

American Board Of Health Physics

AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS

April 1977

Dear Colleague:

The American Board of Health Physics has just completed the 18th year of its existence and thanks to the response and support of active Certified Health Physicists, the program continues to be financially stable, active, and is becoming more prestigious with each year.

As indicated in previous annual letters, financial assistance through voluntary subscriptions was initiated as a temporary measure and was dropped this year in favor of the increased fee program described below. However, deep appreciation and gratitude are expressed to all those who have contributed. It was clear evidence of the fact that the majority of the Certified Health Physicists recognized the need to support such a program which contributes to the profession as a whole as well as to each individual.

The continued efforts of the American Board to restrict expenses to a bare minimum have been successful as evidenced by the fact that the amount of money realized through the examination fees has nearly met the expenses of the program during the past year. However, during the last Board meeting, it was recognized there are some increased expenses resulting from the need to expand the examination questions utilized in Part I, in addition to an increased fee assessment from the Professional Examination Service. In any event, it was felt by the Board that it would be necessary to raise the examination fees for new candidates effective January 1, 1977, in order that the program be self supporting. It should be emphasized, however, that employees of the Board and panel members continue to graciously support the work of the ABHP in the form of secretarial services and travel expenses.

A summary of the highlights of the Board activities is attached for your information.

Thank you for your continued support of ABHP activities.

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Terpilak
Secretary-Treasurer

P.S. -- Since the Monday of this year's HPS Annual Meeting is the 4th of July, both the written and oral certification exams will be given on Friday, July 8, 1977.

Summary of ABHP 1976
Board Meeting Actions

1. Recertification

The Board approved a Recertification Program and appointed a Continuing Education Panel to initiate and implement the program. R. J. Cloutier was appointed as Chairman and R. J. Junkins as Vice-Chairman. Carlyle J. Roberts was appointed as Vice-Chairman, ABHP, to coordinate the activities of the Continuing Education Panel. It is anticipated that the first approved credit courses will be conducted at the annual meeting in Atlanta.

2. Panel of Examiners

Certification examinations were conducted in June 1976, graded, and the results approved at the Board meeting in Saratoga Springs, October 1976. Of the 39 candidates who took the full exam, Parts I and II, 17 passed, 11 failed, 8 were requested to take the oral exam, 1 was requested to repeat Part I, and 2 were provided with the option either to repeat Part I or take the oral exam. Of the 52 candidates who took only Part I of the exam, 13 passed and 39 failed.

This year's exam was once again designed to allow specialty groups to demonstrate competence in their area of expertise to a greater extent than in previous years.

3. National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists

The first National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists examination was given as scheduled on November 13, 1976. There were 90 applicants approved of which 83 took the exam at 20 locations, 62 (75%) were successful. The Board does not feel that this higher-than-expected percentage of successful candidates indicates that the exam was too easy. Rather, it is believed that the numerous training programs developed around the country in preparation for the examination were a significant factor. Candidates will be notified as soon as possible.

The NRRPT Board was held on January 25th and 26th after which the exam results will be available and the applicants will be notified. Those applicants which were approved and did not take the exam will still be eligible to take the exam next year. The next NRRPT exam will be given in November 1977.

4. Application Fees

The Board approved an increase in the application fees for new candidates. Effective January 1, 1977, the certification fees will be as follows:

<u>Certification Step</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Application to take Part I of written examination	\$50
Application for Regular Examination to take Parts I and II of the written examination together	\$100
Application to take Part II of written examination only	\$50
Charge for certification plaque	\$15

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report by Mr. Bryce Rich indicates total assets of \$14,903.85 as of December 31, 1976. It is anticipated that the present increases in application fees for Parts I and II of the examination will provide sufficient funds to support the examination without additional voluntary subscription from Certified Health Physicists.

6. ABHP Brochure

The ABHP brochure is in its final stages and should be available by the annual meeting in Atlanta.

7. Exam Panel Officer Appointments and Member Replacement

<u>Retiring</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
M. Terpilak Steele (Inactive)	W. Patterson J. Denovan

Panel Officer Appointments were:

N. A. Greenhouse - Chairman
R. R. Bowers - Vice Chairman

8. ABHP Member Replacements

<u>Retiring</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
B. Reinig T. Gerusky	D. Myers C. Roessler

In addition, the following ABHP officers were elected:

B. L. Rich - Chairman
C. J. Roberts - Vice-Chairman
M. S. Terpilak - Secretary-Treasurer

At this time, the American Board of Health Physics would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to outgoing Chairman Bill Reinig and Board Member Tom Gerusky, for their inspiring leadership, guidance, devotion and their support during their term of office. Thanks again for a job well done.

9. An HPS letter to the ABHP requesting consideration of three general subjects was discussed. Chairman Reinig was commissioned to respond to the HPS as indicated below:

a. Code of Ethics for HP Practice

Response: The ABHP supports/encourages the formulation of a code of ethics as a guide but recognizes that such a code is very nearly unenforceable. The ABHP Code of Ethics which every CHP has accepted by signature, is referenced.

b. The request for the establishment of a professional reference function.

Response: The ABHP will not participate in establishing such a service and strongly advises against attempting any action. It is felt that most conflicts involve management prerogatives and would very soon involve the ABHP (or HPS) in areas outside their charter to evaluate (Technical Expertise).

c. "Hot Line Response" to HPs with Problems

Response: The ABHP declines to participate on the basis that a proper response would generally require a site visit (for which we are not equipped) and considerable legal liability vulnerability. It is felt that personal relationships (knowing someone with whom to consult) is a professional skill, and should be developed on an individual basis.

10. CHPs as "Qualified Experts" in Therapy Machine Calibration

T. Gerusky, S. Vickers and M. Terpilak reported that the request of A. Tschaeche (concerning apparent California State discrimination against CHPs) had been satisfied, and that the problem appears to be resolved. It was felt that action by Gerusky has resulted in a modification in the State requirements and that the current standards were reasonable. T. Gerusky was asked to write Tschaeche explaining the Board action and to S. Davis (New York State Radiation Health Head) to encourage an equally fair recognition of CHP expertise.

11. ANSI Standard on Reactor HP Certification Program

The feasibility study chaired by W. Patterson resulted in a draft standard. A subsequent meeting with W. Patterson indicates NRC comments have been incorporated and the draft standard returned to ANSI. ANSI action is possible now on a timely basis and NRC incorporation into Guide form is possible before formal issue of the ANSI Standards.

12. HPS Secretarial Service

A meeting was held on February 8, 1977, to discuss the feasibility of contracting a service with the Executive Secretary of the Health Physics Society relative to assuming the day-to-day administrative duties of the American Board of Health Physics. The Executive Secretary would provide the following day-to-day administrative services to the American Board of Health Physics.

1. Set up and administer the ABHP checking account and book-keeping system.
2. Obtain and administer a bulk mailing permit for future mailings of the ABHP.
3. Obtain and administer future printing needs for the ABHP.
4. Provide, administer and update a computerized list of certified Health Physicists for use by the ABHP.
5. Set up and administer at some future date the ABHP records and files.

Mr. Burk submitted a cost estimate for the above services. The Board's proposal is to contract a "set up" service from May to January for approximately \$1600. This set up service will provide essential facilities and does not commit us to the HPS service.