

North Central Chapter

Committee Work, Lasers, PuBe, Radioactive Cats, Yucca, Training, and Iowa

Dan Miron
NCCHPS Councilor

The North Central Chapter Health Physics Society (NCCHPS) held its spring meeting on 30 April 2004 at the Oakdale Research Campus of the University of Iowa (UI).

The first presentation was by Daniel McGrane, 3M, Chair of the HPS Public Education Committee (PEC), regarding his work on the PEC and the Committee's work on getting HPS fact sheets published. Although committee membership can be challenging, Dan encouraged all members to consider becoming an active member of a national committee since the work is interesting and rewarding. One possible project for the PEC is to develop a fact sheet for National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Prometheus Project.

Gordon Axt discussed UI's Laser Safety Program for Research including a basic overview of laser safety. Gordon, like many health physicists, has taken on the duty of laser safety officer and shared his experience with the laser safety



program.

Ken Kerns, of Iowa State University (ISU, not UI for those who might care about this rivalry) and President-Elect of the

NCCHPS, presented information regarding the collaborative efforts between all the universities and colleges in Iowa that possess PuBe [plutonium-bryllium neutron] sources and how ISU managed the collection and disposal of the sources with Department of Energy.

The cat lovers of the group then learned about ISU's effort to decrease the amount of time that cats treated with Na^{131}I for hyperthyroidism need to be separated from their human owners (or is it the time that humans need to be separated from their cat owners?). Since cats are not considered human, for regulatory purposes, they cannot be released from a licensee until the radioactive material is no longer detectable in the cat, unless a specific license condition allows earlier release. ISU's current efforts are looking at basing the release of the cat on the public dose limit of 100 mrem to the maximally exposed person after release.

Dan Bullen, a current member of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) presented his

views of the critical issues related to Yucca Mountain site and the upcoming license application.

Lauri Taylor shared an overview of training of the UI and shared some training tips that she learned over the years as UI's

training coordinator.

The day concluded with a tour of UI's Hygienics Laboratory.



Ken Kerns, right, brings birthday cake

During lunch the chapter celebrated Chuck Roessler's upcoming 70th birthday.

Results of chapter elections were announced. Jeff Brunette was elected the new President-elect and Nancy Farrington and Marc Martz the new councilors.

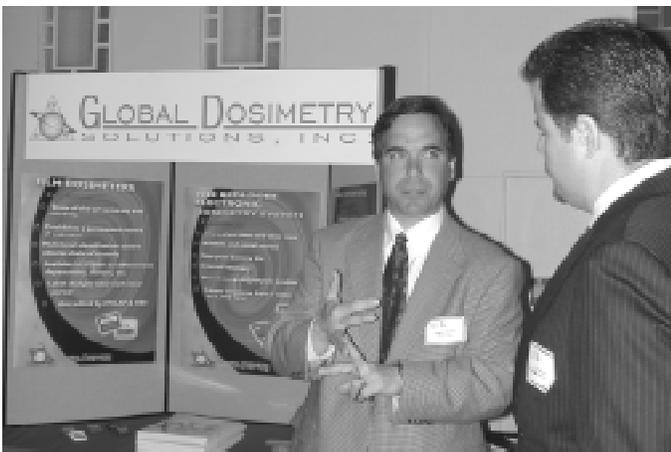
Congratulations and thanks to all members who ran for an office. The membership also

approved an amendment to the bylaws to allow electronic voting in future chapter elections.

Thanks to the following Affiliate Sponsors for sponsoring the meeting: Global Dosimetry Solutions, Image Technology, Inc., Research Products International Corp., and Illinois Institute of Technology.



NCCHPS President-Elect Jeff



Glenn Sturchio (left) NCCHPS, and Global Dosimetry Midwest Representative Tom Chwierut

