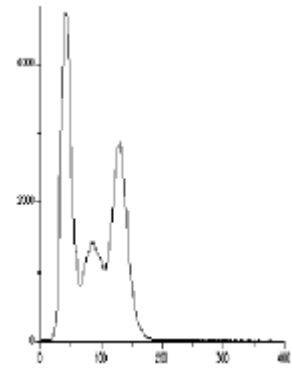




MIDWEST
CHAPTER

THE SPECTRUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS
SOCIETY'S
MIDWEST CHAPTER
December 23, 2005
www.midwesthps.org



Winter Meeting, January 18, 2006

Chapter Officers

President: Eli Port
President-Elect: Bruce Sanza
Secretary: Nina Bijedic-Arce
Treasurer: Bernard P. Kelly
Past President: Lee Sprouse, Jr.

Board Members

Gerald Davidson
David Derenzo
Walter DeLise
James W. Patterson

Committee Chairs

Affiliates: Steve Butala
Legislative: Darrel Wiedeman
Nomination: Lee Sprouse, Jr.
Program: Bruce Sanza
Publications: Bruce Sanza
PR & Info: Open

Chapter Web Master

Dave Derenzo

Affiliate Members

Canberra
Global Dosimetry Solutions
Image Technology, Inc.
Landauer, Inc.
Protean Instrument Corp.
Scientific Instrument Sales

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Midwest Chapter is well into the year and the Board has been making changes to strengthen the Chapter. Some of the changes should directly improve our financial condition; others will help us grow.

- The Board has voted to raise the annual Chapter dues by five dollars to fifteen dollars per year. Increases in costs, particularly for the Spectrum, make this change necessary. We hope to avoid additional increases in dues by providing the newsletter by e-mail, eliminating printing and distribution costs.
- We are working to find meeting venues where the food can be interesting at a modest cost. At our next meeting, we will have three choices of entrees for \$20 including tax and gratuity.
- The National Society has offered to supply technical assistance to improve our web site.
- We are well on our way toward accepting credit cards, both online and at meetings, to pay for dues and events.
- We are examining ways to enable applications for membership and renewal and even registration online.
- We have several affiliate members and we are actively recruiting additional affiliates to help the treasury and to subsidize meetings. Our goal is at least six affiliate members this year.
- The Chapter has been asked to present a historical poster session at the next National meeting.

We still have much to do to complete the tasks laid out in my last message. By the end of my term as President, the Board, the Committees, and I hope to accomplish these goals. When Bruce Sanza assumes his position as President, he should have a stronger Chapter for whom to work. I wish you a healthy, happy, and warm holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the next Chapter meeting.

Eli

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY NEWS

Submitted by Joanne Kark

Energy Policy Act of 2005 Expands NRC Authority

President Bush signed the energy bill on August 5, 2005. Said U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Nils J. Diaz, "These provisions will make an industry that is already well protected even safer from the threats of terrorism and radiological sabotage." In addition to enhanced security measures (including provisions for licensee security guards to use more powerful weapons), the bill empowers the NRC to exercise regulatory authority over additional radioactive materials that are produced, extracted, or converted after extraction or use in a commercial, medical, or research activity. Such radioactive materials include: certain discreet sources of Ra-226; accelerator-produced radioisotopes; and any discreet source of naturally-occurring radioactive material (other than source material) that the NRC determines would pose a threat similar to that posed by Ra-226 to the public health and safety or the common defense and security.

The NRC must publish and implement a transition plan designed to transfer authority over those materials from agreement states. On August 31, 2005, the NRC announced a waiver allowing licensees to continue using accelerator-produced radioisotopes and allowing agreement states to continue regulating that material during the waiver period. The waiver is effective through August 7, 2006 for the import and export of materials covered by the waiver, unless terminated sooner by the NRC.

Licenses authorizing the export of highly-enriched uranium (HEU), for the purposes of medical isotope production, may now be issued to a recipient country by the NRC. The Act also requires the Secretary of Energy to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a study. Within the next five years, the NAS is to examine:

- the feasibility of procuring supplies of medical isotopes from commercial sources that do not use HEU;
- the current and projected demand and availability of medical isotopes in regular domestic use;
- the U.S. Department of Energy's progress in eliminating the use of HEU in reactor fuel, reactor targets, and medical isotope production facilities; and
- the cost differential in medical isotope production based on the processing facility used [HEU vs. low-enriched uranium(LEU)].

If the Secretary of Energy submits certification that LEU facilities are capable of meeting domestic medical isotope needs, within a prescribed cost increase, the use of the export licenses for HEU by the NRC will end.

The NRC may now support university programs for academic fields critical to the Commission's regulatory activities and to establish partnership programs with minority institutions of higher learning. The NRC may now also award financial assistance to undergraduate and graduate students in return for subsequent employment with the NRC.

Orphan Source Recovery in Illinois

**Guest Speaker: Manager of the Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) & Site
Decommissioning Section
Illinois Emergency Management Agency**

Gary is responsible for the LLRW management program, LLRW/Mill Tailings licensing, decommissioning and license termination of complex sites, financial assurance program, and NORM/TENORM cleanup & waste disposition issues. Gary is a licensed professional engineer and has worked for IEMA (previously the Department of Nuclear Safety) since 1993. One of this primary duties has been project manager for remedial activities at the Kerr McGee Rare Earths Facility in West Chicago.

A Look Back at Our Chapter History

Kit Weaver, Chapter Historian

I have in my possession a copy of a Midwest Chapter HPS newsletter mailed in July 1971. Affixed to the newsletter is an 8-cent "Eisenhower" postage stamp. The newsletter's first page contains a column submitted by Jerome Halperin, the 1971 Midwest Chapter President. What impressed me about the column was that although over 34 years have passed since its writing, the issues raised by the article remain as timely and "current" today as they did when it was written. Here is a portion of the article written by the Chapter President in 1971:

"President's Column, Sound-Off. In the almost three years of my association with the Chapter, we have had an unofficial 'policy' of holding four meetings per year; [three] 1-day long topical symposia, usually held on Saturdays and occasionally co-sponsored with the Midwest Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and a Chapter Annual Meeting – a dinner meeting for the purposes of installing new officers and presenting a speaker of some distinction and interest to the Chapter members and their wives and guests. How responsive has this approach been to satisfying the professional interests and demands of the majority of our approximately 200 members?

The Midwest Chapter is composed of an interesting, if not unique cross section of health physics disciplines. We have high energy accelerator, medical physics, nuclear reactor, and radiopharmaceutical manufacturers, and administrative and regulation. Obviously, our present format is not responsive to the needs of each discipline equally, but have we been leaving out major areas of interest and need altogether? ..."

"If the present format is unresponsive to your needs or displeasing for other reasons, what can we do to change it? For example, should there be no symposia at all or should there be symposia of a different format? Should there be more or fewer outside speakers? Should we hold the meetings on different days of the week and over a wider geographic area?

Please take a minute to call me or write me to express your opinions. The Midwest Chapter has had a history of being active, interested and innovative; let's continue to be so now! We want our meetings and programs to be interesting, stimulating and valuable to our members and only you can make sure that they are what we want and need. Pick up the telephone or pen – I'm waiting to hear from you. Your comments will be considered carefully. Jerome A. Halperin, President, Midwest Chapter Health Physics Society."

Another noteworthy item from the 1971 Chapter newsletter is that the newsletter's editor was Eli Port, our current President. In it Eli wrote "This is your newsletter. Your comments and contributions are more than welcome, they are necessary."

MIDWEST CHAPTER HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY 2006 Membership Renewal

Please submit membership renewal with the **\$15.00** annual dues to:

Midwest Chapter Health Physics Society
P.O. Box 513
Westmont, IL 60559

Name: _____

email: _____

If your address has changed:

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Fall Meeting

Featured Speaker:

**Gary McCandless, Manager of the Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) &
Site Decommissioning Section
Illinois Emergency Management Agency**

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Featured Speaker

Location: Casey's Restaurant
415 E. North Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148
630-932-4777

Cost: \$20 per person

<http://www.caseysrestaurant.com>

Menu

Choice of
London Broil (Tender slices of prime char-broiled beef,
served with bordelaise sauce and noodles)

Roast Half Chicken (Marinated in olive oil and herbs)

Baked Boston Scrod (Broiled with a light bread crumb
topping until golden and flaky)

All entrees are served with soup and salad, choice of
potato, rice or noodles, dessert and beverage.

Reservations: Please join us for the Winter meeting of the Midwest Chapter featuring Gary McCandless. Please phone or email your reservation to Bruce Sanza, Program Chairman, by Friday January 13. Bruce's email address is bsanza@northwestern.edu and his phone number is 847-491-2269.

**Midwest Chapter Health Physics Society
P.O. Box 513
Westmont, Illinois 60559**