

# The CHP Corner, September 2019

For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve



## The American Academy of Health Physics

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### **AAHP SPECIAL SESSION AT THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

*Kathy Pryor, Past-President*

The American Academy of Health Physics sponsored a full-day technical session at the 2019 HPS Annual Meeting. The special session was entitled “Risk Communication in the Context of Low Dose Health Effects,” and was intended as a follow-up session to last year’s special session on the potential health effects of low dose radiation and the role of radiation protection professionals. Armin Ansari and Kathy Pryor co-chaired the session, which consisted of six presentations and left ample time for questions from the audience and answers from the speakers. The session offered a number of different perspectives on risk communication issues in the context of low dose health effects and practical ways to address them in various areas of health physics practice. The talks given are listed below:

- “The Use and Misuse of Effective Dose,” by Don Cool.
- “Science is Not Enough,” by Eric Daxon.
- “Say What? Patient-Centered Communication on Benefits and Risks,” by Larry Dauer.
- “Risk Communication in Emergency Response and Recovery,” by Jessica Weider.
- “Risk Communications in the Context of Low Dose Health Effects: Communicating in the Courtroom,” by John Frazier.
- “The Importance of Audience Research in Communicating Radiological Health Information,” by Armin Ansari.

The AAHP would like to thank all the speakers for their interesting and informative presentations.

### **2019 HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY SALARY SURVEY**

*Gary Lauten*

For the last several years, the American Academy of Health Physics has conducted an annual CHP Salary Survey. This is the twelfth year the survey has been expanded to include the entire HPS membership, and we ask for your participation in completing it. To participate in the survey, log in to your HPS account and click the blue button under “Resources for You” or follow this [link](#). If you have any comments, questions, or problems with the survey please contact [Gary Lauten](#), CHP, and not the HPS website webmaster.

### **ABHP EXAMINATION SITE COMMITTEE**

*Jeffrey Bruner, Committee Chair*

The Examination Site Committee sets up testing locations for our future CHPs. The current committee members are Jeff Bruner, Kara Beharry, William C. Uhland, Charles B. Serfas and Daniel I. Menchaca. We rely on many volunteers; without them we would not be able to have testing locations all across the US and Canada. From Orlando to Ontario to Richland – in 2019 we had 16 locations set up to administer Part 2 of the exam. This is in addition to the annual meeting

site in Orlando (set up by Amy Wride-Graney). Thank you to all that proctored – and a special thanks to the lead proctors who in addition to proctoring and protecting the exams also arranged the physical exam locations:

Location	Lead Proctor	Location	Lead Proctor	Location	Lead Proctor
Aiken, SC	Roy Windham	Idaho Falls, ID	Leonard Davis	Oak Ridge, TN	Elizabeth Gillenwalters
Albuquerque, NM	Charles Guinn	Los Angeles, CA	Zhi Zang	Omaha, NE	Frank Rutar
Fort Collins, CO	Ted Borst	Mineral, VA	Nora Nicholson	Richland, WA	Don Stewart
Gaithersburg, MD	Adel Baryoun	New Haven, CT	Tammy Stemen	San Francisco, CA	Dawn Banghart
Hamilton, Ontario	Josip Zic	New York, NY	Matthew Williamson	St. Louis, MO	William Uhland
Houston, TX	Billie Harvey				

Although Part 1 is now done at testing centers, it is still a long day. Thanks again to all that helped and if you're interested in helping out in 2020, please [contact us](#).

## AAHP TREASURER'S REPORT

*Pat LaFrate, Treasurer*

The market value of the AAHP's long-term and intermediate-term investments totaled \$766,452 as of May 31, 2019 (the last quarterly reporting prior to the Orlando meeting). This represents a financial gain of \$56,581 (+7.97%) since the start of the year. The goal for the performance of these Long-Term investments is to beat the Consumer Price Index by 4%. Performance for the Intermediate-Term investments is measured against two different financial Indices, the S&P 500 and BGCI, a private bond index. However, the overarching goal of each portfolio is to favor security of the investments over possible losses. The performance of our paid Investment Manager, Wells Fargo, is graded against these performance goals. Our investment goals are currently considered "green:" meaning positive performance and requiring no action.

The annual AAHP Finance Committee planning meeting in May 2019 wrapped up another budgeting and financial planning cycle. The cycle ended with the July 2019 Executive Committee's approval for the FY 19-20 budget.

The current values of the AAHP investment accounts (as of May 31, 2019) are:

- Long-Term Reserves: \$680,483
- Intermediate-term Reserves: \$ 85,969
- Short-Term Reserves (checking): \$ 57,680

Since the 2019 midyear meeting of the Academy, no major expenditures were undertaken. Routine expenditures since the midyear meeting included normal operating expenses:

- \$7850.58--the monthly Burk & Associates contract fee;
- \$5250.00--a fee for the final review of the 2018 financial statement performed by the accounting firm, Hozik & Company;
- \$5469.87--travel expenses from the midyear meeting by EC members; and
- \$6843.50--Midyear meeting HPS meeting expenses for Secretariat travel; course honorarium, course processing fees, course AV equipment, and food service.

Deposits to the account since the midyear meeting included approximately \$65,200 mainly from current and past due membership fees. The account balance at the end of May 2019 stood at \$57,680.14. The expectation that the checking account would fully recover to the \$80k-\$100K range has not come to fruition. This is in part due to the off-normal academy activities that have not yet stabilized and at least in the short term, the account balance shows a downward trend.

We continue to see annual membership fees roll in without commensurate expenditures. Also, the ABHP exam fees should soon be credited to the account. These deposits are anticipated to be in the range of \$40,000. The budget also allows for an annual transfer of 4% of the trailing 5-year average of the unrestricted reserves, which would be \$26,800. At this time, this transfer is not recommended. The budget for FY 19-20 was set at \$240,777, with an estimated deficit \$32,000. A transfer from reserves is again planned to offset much of the deficit.

Over the last decade, annual operating expenses of the AAHP have been tens of thousands of dollars more than revenue. Shortfalls have been covered by successes in our intermediate-term investment account. As operating expenses have continued to rise, AAHP receivables have remained flat, i.e., the number of certified health physicists remains steady at about 1,300–1,350. These shortfalls depleted the cash reserve in our operating account to the point that the Executive Committee, in accordance with the AAHP investment policy, had to approve moving money from the intermediate-investment account to cover current operating budget needs.

We have reached a point in our operations where a membership dues increase is necessary. Significant increases in operating costs include AAHP association management fees, meeting expenses, exam creation, delivery and scoring, and AAHP website maintenance and improvements fees. After careful consideration by the Finance and Executive Committees, this year the new maintenance fees are:

- \$125 for plenary membership
- \$25 for emeritus membership

This increase is necessary to keep us on track with our Part 1 and Part 2 testing change plans and to keep the organization and supporting operations viable for the long term. Compared with annual fees in other professional certification programs, our fees are still quite a bargain.

There are no additional major projects planned, but there is likely to be a supplemental spending request later in the year to start moving ABHP Part II to an electronic format. As everyone should be aware of now, there have been a few major changes for members this year regarding maintenance fees. Details have already been sent out to members, but here is a quick summary:

- Multi-year “floating” of maintenance fees has been eliminated for easier budgeting;
- Maintenance fees are paid in advance, not retroactively; and
- All Members (current and future) are being forgiven 1 year of fees.

If you have a question related to AAHP investments or the budget, please do not hesitate to email me at [plaftrate1@gmail.com](mailto:plaftrate1@gmail.com) or call me at 919-802-5716.