PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Howard Dickson, CHP

We had a great Spring Meeting in Lake Mary, FL. I want to thank Mike Phillips, George Snyder, and CarolAnn Inbornone for all of their hard work to make that meeting a big success.

Participation in the chapter activities and interaction with its membership provides opportunities for a well-developed and highly productive career as a health physicist. Membership applications are available on our website at http://www.hpschapters.org/florida.

I cannot emphasize enough how critical your support is to maintaining the success of our chapter. I certainly look forward to seeing everyone in Gainesville in October!

2014-2015 OFFICERS

and

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Mark your calendars and begin to make plans to attend the 2014 Fall Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the Health Physics Society (FCHPS), which will be held in Gainesville October 23th and 24th. Please make plans to attend because member participation is the key to making our chapter meetings successful. This meeting will be held jointly with the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). Meeting registration includes the night out on Thursday, a continental breakfast, lunch and morning and afternoon breaks on Friday. We have a full agenda of exciting topics for this meeting. The registration form will be emailed to you as soon as it is available and will also be posted on the chapter website.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center at the special group rate of $139 per night plus 11% tax. Make reservations by calling the Hilton at 352.371.3600 by October 9th to secure the group rate.

The Spring Meeting of the FCHPS was held 10–11 April 2014 at the Westin Lake Mary Hotel in Lake Mary, Florida. The Executive Committee met on the afternoon of 10 April, followed by an evening social event at Liam Fitzpatrick’s Irish Pub, where members, vendors, visitors, and spouses had an opportunity to network and get better acquainted.

In coordination with the FCHPS Spring Meeting, the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) held a comprehensive training program on 10 April at the Westin. FCHPS members were invited to attend that training as guests of BRC. Classroom instructions and practical exercises were conducted for a variety of radiation detection instruments, including population monitoring portal monitors, Geiger-Mueller friskers, and radioisotopic identifiers. In addition, instruction and practical exercises were also conducted for radiological nuclear search operations, including the proper use of the Sensor Technology Engineering
Radpack and Linear Radiation Monitor and the Radiation Solutions Incorporated RS-705 mobile detection equipment.

Howard Dickson (right), incoming FCHPS president, recognizing Kevin Nelson, outgoing president, for his service to the chapter

The meeting included a full day of technical presentations on Friday, 11 April. Those who attended the full program were eligible to receive continuing education credits. Registered radiological technicians earned six continuing education units from the state and certified health physicists earned seven continuing education credits from the American Academy of Health Physics. The technical program consisted of the following presentations:

- “Recent Developments in Direct Ion Storage Dosimeters” by Sandy Perle
- “Smart Meters: Health Hazard or Not?” by Howard Dickson and Joe Danek
- “Medical Linear Accelerators and How They Work” by Victor Tello
- “Preventative Radiation Nuclear Detection” by James Futch
- “Radiation Response Volunteer Corps” by John Williamson
- “What I Don’t Know About Epidemiology” by Barbara Hamrick
- “Medical Fluoroscopic Exposures and Incidents” by Kevin Nelson
- “Use of Optically Stimulated Luminescent Dosimeters for Experimental Validation of a Fluoroscopic Skin Dose Mapping Software” by Trung Tran, David Borrego, and Wesley Bolch

Our Webmaster, Jason Timm has posted all of these presentations on the chapter website for those who missed the Spring Meeting.

Election Results

The results of the recent FCHPS election were announced at Spring Meeting. The newly elected leaders for the FCHPS are Mike Phillips (president-elect), Adam Weaver (treasurer), and Rodney Nickell (director). Outgoing leaders were recognized for their service to the chapter, including Kevin Nelson (president), Les Hines (treasurer), and Rhonda Holtzclaw (director).

Chapter Members to Receive Awards

The membership was also made aware of several members who have been selected to receive awards from the national HPS at the Society’s annual meeting in Baltimore in July. These include Debbie Gilley (Fellow Award), Joshua Mocherman (Geoffrey G. Eichholz Outstanding Science Teacher Award), and Wesley Bolch (Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award). We are very
proud of these distinguished members of FCHPS. Additionally Kurt Geber has been selected to receive the Chapter Volunteer Award, which will be presented to him at the Fall Meeting.

Long Range Planning

All chapter members need to be aware of a potential major radiation protection event that could take place in Orlando in 2024. At the HPS Annual Meeting in Madison, the Board approved a motion to prepare a formal bid for the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) 14th International Congress (commonly referenced as IRPA 2024). It was decided to setup the Planning Task Force for IRPA 2024 Bid to pursue hosting this congress.

President Fisher appointed our own Kevin Nelson to chair this Task Force. The other members chosen for the Planning Task Force are:

- John Boice
- Mike Boyd
- Debbie Gilley
- Jason Harris
- Scott Schwahn
- Richard Vetter
- David Drupa, HPS Secretariat Liaison

Debbie Gilley and Kevin Nelson met with Visit Orlando representatives last fall to discuss the IRPA 2024 bid. They were able to present a positive report to the Board at the HPS Midyear Meeting resulting in the continued pursuit of this important future event with Orlando as the preferred venue.

Planning Task Force activities include:

- Finalize brochure for HPS Board review (to be completed by HPS Annual Meeting in Baltimore).
- Distribute brochure and cover letter to IRPA Associate Society Presidents (to be completed by HPS Annual Meeting in Baltimore).
- Work with the HPS Secretariat to formally review Orlando hotel/convention proposals (to be completed by HPS Annual Meeting in Baltimore).
- Begin work on formal bid package.
- Begin identifying potential sponsors.

Chapter Investments

The chapter leadership noticed that our current long-term investments are all stock holdings exclusively in electric utilities. Investment advisors always tell us not to put all your eggs in one basket, but that is what we did.

The Executive Council reviewed this situation at the spring meeting on 10 April 2014 and agreed that some changes were in order. The investment discussion continued at the business meeting on 11 April, resulting in a determination to poll the membership and obtain advise from a financial consultant.

Subsequently those steps were taken. The membership voted to make the changes recommended by the financial advisor. We are in the process of implementing those changes now. We anticipate having a diversified investment portfolio in place in time for our 2014 Fall Meeting.
Job Opening

Kurt Geber has decided to wrap up his volunteer service to the chapter as our News Editor. We are looking for someone to fill Kurt’s shoes. If you have a bent for the news and would like to support you chapter, you would be warmly welcome to the leadership team. Please contact Chapter President, Howard Dickson (webed@hps.org) if you are interested.

Thanks Kurt for your service to the chapter over an extended period of time. We greatly appreciate your contributions.

Questionnaire Survey

The chapter wants to ensure that our technical meetings meet the needs of our membership. To better understand your expectations, we have created a simple four-question survey form, which will be emailed to you soon. The results will be posted in an upcoming issue of the FCHPS Newsletter and on the FCHPS website (http://hpschapters.org/florida/).

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