactive			(37 pass			15.0
(by request)	25	22	Total Nu	umber of Exam	Parts	498
Nonactive	213	208				
Associate	229	231				
Deceased	56	50				
PREVIOUS YEARS' EX	AMS:	1994	1993	1992	1991	
Total Number of Applica	ants:	642	562	426	386	
Total Number of Examin	ees:	416	366	308	281	
Total No. of Part I Ex		323	264	230	219	
Total No. of Part IIC	Exams:	147	142	110	105	
Total No. of Part IIPR	Exams:	NA	21	18	21	
Total No. of Exam Part.	5:	470	427	358	345	



Photograph courtesy of Gail A. Magenis.

Introducing the 1996 AAHP Executive Committee, featuring: (Front row, left to right) John Frazier, Secretary; Carol Berger, Past President; Tom Buhl, ABHP Chair. (Back row, left to right) Frank Masse, Director; Howard Dickson, Treasurer; Ken Kase, President; Kathy Pryor, Director; Jerry Martin, President-Elect. Absent from picture: Ron Kathren, Director; Dan Strom, Director.

AAHP CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON Saturday, July 20, 1996 - 8 AM - 5 PM Each Course is worth 16 CECs

Course 1 - HEALTH PHYSICS AT RESEARCH REACTORS

Lester A. Slaback, Jr., CHP, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Reactor design features, reactor and experiment operational characteristics, ancillary support systems, and physical layouts of different research reactors will be discussed, with emphasis on their impact on the health physics program at those facilities. The impact on HP activities by design characteristics will be addressed. Specific monitoring systems will be reviewed in the context of both reactor operational requirements and people exposure monitoring. Research utilization of these reactors will be described, together with the specific health physics program elements required for those operations. The accident/incident history at research reactors and selected regulatory issues will be summarized.

Course 2 - THE BASIC DOT/NRC NUCLEAR TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS AFTER THE 1995 AMENDMENTS

Al W. Grella, CHP, Grella Consulting, Inc.

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive review of the basic regulations of the USA for the safe transportation of radioactive materials. The regulations discussed are those of the two major regulators in the US, the DOT and NRC. The course includes consideration of the revisions brought about by the rulemaking actions completed by those two agencies on September 28, 1995, for which mandatory compliance became effective this past April 1. The amendments completed a rulemaking action which had been pending for almost seven years. The purpose of the amendments was to conform US regulations to the international standards found in IAEA Safety Series No. 6, 1985 Edition (As Revised 1990).

Course 3 - HEALTH PHYSICS RECORDS MANAGEMENT Richard G. Oesterling, CHP, Idaho Falls, ID

Record: The definition of "record" has been a preoccupation of records managers and interested legal scholars for possibly millennia. In this introduction, definitions used for various purposes will be examined in the context of the health physics profession. Topics addressed include: records management, business uses of records, the National Archives and Records Administration, records in the NRC world, the records gospel according to DOE, managing electronic records, and records management software and organizations.

AAHP SPECIAL SESSION - THE CHP IN A COURT OF LAW

8:30 - I1: 00 am, Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Co-Chairs: Carol D. Berger, CHP, Integrated Environmental Management, Inc., and Kenneth R. Kase, CHP, SLAC

- WAM-B.1 Pre-Litigation Strategies. P. D. Robinson, Winston & Strawn
- WAM-B.2 The CHP As an Expert in Legal Processes. D. S. Gooden, CHP, St. Francis Hospital
- WAM-B.3 Serving As an Expert Witness: Pre-trial and Trial Matters. J. M. McGarry III, Winston & Strawn
- **WAM-B.4** Radiation Risk Communication with Attorneys and Juries. R. H. Johnson, Jr. CHP, Communication Sciences Institute

11:00 am AAHP OPEN MEETING

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER - 1996

NOTE: Term expires at the end of the year indicated.

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PLEASE NOTE NEW
PHONE NUMBERS!

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Roger C. Brown (ABHP Rep.)

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Applications for the 1997 ABHP Certification Exam must be <u>postmarked</u> no later than January 15, 1997

AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS **ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER - 1996**

NOTE: Term expires at the end of the year indicated.

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