



Core Happenings

News from the Pittsburgh Local Section of the ANS

Issue 4

Send ideas and submissions for the newsletter to the editor, Shannon Farr, at farrs@westinghouse.com.

To learn more about the ANS and to join the Local Pittsburgh Section, contact Tyler Crummy at tylcrum@westinghouse.com.

Contributing Writers:
Rita Bowser
Mike Brice
Gale Hauck

Pittsburgh Local Section

National Section

Thank you 2013 Pittsburgh Local Section benefactors, who include:

Rita Bowser
Francis Fairman
Kurshad Muftuoglu
Art Wharton

Corporate: Clark Testing

Section Officers

Chair: Tyler Crummy
Vice Chair: Adam Malinowski
Treasurer: Mary Ann Walsh
Secretary: Mel Strahle
Past Chair: Gale Hauck
Exec-At-Large: Rita Bowser
Exec-At-Large: Ben Holtzman
Exec-At-Large: Trey Johansen
Exec-At-Large: Dave Zerumski

Communications

Chair: Shannon Farr
Members: Terri Adeyeye
Tyler Crummy
Gale Hauck
Sylena Smith
Colleen Konsavage
Art Wharton

Finance

Chair: Mary Ann Walsh
Members: Art Wharton

Membership

Chair: Tyler Crummy
Member: Colleen Konsavage

Nominating

Chair: Gale Hauck
Members: Art Wharton

Outreach/Public Ed.

Chair: Adam Malinowski
Members: Shannon Farr
Matt Evans
Sylena Smith
Art Wharton
Dave Zerumski

Program/Prof Dev.

Chair: Gale Hauck
Members: Rita Bowser
Tyler Crummy
Bryan Galus
Rachel Eggert
Annie Rowland
Andrew Sheaffer
Cory Stansbury
Ilya Yakubovich

Public Policy

Chair: Cory Stansbury
Members: Terri Adeyeye
Shannon Farr
Art Wharton

Scholarships

Chair: Ben Holtzman
Members: Matt Evans
Bryan Galus
Melissa Hunter
Kurshad Muftuoglu

Q&A with Westinghouse Executive Rita Bowser

Rita Bowser, vice president of Westinghouse's Americas Marketing, has been an employee at Westinghouse for 16 years. She has been member of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) for more than 25 years and is an active member of the Local Pittsburgh Section. She sits on the ANS Campaign Leadership Council. In addition, Rita is a member of Women in Nuclear (WIN). She founded a Westinghouse WIN chapter in South Africa. She is also a member of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, the Health Physics Society and the Moraine Trails Boy Scout Council Board. Rita is a nationally registered radiation protection technologist and has a lifetime certification as an industrial safety instructor for junior colleges in California. She is also a "Ricardian" – an official member of the Richard III Society.



Rita Bowser

How did you first hear about and become a member of the Local Pittsburgh Section of the ANS?

I moved back from ten years of overseas assignments and wanted to reconnect in the USA, especially Westinghouse headquarters where I never worked before. The local ANS chapter members made me feel welcome and put me to work. It has been a great experience. I knew none of the current executives when I joined, and now we have worked together on ANS and other projects. I really have an extended network.

What mentoring experiences have helped you to develop into an industry leader?

Periodically throughout my career, I have had mentors. The late Dr. Gail de Planque was my most influential mentor. She was a former chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and she sat on several boards of directors. She knew what our industry needed and expected. She challenged me to stretch myself and to pay it forward. I now mentor a few very strong emerging leaders – not only do you pay it forward with mentoring, but it keeps you challenged.

We recently held a "speed mentoring" session as a part of the Westinghouse Women's Executive Leadership Network – which was a great success due to the hard work of Vicki Graham, Katie Mack and Jenna Slimm (Westinghouse employees). This was great fun, and several new relationships emerged. Mentoring is one of the top priorities of our networking organization.

What are your interests and hobbies outside of work and your involvement with the ANS?

I love adventure traveling. My husband and I use the book "1000 Places to See Before You Die" as an inspiration. We have trekked in Tibet, rode the Orient Express, been to see Father Christmas above the Arctic Circle, and more. I will not go to more than 999 of the places so I don't tempt fate.

I also love to make things. I have a miniature tool collection – my father was a jeweler at one phase in his life. I participated in a jewelry making class in the French countryside last year. Combining jewelry making, with wine, cheese and the French countryside, was about as good as it gets.

I'm also a history buff. Many of my excursions have been overseas, but Pittsburgh-area provides many layers of opportunities for a history buff. We are following the trail of President Washington, and some of the industrial leaders in the Westinghouse era. Fort Ligonier is next on our list of must-see places. My landlord in England had a painting of George Washington in her dining room. It turns out that her great great something was Washington's best friend when were with General Braddock. I bought her a book at a local museum that has more of the story. Adventures come in all sizes and in all locations!

Nuclear Executives Encourage Learning, Mentoring as Path to Leadership

The path to be a successful leader begins with a quest for knowledge and continues with a willingness to see employees at all levels of the organization as mentors, said two executives speaking to a crowd of future nuclear industry leaders.

Westinghouse CEO Danny Roderick and Paul Harden, senior vice president of Fleet Engineering for FENOC, offered that advice while participating in a panel discussion on August 14 at Westinghouse's world headquarters in Cranberry Twp., Pa.



Pictured from left to right are Paul Harden, Rita Bowser and Danny Roderick

Participants listen as executives share their success stories.

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Local Section, the professional development seminar, "An Executive Perspective," offered approximately 75 members and perspective members a candid and unique opportunity to hear from two of the nuclear industry leaders. In addition to his role at FENOC, Harden also serves as an executive sponsor for the Pittsburgh local section.

Westinghouse Americas Region Vice President Rita Bowser moderated the discussion, which featured questions submitted by local section members.

While both Roderick and Harden had slightly different paths entering the nuclear industry, they both cited the green aspects of nuclear power as something that attracted them to the industry.

"What we do has an impact on our planet," Harden said. "It has an impact on future generations. That's what excites me about this industry everyday and has kept me in it and has kept me a life-long advocate of it."

Roderick said the high standards in the nuclear industry and aspiration to being the best was something that attracted him to learn more about it.

"It was very exciting to me," he said. "The standards were not acceptable to be okay. The strive for being the best was very much alive in the nuclear industry and then when I connected those dots to something of professional worthiness, that it had a value to our environment and the world, it was a home run for me."

Both Roderick and Harden encouraged attendees to prepare themselves for the future.

"There are lots of opportunities to take the place of those of us that are going to depart this industry in the next decade," Harden said.

As long-term members of ANS, both recommended involvement in ANS for networking and professional opportunities but they also said that continued education - both formal and informal - is the key to future advancement.

While advanced degrees are formalized education, mentoring is informal education, and is equally as important.

"A mentor can be up or down in the organization," Roderick explained. "Everyone has some valuable piece of information. Don't miss opportunities to be mentored."

The key to benefitting from mentoring, Roderick explained, is knowing your weaknesses and identifying a mentor that does those things well and learn from that person.

Roderick pointed to his blog as one way of providing informal mentoring to his employees.

"I write the blog to mentor because I can't come talk to everyone one of our employees and contractors around the world," he said "It is a way I can actually give you direct thoughts and direct feedback about what is going on."

Harden echoed Roderick's thoughts on mentoring.

"One of my most memorable mentors I had was someone that worked for me," Harden said. "Some of my best mentor and mentee relationships just grew, they weren't assigned."

"I watch the people who are successful both around me and above me and look at what's working and what's not working and use that as a constantly stop, check and adjust on style. That's mentoring."

In addition to seizing mentoring opportunities, Roderick and Harden encouraged attendees to obtain an advanced degree.

"It is actually a characteristic that I look for when I hire new employees," Harden said. "I look for the ones that have the desire to learn everything they can."

Not having an advanced degree may prevent you from obtaining the job you want, Roderick said.

"The skill background and talent of your competition is going to change," Roderick said. "If you really want to go up, you have to have little differentiators like that because the competition is so much harder the higher up you may go. You may be equally qualified but one put the extra effort in to getting the advanced degree."

While money and time can seem like obstacles, it will only get harder with time, Roderick said.

"Every year you wait time will become more difficult for you not less," he said. "My only advice to everyone in early career is to bite the bullet and get it done early and get it behind you. It will only get harder for you to have the time to get an advanced degree."

New Information on the YPC Sessions at the ANS Winter Meeting

Registration is now open for the Young Professional Congress (YPC), held in conjunction with the 2013 ANS Winter meeting! The ANS Young Members Group (YMG) and the North American Young Generation of Nuclear (NAYGN) designed this one-day program to provide a unique opportunity for young professionals in the nuclear industry. The sessions will provide actionable skills development and broad networking opportunities for all attendees.

When: Saturday, November 9, 2013

Where: Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C

YPC-only registration is only \$35 for ANS members and \$75 for non-members. It is complimentary if you register for the full ANS Winter Meeting.

Register here: <https://ssl.ans.org/meetings/winter-registration>. (The YPC-only attendance option checkbox is at the bottom of the registration form.)

In addition, please note your intent to attend YPC on the following form. Note that this will not register you for the session. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EdsEbwvWKRiRSX3u4I4qErKZilAsN6VoNiggf9DBBmk/viewform>

For more information, please visit the YPC web page: <http://ymg.ans.org/ypc/>

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.

[BACK TO TOP](#)