Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee

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 Tripler, director of the AIHA Government Affairs Office, for his continuing help and support throughout the year.

Part II Examination Panel

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
Elmer and Me

For those of you who enjoyed reading Ken Miller’s “Elmer” stories in past issues of Health Physics News, you will be glad to note that Ken has recently published all the Elmer stories in the book Elmer and Me. This book is now available at the Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com Web sites. Do a book search for “Elmer and Me by Kenneth L. Miller.” The book is available in paperback and e-book format.