

TO: Past, Present, and Prospective Members of the Virginia Chapter of the HPS

CAN THE VIRGINIA CHAPTER BE REVIVED?

It's no secret that this Chapter's membership and activity have been on a downward slide. Some question the value of Chapter membership, our website is sorely out of date, meetings have been cancelled for lack of interest, and a few officer positions remain vacant.

We have 23 paid members this year, and in recent years have had as many as 46. Meanwhile, the National HPS lists 89 members in Virginia who live outside the area presumably covered by the Baltimore-Washington Chapter. It is YOU we want to reach!

Many of our Chapter members have given many, many years of leadership. Now, we need the next generation of health physicists to step up, both to fill leadership positions and to give the Chapter "critical mass". The burning question is this: ***What do you need from your HPS Chapter? What would it take to get you involved?***

Several ideas have come out of recent communications. They're listed below. If any of these ideas has strong appeal and would bring you into our fold, PLEASE let us know. We're very open to additional suggestions.

- Secure strong technical speakers and offer CEUs for attendance
- Provide mentorship to less-experienced HPs
- Provide more outreach to the community and schools
- Work with nearby Chapters to provide CHP test preparation
- Have meetings in fun locations (Wintergreen, Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, or wherever!)
- Rotate meeting locations (Norfolk, Richmond, Lynchburg... or you tell us)

We hope to get your support! Otherwise, the existing Chapter members will have a difficult decision to make.

We plan to have a Chapter meeting in September-October in Hampton Roads with the following tentative agenda:

1. Elect new officers;
2. Discuss the future of the VA Chapter;
3. Enjoy a technical program;
4. Discuss the 2015 HPS mid-year meeting to be held in Norfolk.

Please reply to this e-mail (georgek@jlab.org) to voice your opinions about Chapter activities and to let us know if you are interested in attending future meetings. Please also consider nominating your colleagues and yourself for officer positions (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Council Member).

The Virginia Chapter would like to thank the HPS for its great support in getting this message out.

Virginia Chapter of the Health Physics Society