

CHP Corner



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A Fond Farewell to Nancy Johnson

Kyle Kleinhans, CHP, President-elect

As you may already know, Nancy Johnson recently retired as the executive director of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) following the 2017 Health Physics Society (HPS) Midyear Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. In my experience, she has been an invaluable resource who will be sorely missed. Nancy has been supporting the AAHP with Burk and Associates since the inception of the AAHP! AAHP meetings just will not be the same without Nancy's gentle guidance, help, and amazing corporate knowledge that cannot be easily replaced.

I have encouraged members of the AAHP and American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) who have served with Nancy to submit their fond memories and appreciation for publication in this edition of the "CHP Corner." I hope that Nancy enjoys these expressions as much as I did. Thank you so much Nancy, for your dedicated service!

It is hard to imagine the AAHP and the ABHP without Nancy Johnson, our executive director. She has ushered innumerable candidates through the certification process and shepherded several decades of Board chairs and Academy presidents, cheerfully and patiently teaching us what she'd just finished teaching our predecessors. Nancy is the quintessential professional—highly competent and organized, proactive, and truly kind.

She was also exceptional under fire . . . literally! I recall one year when Nancy received a call at 12:45 a.m. on the morning of the exam, informing her that the Los Alamos exam site was closed due to a major forest fire. Thanks to the remarkable creativity and good humor of all involved, we were able to arrange for an exam site in a nearby town, notify all the candidates, and administer the test on time, in calm and cool fashion. This well-handled emergency epitomizes Nancy; she made it all look easy, and our jobs were easy, with her at our sides.

It is truly appropriate that in 2016 the Academy renamed its National Service Award as the Nancy K. Johnson National Service Award. This award is presented, in honor of Nancy, to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the Academy during the immediate past president's term of office. Nancy was the first recipient of this award, and I'm pretty sure every President thereafter felt she should have received it during their tenure, also.

It is with great fondness and appreciation that I wish Nancy all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

—Kathleen Shingleton

Nancy Johnson has been the long-term institutional memory and workhorse of the AAHP and ABHP. None of the health physicists associated with these organizations has come close to the quantity and quality of work that Nancy has provided. I really feel for whomever is designated to fill her shoes!

Nancy's greatest strength has been the positive, up-beat, and get-it-done attitude she always projects. No matter what the situation, Nancy has always exhibited her pleasant demeanor in addressing the situation.

I will truly miss Nancy at our future get-togethers. I hope she will manage to occasionally work us into her retirement travel and other activities.

—Edgar Bailey

As anyone who has served on the AAHP Executive Committee, on the ABHP Board, or as the chair of an ABHP exam panel knows, the job is just not possible without strong support from the Secretariat. Nancy Johnson always provided that support.

What I recall most about Nancy is that she always anticipated your need, confusion, or request for support. Whether it was a reminder that your report was due in a day or two (always with the proper form attached), a letter to the membership (also past versions attached), a reminder that the action you wanted to take was or was not allowed by the procedures (also attached and exact section highlighted), or your desire for a special beverage (in my case diet Pepsi; no endorsement, just the facts), Nancy took care of making sure you could do your job as a volunteer elected official with the least amount of disturbance in your nonvolunteer job.

I know that I could not have done my job as president of the AAHP or ABHP without her help. For being that special person who made our jobs so much easier, I thank her and wish her well in retirement!

–Bob Miltenberger

Wow . . . what can I say? I spent a good 15 years on the Part 2 Panel, as an ABHP board member, then vice chair (two terms), then chair. Throughout my tenure, I had the pleasure of working alongside Nancy. She did not hesitate to help me whenever asked, and much of the time it was helping without me asking. She was expert at anticipating my lack of experience with some ABHP process or procedure. I could not have done it without her.

Nancy was truly committed to the exam, the board and panel members, and the bylaws and charter. She will be missed.

When I look back at my involvement with the board and exam, my fondest memories usually involve Nancy.

Thanks Nancy. I appreciate your help and friendship!

–Pat LaFrate

Thank you for providing the opportunity to say a few nice things about one of my favorite people, Nancy Johnson. Nancy was kind, considerate, capable, competent, professional, tactful, knowledgeable, and deserving of every other accolade that one could think of to describe her. In short, she was a wonderful person to know and work with. I have nothing but pleasant memories of Nancy, whether while working with her or just socially chatting with her at meetings or in airports. She represented the AAHP, ABHP, and HPS extremely well. Sincere best wishes to her for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

–Ken Miller

I don't have a specific memory to relate, just a general "couldn't have done it without Nancy" during my terms on the Part 2 Panel, the ABHP, and the Academy, as well as her support in the development of ANSI/HPS standards. She was always there to provide guidance on what needed to be done (and, in some cases, would do it for me!). She will be greatly missed!

–Elizabeth Brackett

Nancy Johnson is a quintessential part of the Secretariat and, having served on the ABHP, the AAHP, and the Health Physics editorial boards, I cannot imagine them without her!

Nancy, I cannot say enough in the way of thanking you. My best wishes to you for the next chapter in your life.

–Joel O. Lubenau

Nancy has been extraordinary!

It is truly a pleasure working with Nancy on the Academy Executive Committee. She has done so many good things in keeping the committee members on the right track.

Nancy, congratulations and best wishes to you for a happy retirement! Hopefully we will see each other on some future occasions.

–Gloria Mei

Nancy, mixed emotions are definitely in play for me as a new chapter in your life unfolds. You have excelled for so long in the handling of AAHP operations that it is certainly going to be strange for all of us to soldier on without you.

Thank you for being so much more than a consummate administrator of Academy functions. That will be one of your legacies but, well beyond that, you are an individual whose loyalty, friendship, and compassion for others has been an enduring trademark. I will miss you, beautiful lady, but am excited that you will no longer have to herd all the cats in the right direction!

–Alex Boerner

Dear Nancy,

How can it be that you are retiring from your AAHP and HPS duties? How will the two groups survive?

They will survive because of the firm foundation you helped to build.

Back in the “good old days” when I was involved with many others in the development of the ABHP, I also held several positions in the Health Physics Society. Like those who hold similar positions today, I quickly learned to depend on the support of others. In hindsight, I especially depended on the willing support provided by the staff of the HPS business office, and especially on your help.

So, I send you my best wishes that you learn to enjoy your retirement as much as I have.

Thanks for your help over many, many years!

–Roger Cloutier

There are many ways that Nancy is appreciated, and outright loved. First and foremost is her excellent work; she is efficient, reliable, smart, and honest, with an amazing memory of our history. She is always quick with praise, telling you how your contributions are valuable. She is friendly and gracious. I remember being a bit bewildered by the recertification requirements and she was very helpful and set my mind at ease. As I volunteered for AAHP she was so helpful in getting me started in the right direction. I could always count on Nancy to help to make things work, and to be fun too.

–Alan Jackson

It was at the Orlando midyear meeting when (as usual), I was arriving at the conference hotel late. I did have a reservation, but was informed by the desk clerk that there were no rooms left! That included the entire surrounding area! Nancy Johnson was walking by and overheard what was becoming a very loud conversation. She sprang into action (as she always does) and graciously offered me the extra bed that was in her room for that night.

Lifesaver! We have since referred fondly to each other as “Roomie.”

–Nancy Kirner

William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award A Call for Nominations

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) is soliciting nominations for this year's [William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award](#) recipients. This award is presented annually by the ABHP and the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) to honor a certified health physicist (CHP) who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and to the certification process.

Nominees shall be CHPs who have served the health physics community through distinguished service with the AAHP or ABHP, in teaching, or in other areas that enhance the professionalism of health physics. This award may be bestowed posthumously.

Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination. Nominations should be received by **2 March 2017** to be considered.

Professional Development Committee

Janet Johnson, CHP, Chair

The Professional Development Committee met at the 2016 Health Physics Society Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, in July. The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) booth was well staffed by committee members and other certified health physicist (CHP) volunteers, with nearly all time slots filled.

The current members of the Professional Development Committee are Dennis Clum, Jim Herrold, Balwan Hooda, Jeff Kotsch, and Allison Wilding.

The committee discussed the strategies needed to encourage health physics professionals to become certified. The number of active CHPs has remained static for the past decade at approximately 1,300. In November, in response to a question from a member (Jim Herrold), the committee looked into the trends in the number of applicants and examinees over the past 12 years. It appears that the number of applicants has been increasing over the past five years, while the number of individuals actually taking the Part 1 and part 2 exams has remained relatively static.

The Professional Development Committee will continue to look into the reasons for these trends.

