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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

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Meeting Announcement

REMINDER- the **revised** schedule of meetings for the remainder of the chapter year has been set:

January 16th, 2004- Joint Meeting with ANS
March 11th, 2004- To Be Announced
April 21st, 2004- To Be Announced
June 8th, 2004- Annual Meeting

Be sure to set aside June 8th for the NECHPS Annual Meeting (please note the date change from June 1st to June 8th, 2004).

Notes from the President

Margaret McCarthy

I send a wintry message from the home office in Western Massachusetts with a few items that the board has discussed and wishes to be brought forth to the Chapter. The message is bright skies and lovely white snow of the holiday season, punctuated by bright lights and lumenaria.

The Connecticut Chapter of the HPS

Two members of the Connecticut Chapter attended a NECHPS board meeting in October to discuss reactivation and rejuvenation of the CT Chapter. June Tampkin-Price and Peter Mas wish to collaborate with the NECHPS. With pearls of wisdom from our oracle from the HPS board, Ed Maher, who outlined the procedures to make this effort, June has since organized a meeting in December in West Hartford. Dual membership in both chapters would be a benefit to the HPS in general and to one's personal network.

E-mail Broadcast List

There is a broadcast e-mail list [in addition to the paper newsletter] for those on e-mail announcing meetings and emergency cancellations. To be a recipient on this list one must be a member of the chapter. One may of course privately contact another person, but board members are to recommend membership. Folks, our membership is cheap, tax

deductible, and available for five years at a good discount.

Profit-Making Endeavors

Endeavors in the profit-making sector will be listed in the newsletter and broadcast e-mail if, and only if, the promoter is an affiliate member. The broadcast list is approved by the board and distributed by the web master. Our affiliates have been loyal and generous and the board wishes to respect this tradition. Public announcements are by approval of the board. There is some reciprocity with other chapters on non-profit items.

Time Frame

Yes, we all wish the instantaneous transference of information. However, due process takes time. The NECHPS board functions on essentially a late September—early June, inc., calendar. Notices, informational discussions, membership applications, etc., require that the discussion item be placed on the agenda, discussed, approved, and then promulgated. The turn-around time is typically three months for a non-essential agenda item.

Thinking Ahead

The mid-year program in Augusta, Georgia would be a nice break from the vicissitudes of February. How about the July meeting in Washington DC? Check the HPS website. Please come to the next meeting in Nashua, NH. Chris Martel is distributing the locations over the 2003—2004 Chapter Year so that all can attend at one time or another. No excuse!

Happy New Year!

Margaret

New Members

If you know anyone who wants to join NECHPS, tell him/her to visit the website (www.nechps.org) or contact John Sumares at 617-427-2944. Student members are always welcome, and remember, student membership is free!

Vermont Pushes Anti-Radiation Pill on Locals

Contributed by Rusty Lorenzen

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Department of Health is encouraging Windham County residents to ask for a pill that would help prevent thyroid cancer in the event of an accident at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. In a mass mailing sent to thousands of county residents, the department said that one dose of potassium iodide would be available to each person who works or lives in Dummerston, Brattleboro, Guilford, Halifax and Vernon. These five towns are located within Yankee's defined 10-mile-radius "emergency planning zone."

The program has been going on for the last two years, but not many people have asked for the pills, said Marilyn Lewis, a public health nurse for the Vermont Department of Health. "This is just the next phase of our outreach," Lewis said. "We're also doing outreach to businesses, hotels and motels." Rob Williams, a spokesman for Yankee, said that the plant keeps a supply of potassium iodide on hand for employees who would perform onsite duties after a radiation release. Karen Barrett, a nurse at the Vernon Elementary School, said stocks of potassium iodide have been available for students and school staff for the past two years. The tablets are also on hand for students and staff at the middle school and Brattleboro Union High School.

Two years ago, Vermont was one of the first states to receive the chemical, which is offered in tablet form. Lewis said the original four-page-long application form to receive the pills might have deterred some residents. A new application asks only for minimal information such as name, address and telephone. "We're seeing a really good response," she said. "There is a lot of interest, but it is still only voluntary (to receive the pills)." Potassium iodide, a chemical compound found in small amounts in table salt, ocean fish and shellfish, helps to prevent thyroid cancer.

[If you have an article you'd like to contribute, contact Doug LaMay at dlamay@mit.edu or (617) 253-4203. Deadlines for article submission are posted on the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org.]

Upcoming Meetings

There are several upcoming professional society meetings of interest to NECHPS members.

HPS Midyear Meeting

The HPS Midyear Meeting is scheduled for the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta, Georgia on February 8-11. Details are available at www.hps.org.

SSD14

The 14th Annual Conference on Solid State Dosimetry (SSD14) is scheduled for New Haven, Connecticut on June 27th-July 2nd. Abstracts for the conference are being accepted until January 31st. Details are available at www.ssd14.org.

RETS/REMP Workshop

The 14th Annual RETS/REMP Workshop will be held on June 28th-30th in Syracuse, NY. The workshop is a forum for discussing effluent releases from nuclear power plants. Abstracts for the conference will be accepted until March 19th. Details are available at www.nechps.org (click on "News and Events").

HPS Annual Meeting

The HPS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Washington, DC on July 11-15. Details are available at www.hps.org.

Membership Dues

Members are reminded that you should pay your dues *as soon as possible* to ensure that your membership status remains in good standing. Dues are \$10.00 per year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will earn you 5 years of Chapter membership.

New Address??

To change your address or contact information, visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org. Up-to-date information will ensure accurate entries for everyone in the NECHPS Membership Directory.

Joint Meeting with the Northeastern Section of the ANS

- Date:** Friday, January 16th, 2003
- Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063
- Speaker:** Congressman Charles Bass, R-NH
Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Time:** 5:30 PM Registration / Social Hour
6:30 PM Dinner
Presentation
- Cost:** \$20.00 Members, \$30.00 Guests, and \$10.00 Students
- Menu:** Two-Entree Buffet: Beef Stir Fry / Chicken Cordon Bleu
- To Register:** *Mail registration to:*

Chris Martel
306 Hayden Rowe
Hopkinton, MA 01748

or call to register: **(617) 638-7419**
or e-mail to register: **cbmartel@bu.edu**
or register online at: **www.nechps.org**

Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, please register beforehand.

Directions:

Follow Route 3 (Everett Turnpike) to Exit 8. Take left at second traffic light into Trafalgar Square Trade Center. The hotel is on the left.

For additional information please call the hotel at: (603) 886-1200.