

American Board Of Health Physics

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AMERICAN BOARD OF HEALTH PHYSICS
NEWSLETTER---DECEMBER 1984

Dear Colleague:

This Newsletter summarizes Board activities through the end of 1984 which should be of interest to all Certified Health Physicists. Specific areas discussed are:

1. Officers and Board for 1985
2. Outgoing Board and Panel Members
3. Status of CHPs
4. Certification Renewal
5. Report Requirement for Certification Applicants
6. Dates to Remember
7. Exam Format Modified
8. American Academy of Health Physics
9. Call for Volunteers
10. Part I Questions Needed
11. From Meetings of the Board
12. 1984 Certified Health Physicists

As you will note the Board has been very active and has given due diligence to maintaining the quality and validity of the certification process. As an outgoing member of the Board, I am pleased and honored to have had the opportunity to serve you all. And, finally, as a personal bit of editorializing, I am hopeful for the successful implementation of an American Academy of Health Physics.

With best wishes (somewhat belatedly) for a happy and prosperous 1985,
I am

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Kathren

1. Officers and Board for 1985.

The constitution of the Board for 1985 will be:

Chairman:

Lester A. Slaback, Jr.

Vice Chairman:

William R. Casey

Secretary-Treasurer:

R. Jerry Everett

Parliamentarian:

Kenneth R. Kase

Board Members:

Frazier Bronson

Howard Dickson

Robert Quillin

Joseph Sayeg

Board member Joe Sayeg will serve as coordinator and liaison with Professional Examination Service.

Panel Chairs for 1985 are:

Comprehensive Panel of Examiners:

Larry A. Cross, Chairman

Dale H. Denham, Vice Chairman

Power Reactor Panel of Examiners:

Thomas O. Meek, Chairman

Dennis Quinn, Vice Chairman

Continuing Education Panel:

Robert M. Heublein, Jr., Chairman

2. Farewell and Thanks to Outgoing Board and Panel Members.

At its October meeting, the Board, by acclamation, voted to commend and thank all the outgoing Board and Panel members for a job well done. Those included are two outgoing ABHP members, Chairman Neil Gaeta and Secretary-Treasurer Ron Kathren; Comprehensive Panel of Examiners Chairman Carl Distenfeld and Panel Members Bill Carlton and Dave Steidley; Continuing Education Panel Chairman Bernie Schleien; Power Reactor Panel Members Ed Scalsky and Harvey Story, and last but by no means least, outgoing Power Reactor Panel of Examiners Chairman John Kelly who will continue as a Panel Member for another year.

3. Active and Inactive CHPs.

To remain an Active Diplomat of the ABHP requires continuing activity on the part of the CHP in terms of accumulating the appropriate number of Continuing Education credits, making formal application, and meeting the financial obligations. Diplomates retired from active practice can be granted Emeritus status by appropriate application and payment of a reduced fee. Active and Emeritus CHPs are listed on the official roster which is published in the Health Physics Society Membership Handbook.

As of October 1984, the membership status was:

581 Active CHPs
 539 Active Comprehensive
 22 Active Power Reactor
 20 Active Dual
23 Emeritus
19 Inactive by choice
185 Inactive by inaction

Fully three-fourths of the CHPs value their certification sufficiently to meet the requirements for active certification. Of the remainder, most have become inactive by failure to respond. It may well be that many of these inactive diplomates will want to reinstate themselves to active status in the coming year, but are unaware that they may be able to do so. Since inactive CHPs do not receive the Newsletter (wonderful tome that it is), active CHPs can help by getting the message out. Questions as to specific cases can be resolved by contacting the Executive Secretary's Office.

4. Certification Renewal.

For most CHPs on the active list, 1985 is the year in which active status as a CHP expires. Renewal is granted for a period of four years, and requires completion of 16 Continuing Education Credits and payment of the renewal fee, currently \$25 per year or \$100 for the entire four-year period. Notices and appropriate forms will be sent out shortly to those whose active status expires at the end of 1985. Lists of approved courses can be obtained from the Executive Secretary's Office or at the ABHP Booth at the Health Physics Society's Annual Meeting. Remember that in addition to attendance at HPS Meetings, attendance at ANS, AAPM, NCRP, SNM and RRS annual meetings qualifies for Continuing Education Credits, as mentioned in the Spring 1984 Newsletter, at the rate of 1 credit per day of attendance, to a maximum of 3 credits for any one meeting. Credit is also granted for preparation and teaching of graduate or professional level courses in health physics at the rate of 1 CEC per 8 classroom hours, with as a general rule, such credit being granted only once in any four year period for any specific course.

5. Report Requirement for Certification Applicants.

Numerous questions have been received on the requirement that became effective July 1, 1984, whereby new applicants for certification must submit a written document along with their application. This document need not be an article published in HEALTH PHYSICS or some other refereed journal, nor a research article or even a formally published document or report; any written document authored by the applicant that reflects a professional health physics effort will suffice. Thus, appropriate informal internal memos, hazards evaluations, shielding calculations, and the like might well prove satisfactory, assuming they meet the test of demonstrating professional level judgement or application of non-regulatory radiation protection guidance. Details are provided in the ABHP Prospectus.

6. Some Dates to Remember.

To minimize conflicts with the Memorial Day Holiday, the Board has scheduled the following dates for the 1985 examinations and its next meeting:

Board Meeting: Monday, May 27
Written Examinations: Friday, May 31
Oral Examinations: Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26

The meeting and the examinations will be held in Chicago during the Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society. As always, CHPs are welcome to attend the ABHP Meeting and to submit proposals (in writing before the meeting) for the attention of the Board.

7. Exam Format Modified.

The American Board of Health Physics announces that the format of the Part II exam for both the comprehensive and the power reactor certification has been modified for the 1985 exam. In the first section of each exam, there will be six questions on broad fundamental topics of health physics. Both exams will contain the same six questions. All candidates must answer these questions. The topic areas that these questions will examine are: personnel dosimetry (can include internal and external dosimetry), shielding (can include activation), measurements (can include instrumentation), and biological effects of radiation (can include risk). These questions will be selected so that each can be read and answered in a period of 10-15 minutes. Each question will be worth five points.

The second section of the comprehensive Part II exam will contain seven essay/calculational problems. The candidate may select any four of the seven questions. One question may be provided for each of the following specialty areas:

Accelerators
 Environmental
 Fuel Cycle (mining, milling, fuel fabrication and fuel reprocessing)
 Medical
 Power Reactors
 University
 General (can include non-ionizing, emergency response, waste disposal, meteorology, standards and regulations, and topical subjects)

Each question from a specialty area will be designed such that a candidate who is experienced and capable in that area should have no difficulty answering it. However, all questions will be kept general enough so that a person without detailed experience in an area, but who has studied that area, could answer it. Each question will be designed to be read and answered in 30 minutes and will be worth 10 points.

The second section of the power reactor Part II exam will contain six essay/calculational problems. The candidate may select any four of the six questions. These questions are specific to power reactors and generally require detailed knowledge of power reactor health physics. Each of the long questions is worth 10 points and is designed to require about 30 minutes to read and answer.

Subjects which may be covered in this section of the Power Reactor Part II exam are:

Technical Administration	Air Sampling
Professional Judgement	Protective Clothing & Equipment
Design Review	Respiratory Protection
Plant Systems	Instrument Selection, Operation & Calibration (includes survey, effluent monitors & counting room instruments)
ALARA	Decontamination
Radioactive Material Control	Personnel Dosimetry
Radwaste Management	Bioassay & Uptake Analysis
Emergency Planning	In-Plant Dose Assessment
Procedures	Environmental
Training	Off-Site Dose Projection
Regulations & Standards	Transportation
Medical-Legal Aspects	Current Topics
Guides & Limits	Contamination Control
Shielding	
Radiation Measurement	

8. American Academy of Health Physics.

Considerable progress towards an American Academy of Health Physics which would provide CHPs with a forum for their views on the operations of the ABHP certification process has been made. In June 1984, the ABHP formally received the report of the ad hoc committee on the formation of an American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) which had been formed in June 1982 at the Las Vegas meeting under the chairmanship of Jack Selby. To refine the draft Academy Bylaws proposed by the ad hoc committee and to organize and carry through all the procedures necessary to bring the Academy into existence, a new committee was formally established by the Board. Because approval of the HPS as well as the ABHP is necessary for the formation of the Academy (this is a legal requirement imposed by the existing ABHP Bylaws, which currently require that changes to the Bylaws be approved by the HPS), the Board invited the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society to nominate two members to this committee to help smooth the approval through the HPS. Committee members are Bob Casey, Roger Cloutier, Bryce Rich, Jack Selby, and Les Slaback.

The general plan is for the organization of the Academy and the relationship between it and the ABHP to be defined; completion of the preparation of the Academy Bylaws; establishment of transition and startup procedures; obtain provisional approval of the ABHP and HPS and a vote of the active CHPs; secure final approval by the ABHP and HPS; initial election and membership offering; and the establishment of the Academy. Hopefully, all this will happen no later than January 1986.

The new committee has been working diligently on the proposed Bylaws to simplify the purpose of the Academy, its organization and election processes, and its relationship to the ABHP with the intent that once formed, the Academy can evolve in accordance with the desires of the members. The committee hopes to get specific details of the proposal for the Academy out for a vote in the spring of 1985.

9. Call for Volunteers.

The backbone of the examination process are the two Panels of Examiners -- one for the Comprehensive Exam and the other for the Power Reactor specialty. These two volunteer groups are responsible for preparation and grading of Part II questions and for the administration of the examination as a whole. CHPs who would like to serve on either Panel should contact one of the following Panel Chairmen:

Comprehensive Panel:

Larry A. Cross
376 Redstone Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410
203-677-7715

Power Reactor Panel:
Thomas O. Meek
Portland General Electric Company
Trojan Nuclear Plant
P.O. Box 439
Rainier, OR 97048
503-556-3713

Similarly, the certification renewal process greatly depends upon the Continuing Education Panel. CHPs who would like to serve on this panel should contact:

Robert Heublein
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
1100 Circle 75 Parkway
Suite 1500
Atlanta, GA 30339
404-953-3600

The main point of emphasis here is that 'serve' means 'work'. These panel members carry a heavy load with little recognition, but the certification and renewal process could not exist without these panels. Those who would like to be involved are strongly urged to contact one of those listed above or send a note to the Secretariat Office.

10. Part I Questions Needed.

Part I of the certification examination consists of 150 multiple choice questions on basic fundamentals of health physics, and is taken by all who strive for certification. To ensure that sufficient questions are available to avoid too frequent repetition, more questions are needed. Here's your chance to make a real contribution; dash off a half dozen or so questions and send them in to the Board or the Panel Chairmen; questions should be of the multiple choice type with five selections, only one of which is correct. All questions will undergo a rigid screening and evaluation procedure before being adopted, but the raw material is badly needed both to ensure the validity and updating of the test as well as to save costs. Questions, please.

11. From Meetings of the Board.

-- A new ABHP Prospectus has been published, and it really looks great. If you haven't seen it and would like a copy, contact the Executive Secretary's Office. Copies will be available at the HPS Annual Meeting also.

-- After careful consideration of a recommendation of the Power Reactor Panel of Examiners to eliminate the waiver of the Power Reactor Exam for CHPs holding comprehensive certification, the Board voted to continue the waiver and requested the Panel suggest criteria for candidates seeking the waiver.

-- A new format and wording for certificates was approved; the new models will be presented to those who achieved certification during 1984.

12. 1984 Certified Health Physicists.

The following people were granted Comprehensive Certification in 1984:

Argall, Rowena	Caprio, Michael	Carbaugh, Eugene
Channell, James	Davidson, Barry	Davis, Joel
Draper, Douglas	Dziuk, Timothy	Feldman, Alexander
French, Clayton	Goldin, Eric	Headrick, Elizabeth
Hildebrand, James	Hunt, Jerry	Liberace, Richard
Lynch, Timothy	Medling, E. Scott	Minnema, Douglas
Mulcahey, Eric	Nunno, Michael	Rahon, Theodore
Rittman, Paul	Rogers, Vern	Russell, James
Snellings, David	Szalinski, Paul	Tarpinian, James
Vargo, George	Velen, Steve	Vilani, Joseph

The following people were granted Power Reactor Certification in 1984:

Bickel, Eric	Hiatt, Jerry	Hofferber, George
Leach, Edward	McDonald, Scott	Mitchell, Thomas
Mohler, David W.	Murray, Blaine	Oliver, George
Smialek, Lawrence	Sullivan, Michael	

The Board extends its congratulations to all of those listed above who achieved certification in 1984.

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