

## Chapter News

### Susquehanna Valley Chapter

*Dave Allard, CHP*

On 19 March 2007 Health Physics Society (HPS) President-elect Kevin L. Nelson visited Central Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna Valley Chapter to give a talk on “Medical Response to Radiation Incidents.” His presentation was very well received and prompted a great deal of discussion, in particular as it related to the Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit-2 accident about 28 years prior. For example, just after the accident a whole-body counter was used to count selected members of the public for fission products. As expected with the majority of the release during the accident being radioactive noble gases, no internal deposition other than naturally occurring radioactive material (for example,  $^{40}\text{K}$ ) and radon decay products was observed.

Prior to the chapter meeting, Nelson was provided a tour of the control rooms for TMI’s (operating) Unit-1

and (mothballed) Unit-2 by HPS member Dave Ethridge. While in the TMI Unit-2 control room, we were all given a review of the accident’s early phase by Ed Frederick, who was one of the plant operators there at 4:00 a.m. on 28 March 1979. Ed described the accident progression and how the technology of the day, operator training, and control-room design all contributed to the accident. For example, with hundreds of alarms sounding within



TMI Unit-2 Control Room, (left to right) Dave Ethridge, Kevin Nelson, Ed Frederick, and Dave Allard.

(Photo courtesy of AmerGen)

minutes, the teletype in the control room could only print out six per minute! Kevin was very happy to get this tour, as he credits the TMI accident for getting him into the field of health physics. After the tour of TMI, I gave Kevin a tour of our state emergency operations center in Harrisburg where the

Pennsylvania Bureau of Radiation Protection is located during a nuclear power plant event or exercise. We then drove over to Hershey Medical Center for the chapter dinner and a well-attended meeting.

Many thanks to Dave Ethridge, Ed Frederick, Mike Erdman, Ken Miller, George Vargo, and Bill Cooper for helping pull together a great day for Kevin. ☒

### North Central Chapter

#### Outstanding Science Teacher Named

*Kimberly Knight-Wiegert*

Larry Scheckel, physics teacher at Tomah (Wisconsin) High School was named the 2007 Outstanding Science Teacher by the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCCHPS). He is now a candidate for the HPS Outstanding Science Teacher Award.

The award consists of a cash prize divided between him and Tomah High

School and recognizes the exemplary work he does in teaching nuclear science and technology. Scheckel was selected for this award because of the inventive, hands-on experiments that he provides for his students.

Scheckel, accompanied by his wife, Ann, accepted the award at the spring meeting of the North Central Chapter on 27 April 2007. During the meeting, held at the Lawton Center of the Marshfield (Wisconsin) Clinic, Scheckel engrossed the meeting attendees with a multimedia presentation describing his teaching and illustrating his students’ classroom experience. ☒



Larry and Ann Scheckel