

## Chapter News

### North Central Chapter

Marcum Martz, CHP



The spring meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCCHPS) was held on Friday, 14 April 2006, at the Mayo Clinic Charter House in Rochester, Minnesota.

The meeting was sponsored by Ed Kolski of Duratek, Gary Beardman of Landauer Dosimetry, and Dale Elmore of Canberra Instruments. Dan McGrane, the NCCHPS president-elect, welcomed the attendees and introduced each of the speakers.

Glenn Sturchio provided an overview of bioassay programs utilizing ANSI/HPS N13.39 methods, with descriptions of the screening, verification, and investigation levels. Of interest to many listeners was the “real world” screening level table Glenn provided with activity values for commonly used isotopes.

“Taking Shelter Is Not Just for Tornados Any More” was the ominous-sounding title of the



Gary Beardman of Landauer demonstrates the MicroStar Dosimetry System.

presentation by Daniel Whitcomb of Minnesota’s Radiological Emergency Preparedness Division. Insightful planning has shown that evacuation of populations within the potential impact zones of Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear facilities during inclement winter weather is neither practical nor safe. Whitcomb also presented Minnesota’s strategy for stockpiling and distribution of potassium iodide.

On 31 March 2006, Minnesota became the 34<sup>th</sup> Agreement State. George Johns, supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Health Radiation Control Unit, announced that 163 of the 170 total radioac-

tive material licenses had been issued within two weeks. Licensees affected by Increased Controls, issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, will have the same deadline, 13 May 2006, but under Minnesota jurisdiction. Minnesota will also have a program to pick up radioactive material from public schools for no charge. This program is being run with the cooperation of the University of Minnesota.

Sarah Field of the Rochester Area Math/Science Partnership and Amy Grover of the Southeast Service Cooperative gave a presentation on efforts to improve math and science education in regional school districts. The program, which has received a three-year, \$120,000-per-year grant, combines both private and public school districts and the North Central Chapter is one of the sponsors.

After lunch and the chapter business meeting, Scott Quiggle, a project engineer from Nuclear



Dale Elmore (left) of Canberra Instruments and Paul Ward.



Amy Grover and Sarah Field discuss teaching partnerships with Mike Lewandowski.



**Secretary-Treasurer Kimberly Knight-Wiegert at the chapter business meeting**

Management Company, provided a look at Monticello Nuclear Power Plant's plans for onsite dry storage of spent fuel.

Alan Amundson gave a presentation on the work recently completed at the Mayo Clinic to commission a new  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  gamma source for instrument calibration and the software database system that is used to track instruments and record results.

3M Corporation is constructing a new gamma sterilization facility in South Dakota, and Nick Bates provided some insight on ergonomic and dosimetric issues considered in the design of the facility.

The results of elections for chapter officers were announced—President-elect Mike Lewandowski and Councilors



**2006 Chapter Officers: President-elect Dan McGrane and President Jeffrey Brunette**

Steven Simpson and Mary Ellen Jafari.

Finally, the North Central Chapter is planning two more Science Teacher Workshops in 2006: 11 August with the Rochester Area Math/Science Partnership and in October with the Wisconsin Association of Physics Teachers. ☒

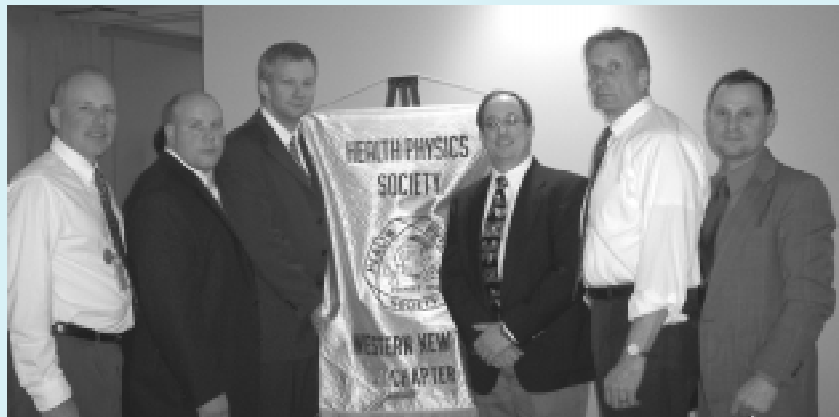
## Western New York Chapter

*John Pavel, CHP*

**T**he Western New York Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its Spring meeting on 21 April 2006 at the O'Brien and Gere Building in Syracuse, New York.

Supporting our professional activities were sponsors MJW Technical Services, Global Dosimetry, Safety and Ecology, and Landauer. O'Brien and Gere provided the meeting location. Thank you to all!

The chapter welcomes health physicists in western and central New York State to participate in our activities. Please contact Secretary Debra Koch at [Debra.koch@viahealth.org](mailto:Debra.koch@viahealth.org).



**Left to right, speaker from the New York State Department of Health and chapter member Gary Baker, Chapter Past President Richard Harvey, speaker from Oregon State University David Hamby, Chapter President Jamie Prowse, speaker from O'Brien and Gere and chapter member Jeff Banikowski, and Chapter Treasurer John Pavel**