



Core Happenings

News from the Pittsburgh Local Section of the ANS

Issue 2

To learn more about the ANS and to join the Local Pittsburgh Section, contact Tyler Crummy:

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Pittsburgh Local Section

National Section

Thank you 2013 Pittsburgh Local Section benefactors, who include:

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Long-time ANS Members Accept Gold & Silver National Awards

Gold and Silver National Awards were presented to long-time American Nuclear Society (ANS) members at Benedum Hall at the University of Pittsburgh on March 7. Dr. Jack Olhoft attended and was recognized with the Gold Award for 50 years of continuous membership. Robert Weisemann also received a Gold Award. Paul Salopek and Paul Hartnett received Silver Awards for their 25 years of continuous membership.

After the ceremony Jim Byrne, former engineering manager of Three Mile Island-2 (TMI-2) shared an engaging presentation, including a photo history of the TMI-2 event.

Local Section Recruits New Members During Engineers' Week

During Engineers' Week, Westinghouse members of the ANS hosted an ANS Meet & Greet event at the Cranberry headquarters cafeteria mezzanine in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. Interested persons stopped by to grab a snack, meet ANS members and learn more about the Society.



Three new Local Section members were recruited at the event and shared the following comments:

"I was already pursuing opportunities for professional development and community outreach on my own," said Colleen Kossavage, of Nuclear Services. "When I heard about the ANS, I realized there was a whole group of people banding together to do the same thing and that I didn't have to be a lone nuclear enthusiast. As part of an organized entity, I knew I could learn even more from the nuclear community and better share that passion with the public."

"As a communications professional, it is vital for me to understand all aspects of the nuclear business. I wanted to join the ANS to learn more about the industry and what role the Society plays at Westinghouse," said Gus Miller, of Corporate Communications.

"I joined the Local Section because I think it will be a good opportunity to get to know some new people – especially fellow nuclear engineers – and to engage with the local community. I joined the communications and outreach committees because they fit my love for engaging the public and teaching people about nuclear power," said Sylena Smith, of AP1000 Licensing.

During Engineers' Week, Westinghouse members of the ANS also participated in the Chain Reaction Contraption Contest at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Local Section Attended Event on Chernobyl

Professor Alexander Sich of Franciscan University recently presented Chernobyl: A Historic Perspective in the Strip District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The American Chemical Society (ACS) Energy Technology Group hosted Professor Sich, who is the first westerner to visit Chernobyl after the accident. Sich discussed reassessment of the Soviet account of accident mitigation, gave an overview of the Shelter Implementation Plan, and examined the current status of the Iranian Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Public Policy Committee Holds Discussion and Welcomes New Members

In March, the Local Section public policy committee met at member Art Wharton's house to discuss the need for factually-based regulation, education pertaining to nuclear energy, the NRC waste confidence rule, and changing public opinion tide relating to nuclear energy. The public policy committee provides members with unique events, educational opportunities and discussion topics pertinent to more effective nuclear regulation and US energy policy. It also provides members with opportunities to engage public policy makers.

If you are interested in learning about upcoming meetings, topics, or briefs on meetings, please contact Cory Stansbury, Local Section public policy committee chair, at stansbca@westinghouse.com.

Local Section Chairman Hosts Lunch & Learn at Westinghouse Headquarters

Tyler Crummy, the Local Section chairman, recently hosted Facilitating Success, a professional development Lunch & Learn workshop arranged and sponsored by the Local Section. The workshop was held at the Cranberry headquarters Building One in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania (USA).

The purpose of the workshop was to inform Westinghouse employees about best practices for facilitating a successful business meeting. Tyler, who is also president of the Westinghouse Toastmasters Club, covered several topics during the session, including the reasons for having meetings and how to prepare for, engage in and follow-up after a meeting, as well as how to measure if a meeting was successful.

For a copy of the presentation or to ask any questions about the ANS Lunch & Learn, contact Tyler Crummy at tylcrum@westinghouse.com.

Q&A with Past Chair Gale Hauck

Gale Hauck, of Nuclear Fuels, has worked at Westinghouse for five years and she has been a member of the ANS since 2002. She served as chairman of the Local Section from 2010 to 2012 and, before that, was chairman of the New York Metro Section. She is the current chair of the ANS National Young Members Group. In addition, she serves on the ANS international and professional development committees.

As the Local Chapter past chair, what accomplishment are you most proud of?

When I became the section chair, our program was minimal and (like many sections) constrained to a historical format of formal dinner meetings. With the help of my leadership team, I significantly ramped up both the frequency and depth of topics, as well as diversified our meeting formats to allow for a range of informal, social, and formal meetings. I feel that the program we offer is a large part of the value we bring to our membership, and I am very proud of what we have offered during my tenure and will continue to provide.

How has joining the ANS contributed to your professional development?

Leading a team of volunteers is an extremely challenging and rewarding experience. I have been able to reflect on my experience and see how my improved leadership skills have allowed me to recruit and develop a talented and motivated group of volunteers, which in turn attracts other talented people. I have learned to empower others to put together events that I would not have been bold enough to dream up myself – seeing the success of others and the value they bring to the organization is so rewarding.

What are your hobbies outside of your membership with the ANS?

My health is extremely important to me, so I try to devote the remainder of my time to more active pursuits. I am an avid runner, occasional rock climber, lift weights, and like to cook. But my main passion is roller derby – I play for the Pittsburgh team, Steel City, currently ranked 15th in the world.

Q&A with ANS Member Art Wharton



Art Wharton

Art Wharton, of Nuclear Power Plants, has been an employee at Westinghouse for more than six years. Since beginning his career at Westinghouse, Art has been a member of both the Local and National Sections of the ANS. Art has held the positions of the Local Section vice chair, chair and past chair. He is active on the National Section Operations & Power Division Executive Committee, where he has served as treasurer, as well as the Planning and Public Policy Committees. In 2003, Art became a member of the University of Texas Student Section of the ANS. During this time, he served as vice president and then president of the Student Section.

How did you first hear about the ANS and why did you join the Society?

I attended an ANS Student Section meeting shortly after I signed up for an Introduction to Nuclear Engineering class and started working at the TRIGA Mark II reactor during my undergraduate studies at the University of Texas. Dr. Larry Foulke, who is now a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, was speaking about the vision of the ANS and the value of advocacy for nuclear science and technology. The combination of Larry's inspirational character, classes and training for TRIGA reactor operations got me hooked. Joining ANS naturally became my connection into the industry from college.

What are some important initiatives that you have contributed to for ANS?

I have chaired the Advanced Generation IV Reactor session at the ANS Annual and Winter meetings as part of my duties on the Operations & Power Division Program Committee. I've also had the opportunity to shape the ANS strategic plan, where I focused on the Society's need to communicate the benefits of nuclear science & technology (NS&T) and its vision to be the recognized credible advocate for advancing and promoting NS&T. This year, I joined the Public Policy Committee. We created [Position Statement 89](#) on US global nuclear leadership through export-driven engagement. It's been a great experience, and there's actually more to come. I've recently hit my stride with the Society, so I plan on contributing more.

What are your hobbies outside of your membership with the ANS?

I sometimes forget to have hobbies. I'm also on the Board of Trustees for Urban Pathways Charter School in downtown Pittsburgh. That's another highly rewarding thing that I do with my spare time. It helps me compare nuclear and non-nuclear leadership and business issues and allows me to exercise my commitment to developing the community around me. I also try to kayak, fish and golf as often as possible. Although I'm not very good at any of those; they help me grown an appreciation for the beauty of the western Pennsylvania area. My next thing to try is skiing- finally!



Art Wharton leads science activity at the Boy Scout Nuclear Science Merit Badge workshop held at the Westinghouse headquarters.

The core purpose of the ANS is to promote the awareness and understanding of the application of nuclear science and technology. As an ANS member, you can serve the nuclear community by creating a forum for sharing information and advancements in technology, and by engaging the public and policymakers through communication outreach.

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