



Go Nuke!

A newsletter from the North American Young Generation in Nuclear

Spring 2011

What Now?

Ryan Pettus, Public Outreach Committee Member

At 14:46 Japan Local Time on March 11, 2011, an earthquake of magnitude 9 on the Richter scale occurred approximately 110 miles from east coast of Japan, with a maximum acceleration of 0.35g at the epicenter. An hour later (15:42), the earthquake was followed on by a tsunami of 14 meters high resulted in a loss of off-site power. The tsunami was larger than the design basis for the plant. The heavy current carried away Diesel Generator fuel oil tanks, which were above ground.

It's been over a month since that terrible earthquake and resulting tsunami crippled Japan. The damage the tsunami did to Fukushima Daiichi led me to refresh the NEI homepage every chance I could (work permitting). Emails flew around the industry with outlines of the plant design and timelines of events. Everyone was looking for ways to explain what was happening to neighbors, friends and family. The media used a lot of sensational words and found "experts" to interview. But just like everything else, news has a product life cycle and most of the general public in North America has forgotten about Fukushima Daiichi.

Our industry has already formed task teams and each company is starting to look at how they can incorporate changes based on TEPCO's experiences. There will be deterministic risk assessments above design basis. The mitigating actions, equipment, and procedures need to be ready to answer the "what if" questions. But what about us as individuals? What now? Do we take a cue from post-TMI and hope that the anti-nukes go away and the rest of the public forgets?

The same things that make nuclear power unique in efficiency and cleanliness; make it unique in the care needed to monitor and protect the concentration of energy and heat removal. The Fukushima Daiichi event needs to be a learning tool for us to ensure that we maintain preparedness and margin. These actions are normal for nuclear professionals; what is a little foreign to us to ensuring the public is aware.

We need to let the public know that we already look at problems above design basis and that we continuously improve upon these. We should communicate that the North American nuclear energy industry is verifying that its plants can manage the total loss of off-site power and maintain its ability to cool the reactor core. The public should be aware that the industry and regulators are performing walkdowns to ensure that the plants have the ability to properly deal with flooding and earthquakes.

We need to continue to be honest and communicate what nuclear power is. Nuclear power is unique, the people who work at the North American nuclear power plants take pride in our unique ways in ensuring the safety and security of the communities which we live in.

The Public Information committee is meeting on Tuesday, May 10 after the Hill Day outreach activity to map out a path forward. If you want to attend, or if you won't be attending the Conference, but want to get involved, please contact Morgan Davis, PI Chair, at davis@na-ygn.org.

What I Wish I Had Told You Last Year

Misha Swanson, Communications Chair

Last year over 400 members of NA-YGN gathered in San Francisco for the 2010 Annual NA-YGN PD Conference. In the April 2010 [GoNuke!](#), I wrote an article about making the most of the Conference. You should read that article. [Again](#). I did, because as I was reflecting back, I had memories of things I wished I had told you. And, so I will. I will recount the crises (exaggerated word for effect) from last year that I wish I had prevented. Some of these crises happened just as I lay them out, others I have embellished.

Crisis #1: Wrong Hotel.

The night before the conference started, I received a call from co-workers; let's call them Reed and Ryan. We were all waiting in the hotel lobby to meet up for a group dinner hosted by our CNO (something you should be working to organize right now), but could not find each other. Turns out they were in the *other* Westin. Their administrative assistant had booked them 15 miles away. This should not be an issue this year, because DC has a great metro system, but there is a larger moral here. Take ownership of your plans and double check everything. A good plan saves execution time.

Crisis #2: I don't have business cards.

Networking is the biggest take-away from the conference. In order to network you need business cards. Rules I've been told about business cards: #1 Don't give cards out to everyone; give them to people that ask. #2 When people ask for them, have them. Since you are new to the industry, it is possible you do not have cards, or your company won't spring the \$25 for them. If you are attending this conference (or any conference) ask for them; do not just assume your company will say no. If your boss says no, buy them yourself. Two friends of mine, let's call them Astrid and Darren, found themselves in this predicament and took it upon themselves to make their own online. I remember these two, because I had something to write on when I met them. I had immediately scribbled why I had their card; something to trigger my memory and a follow up action. If I had just put Astrid's number in my smart phone, I wouldn't necessarily remember that she was a mechanical engineer for her company or that she was a good contact for reading material.

Crisis #3: Business Casual – Part 1

It is a fact that we all judge others based on appearance. If you are not comfortable with that, especially in light of our theme being diversity this year, then fine. It is my opinion that we all judge others based on appearance. Therefore I am going to forewarn you that business casual means a collared shirt, at a minimum, and it never means jeans; even expensive ones. I will judge you if you look like you are going to a club instead of a conference; you have poor judgment. I will judge you if you wear childish graphics or inappropriate slogans; you lack maturity. I will judge you if your clothes are sloppy; it's indicative of your work habits. (*This article reflects the thoughts of Misha Swanson and not necessarily NA-YGN*). So while I am crazy and I will tell you I am judging you, do you believe just because others will not say what they think, they are not thinking it? Should not the quality of your work speak for itself? Yes it should, but I do not know you, nor have I seen your work and your outfit is distracting me from listening to what you are saying. There is a reason you wear a suit to an interview- it is your first impression and you put your best foot forward. The same concept should apply to the Conference.

Crisis #4: Business Casual – Part 2

More than one person was considering skipping the NEA reception last year, because they did not have anything appropriate to wear. I never advocate skipping this event, so they were told to put on the nicest thing they brought (or borrow a tie from a co-worker) and walk in with poise. I wish I had told you last year to pack a suit. It is easier to take business attire and dress it down, then take a casual outfit and dress it up. Someone, let's call her Michelle,

found herself in this position a few years ago. She had misread, misunderstood, or assumed business casual. What a nightmare to show up to a room full of suits wearing khakis. She is a resourceful person. It was a several day meeting, and during lunch she ran to a nearby shop and bought enough pieces to make it look like she had brought several suits. She did this all in under an hour, but ~~I am~~ she is a super shopper; call it a trait of being a middle child with impatient siblings. Do not put yourself in this situation. Invest in a garment bag and pack a suit. If you do not have a suit, pack a blazer. Guys, pack a tie. It takes up no room if you roll it into your dress shoes. Oh yes, pack dress shoes. (Note for 2011: You will definitely need a suit and comfortable dress shoes for Hill Day.)

If you want to stand out, stand out for the right reasons. Approach this Conference (and any conference) with the same amount of preparation you attack a project at work. Do your preparation, set yourself up for success with contingencies, maintain flexibility, execute with class, and leave room for fun.

Benefits of Diversifying Your Career

Jamie Coffey, Southern Nuclear – Vogtle Chapter

From early on in our lives, we are asked the question “What do you want to do when you grow up?” Tests are administered in high school to help determine where your strengths and weaknesses lie and which career path would be a good fit for those qualities. Once you get to college, you are expected to choose a major and decide not just what career you want, but also what specific title you are aiming for in the field. Once you have your degree in hand, the search for the perfect match for your skill set is on, and with any luck you find yourself in a position that is both challenging and rewarding. Then you get settled into that job and find out that you are not prepared. You have only scratched the surface of what you need to know, or what you can do with what you do know.

My career has taken an interesting and winding path. In high school I was planning a future in nuclear or chemical engineering. I took all of the important math and science classes to prepare for college, including some independent course work and private instruction with my school’s math teacher. I only spent three semesters in college before letting other life choices put a pause on my career aspirations. I later found myself back in the action, as part of the U.S. Navy’s Nuclear Propulsion Program. I learned a great deal during my eight years enlisted, and had my first taste of diversity by working in mechanical operations, chemistry and health physics. My first position out of the Navy was in the Department of Energy in health physics, while simultaneously finishing my degree in nuclear engineering. All my experience was beneficial when I was selected for my current assignment; training to be a senior reactor operator (SRO) on the first new nuclear plant to be built in 30 years.

You can diversify your career in many different ways. My career diversification happened as a result of life situations that took me off my planned path. I now look for ways to go off the path to diversify my knowledge base. If enlisting isn’t for you, volunteer for projects outside your experience base. Look for opportunities to sit in on meetings or participate in working groups that are out of your area of expertise. Seek out opportunities to shadow workers as they perform tasks. Find leaders whose educations don’t seem to match their current position and ask these people about their path to where they are today. You must get out of your comfort zone and stretch yourself in order to learn new skills and increase your value in the workplace.

My future role as a control room supervisor requires me to draw on my vast array of experiences to make decisions. A diverse background is essential to effective problem solving and keeping the plant safe. You never know when your knowledge base, that you’ve developed through diverse experiences, contains the tidbit of information no one else has thought about that will prevent the next reactor trip.

Diversity is a Hot Topic

By Brent Williams, Bruce Chapter

The reason diversity is a very hot topic is because diverse organizations are better able to respond to new challenges, have reduced turnover (and hence MUCH lower hiring and training costs), and are more creative in their problem solving due to the greater breadth of experiences of the team members.

There are costs associated with increased diversity, including the costs of implementing cultural change in our work places, delivering training, if required, and diverting resources to develop policies and programs that even today have high failure rates. However, it is recognized that these costs are small in comparison with added benefits of an effectively diverse culture.

Many people and organizations do not have a good definition of what diversity really is. Is it hiring lots of young people / visible minorities / women / people with disabilities through affirmative action plans? Is it having flex work programs that allow people with young children to be able to pick their kids up after school? Is it having training programs that teach people how to communicate with different people? Is it managing differences or leveraging differences?

The challenges involved with building diversity are real. My manager tells of situations where highly effective team members leave teams over language issues not recognized by the other members. Imagine sitting in a meeting and not being able to follow what is being said.

Programs to create change only work if there is strong on-going support from all levels towards the goal of sustainable diversity. This means you. There is no checklist of steps that after you complete: Ta-dah! you have your diverse organization.

It is for this reason many people are opposed to true diversity. Opinion leaders will argue that diversity damages social capital, that the solution to dealing with diversity problems is IQ testing, or that the challenge of getting people from different backgrounds to work together is just too great. I believe that these arguments are like turning to the Dark Side of the Force... easier and more seductive in the short run but at great cost in the long-run.

NA-YGN is about diversity. Recent Professional Development conferences have placed a lot of emphasis on communicating with people from different cultures and generations. Since the NA-YGN's roots are in building diversity from the grassroots level, our members are key players in improving diversity in our industry.

Get to know new members of your team. Invite them to join you and your friends for lunch every day. Invite them to your NA-YGN Lunch & Learn's and social events. Remind them to ask questions.

If you are new to a work group, be proactive. Go out of your way to get to know your new coworkers and build strong working relationships with them. Find out when your local NA-YGN chapter has its meetings and talk to your manager about attending.

The theme of this year's NA-YGN conference is Diversity. Let's lead the change - see you there!

Political Climate

“We in America do not have government of the majority. We have government of the majority who participate.” – Thomas Jefferson

By Christine Csizmadia – D.C. Metro Chapter

At the 2009 NA-YGN Professional Development conference in Washington, D.C., NA-YGN stormed Capitol Hill toting our nuclear facts and messages into legislative offices. Together, 240 NA-YGN members broke into 45 teams representing 27 states and attended over 100 meetings with your elected representatives and their staff. We boasted one of the largest lobbying efforts for the nuclear power industry in history. And we're going to do it even bigger this year!

The NA-YGN PD conference will be held in Washington, D.C. again this year and on May 10, 2011, we will be engaging in another Hill Day effort. Your Public Information Committee is hard at work developing tips, hints and talking points in preparation for this effort. But there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself for this strategic event:

- **Know your state!** Most of you know current nuclear related issues happening in your state but it is always helpful to stay up to date and know the relevant issues legislators want to hear about. As a constituent, legislators want to hear your opinions and community-related topics so keep it relevant to your audience. You can find out more about current nuclear related legislative issues at www.nei.org and www.ans.org.
- **Check out what your peers have developed for you** – The PI Committee produced the [Congressional Communication Plan](#) and [Straight Talk on Nuclear](#) talking points specifically for this activity; however, talking points will be revised to reflect recent industry developments in Japan. PI has also constructed some outreach guidance documents that will help you plan what to wear, what to say and how to engage constructively during your meetings. Look for the guidance documents in an upcoming webinar in April!
- **Role play!** Think and talk through your “elevator speech” on what you might say to someone interested in nuclear. Hill Day will be your opportunity to stand on your soapbox and share why you chose a career in nuclear power and what the future of the industry means to you. Practicing in front of the mirror or with your colleagues and friends will prepare you for your “elevator speech” moment.
- **Who will I be talking to?** Legislators do not schedule meetings more than 1-2 weeks in advance so your hill schedules will not be finalized until the morning of Hill Day and even then there will be last minute changes. Assume you will be meeting with your Representative and Senators.

For those of you unable to attend this year's Hill Day, there is the ongoing opportunity to set up meetings with your local community leaders, mayors, state legislators and Representatives back in your home state. The Congressional Management Foundation reported in their 2011 “Perceptions of Citizen Advocacy on Capitol Hill” study that 77% of legislative staff say that attending events in the district/state is important to understanding constituents' views and opinions (4% say Twitter is important and 8% say Facebook). Legislators and their staff rely heavily on the communications from their constituents to develop their policies. Connecting to your elected representatives in your home state can be even more effective than catching them in the busy halls of Capitol Hill. The Congressional Communication Plan has some tips on how to connect with your legislator at home.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about Hill Day at cmc@nei.org or 202.739.8033.

Conserving Tomorrow

Vanpooling: Ride to Work with a Clean Conscience and a Heavy Wallet By Jana Thames – Southern Company – Hatch Chapter

With gas prices and ecological consciousness on the rise, public transit is more attractive. Those of us who work at nuclear power plant usually do not have the option of a subway or bus line. So how can we be environmentally responsible and save money like our friends in the bigger cities?

Vanpooling is a transit system, similar to carpooling, but on a larger scale with increased financial and environmental benefits. The basic idea is for peers to share a ride to and from work and originating from a common destination local to all riders. This form of transit is second only to a bus in cost effectiveness.

The process starts with a van, which can either be provided by an individual, jointly purchased by the vanpooling group, or a support program operated by the local government or a on behalf of an employer. In many cases, an employer may elect to subsidize the cost of the vanpool and the vehicles' maintenance. In some cases, the vehicles are provided and maintained by the municipality; in others in partnership with or by a third-party provider. Some non-profit and for-profit organizations supply vans for a minimal charge. Commuters pay a monthly fee and the organization arranges the vehicle, maintenance, insurance and emergency support.

Many local governments offer a tax benefit or public funding to qualifying commuters. These public transportation programs seek to reduce the number of cars on the road and are especially popular in smog filled metro areas to improve air quality.

According to Jessica Joyner, NA-YGN member, “When I worked at Southern Company, I was involved with the vanpooling program in Birmingham. The company offices located in Atlanta are fully subsidized by Southern because of Georgia state mandated efforts to reduce VOC & NOx within metro Atlanta.”

Other benefits:

- Vans can use carpooling lanes to reduce traffic for a smoother and faster trip
- Fixed schedule
- Saving the cost of gasoline (in some cases, it is part of the program)
- Minimizing your personal carbon footprint
- Provides an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with peers
- Less wear on personal vehicles

Many corporate offices and power plants within the nuclear industry have joined the vanpooling bandwagon, with rewarding results.

A glowing example of this type of program in actions is Palo Verde Nuclear Power Station. The plant has a fleet of vans that are used to get employees to the site. The vans are owned, fueled and maintained by Palo Verde. The van pool costs approximately \$120 pre-tax a month for participants.

“I have been using Palo Verde's van pool for more than three years. The company removed the normal bench seats of the 15 passenger vans and put 11 comfortable captain's chairs in each of the vehicles,” stated Palo Verde NA-YGN member, Dominic Macedonia, “Like most nuclear plants, Palo Verde is at a remote location so it really saves on wear and tear of your personal vehicle. The vans are scattered all over the greater Phoenix area to accommodate anyone who wants to join. Because one of the stops is so close to my house, it allowed me to sell our second car which has saved my family a lot of money.”

If public transportation is not an option, you can make a difference by encouraging others to start ride sharing at your workplace. Carpool contests, Carpool only spaces in the parking lot, creating flextime for employees who carpool and rideshare boards are all ways to encourage ridesharing where you work.

Keeping NA-YGN Alive During an Outage

By Brent Tolan, Progress – Crystal River 3 Chapter

We've all been there; you go on this really awesome first date with some totally cute guy/girl. You go to that new cafe in town; you know the one with those funky-chic pieces of art on the walls. You get the waiter who's too cool for school and gets passively angry at you for ordering water. Everything is new and exciting, and it's going great; then it happens, you're six months in, and not even the thought of that person naked is enough to keep you interested. You start dreading your next date, making excuses, and "missing" phone calls. Eventually your boredom turns into apathy and the relationship withers.

Don't let that be your NA-YGN chapter.

Like any relationship in your life, the relationship between your chapter and its membership takes work. There comes a time when expecting everyone's excitement to keep things moving forward isn't enough. The energy will fade. And at no time in your chapter's life cycle will that energy dissipate quicker than in an outage at a nuclear plant. Everyone is tired, stressed about their projects, and freaking out about Critical Path. Two days in, and no matter which shift you are on, you look like an extra from that movie 28 Days Later. Everyone expects NA-YGN to take a back seat. But the truth of the matter is, rarely is there a better opportunity to build the comradery.

Believe it or not, this is easier than it may sound. I know what you are thinking, after such a bold statement I owe you some examples. I'm not stingy, so here you go:

Ice Cream Social – It may sound childish, but it works. Everyone loves ice cream, even those amongst us with "dairy issues." People will come out of the woodwork for a scoop of delicious frozen cow milk ambrosia. Throw in some sprinkles, and you will need bouncers to keep the peace.

It's an excellent opportunity to recruit new members and tell people what NA-YGN is all about. The best part, it's cheap and EASY! All you have to do is sit back and let the people come to you. If my time in nuclear had taught me anything, it is this, people will come to most anything if there is food, and absolutely everything if it's dessert.

Beard Growing Competition – Think about it, you've got about a month to make it happen. It's the perfect time to experiment, and see how you would look with a face full of hair. Your minimal allotment of social interaction outside of work will hardly be affected by your caveman-like visage. Who knows, you may find that you are one of the four people on this planet who does the Grizzly Adams thing with pizzazz.

Have a little sit down with your site communications person. They are always looking for fun articles to put in outage newsletters, and what's more fun than people doing something off the wall. Have weekly updates (pictures are a must) and present prizes (beard comb, razor, cabin in the woods far from other people, etc) to the winners in several categories of your choosing. You can take this idea one step further if your outage is in the fall by tying the competition into Movember.

Pot Luck Dinner – You are stuck on night shift, and everyone is sick of the cafeteria food, what do you do? That's right, pot luck dinner! Most everyone can make at least one dish that can be chocked down with minimal grimacing. And it gives all those Paula Deen addicts an opportunity to test that recipe; the one they've been dying to try, but too afraid to eat that much butter alone. Caution: You will have to spend the remainder of the shift with these people, so avoid gas inducing foods like boiled cabbage, and large pots of beans, if at all possible.

You get the idea. Don't let your chapter fizzle during an outage. Next time your plant refuels, think of fun and interesting ways to recharge your NA-YGNers enthusiasm.

Chapter Highlight

MPR Chapter

Since 2009, MPR Associates, Inc. has hired over 15 employees direct from university classrooms and almost as many experienced hires from across the industry. This number may be small compared to some companies, but this is a very large percentage considering that MPR only has about 200 employees. MPR is growing. As a result, the local NA-YGN chapter at MPR Associates has been active in professional development and networking activities. MPR recognizes the importance of knowledge transfer and establishing community within the company. The MPR chapter is also “testing the waters” in the areas of public outreach and information.

For NA-YGN networking activities, the newest “class” of employees is active in organizing pot luck dinners and touring the surrounding attractions in nearby Washington D.C. The pot luck dinners reflect the cultural diversity at MPR, and a wide range of dishes can be found, such as authentic Indian curry and French quiche. At the pot lucks, the new employees have the opportunity to discuss their backgrounds, technical experiences, and areas where they are interested in working in the nuclear industry.

For professional development, MPR holds “lunch seminars,” referred to as the MPR Nuclear Café, between the younger and more experienced employees. Café meetings are held about once a quarter, and allow senior engineers and managers the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge with the younger employees. In addition, the Café meetings provide awareness to NA-YGN members about the broad landscape in the nuclear power industry. On December 3, 2010 the MPR Nuclear Café was hosted by Mr. Ted Rockwell, who is one of MPR’s founders (Mr. Rockwell literally put the “R” in MPR), as well as a current activist and spokesman for the nuclear power industry. The goal of this meeting was to provoke thought on nuclear waste solutions, introduce the younger engineers to Mr. Rockwell, and pass down knowledge from his 60+ years of experience. Mr. Rockwell provided background on the different forms of nuclear waste storage, which has been featured in the news because of recent controversy over legislation on Yucca Mountain. Mr. Rockwell reminded young engineers the importance using simple fact-based engineering. He stated the facts themselves are advocates for the safe use of nuclear power.



Most recently, the MPR Chapter was one of several chapters in the Atlantic Region to represent NA-YGN at the February meetings of Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future (BRC). The purpose of the BRC is to conduct comprehensive reviews of policies for managing the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle. Members from the MPR, D.C. Metro, and Constellation chapters attended the meeting to represent the voice of the young generation. On February 3rd the formal meetings concluded and the commission opened for public comments. Bobby Ashworth, from the MPR chapter, spoke on behalf of NA-YGN (meeting transcript and video at www.brc.gov, note that Ashworth’s speech begins around minute mark 3:15). After the meeting, several of the NA-YGN representatives spoke with commission members and staffers about ways in which the young

generation can become involved in the solutions for waste storage. Most people familiar with the commission’s work were already aware of NA-YGN’s presence at previous meetings, and were surprised by NA-YGN’s ability to mobilize and attend the commission meetings. NA-YGN has laid a foundation with the BRC meetings and other local chapters should find ways to participate in these events.

Looking forward, Bradley Hall and Travis Brown were elected to lead the MPR Associates chapter.

Regional Reports

Canada (Regional Lead Chris Waugh, canada@na-ygn.org)

In December, the **Mississauga chapter** mingled at an ugly sweater contest. The **Durham chapter** recently held a successful Profiles in Leadership event with Ontario Power Generation's Director of Nuclear Oversight as the guest speaker. The **Bruce chapter** is planning their annual golf tournament for June and are working with other groups such as WiN and their local co-op/intern students to boost membership. Both the **AMEC NSS and Cameco chapters** are finalizing their new executive teams to gear up for a successful 2011. All chapters are also very active in the planning of the NA-YGN Professional Development Seminar at the CNS Conference on June 5 in Niagara Falls.

Northeast (Regional Lead Elizabeth Haupin, northeast@na-ygn.org)

The **Westinghouse New England chapter** sponsored a ski trip in January that was attended by **Nine Mile Point chapter, PSEG Nuclear chapter, and Nextera Energy-Seabrook chapter**. The **Westinghouse – Pittsburgh chapter** and **Beaver Valley chapter** also engaged in a winter sport- getting together for ice skating. The **Nine Mile Point chapter** participated in a class on the nuclear industry given by a fellow employee and part-time professor at Syracuse University. **Ginna chapter** held a networking event in February with excellence attendance. Members have also been heavily involved with recruiting at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and University of Buffalo career fairs. The members have worked side-by-side with Human Resources to review the resumes collected, and help determine who will receive follow-up communications. The **Entergy-Pilgrim chapter** attended a Career Day at an Elementary school.

The Northeast region is currently planning a Northeast Regional Conference, to be hosted by the Nine Mile Point chapter in Syracuse and held in the summer of 2011. The planning team would like your ideas for session topics and speakers, please send any ideas to your local chapter leads or to get involved with the planning of this event, please contact Elizabeth Haupin.

Atlantic (Regional Lead Bobby Ashworth, atlantic@na-ygn.org)

On February 15th, the **Areva-Lynchburg chapter** recently hosted a very important guest speaker, Bob Simmons, 2010-2011 President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Mr. Simmons presented ASME's positions on nuclear technology and the need for ASME to reach-out to younger generations. Mr. Simmons was impressed with what NA-YGN has accomplished, and wanted ASME to learn from NA-YGN's success. The event was also broadcast to other Areva locations (e.g., Charlotte, Marlborough, Richland, and Alpharetta).

The NA-YGN Chapters in the Atlantic Region have also been finding ways to stay involved. Several local chapters in the Atlantic Region came-out to support NA-YGN at the February 2nd and 3rd meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on America's Nuclear Future. Chapters in the Atlantic Region have also started planning for the 2011 Atlantic Regional Event. If you are in the Atlantic Region and want to help, please contact your local chapter lead for additional information.

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What Have You Been Up To???



Areva Ski Trip



Progress Krispy Kreme Run



Carolinas Paintball



Canada Ugly Sweater Day



Fluor Engineer Week



National Nuclear Science Week - Sandia

Carolinas (Regional Lead Ryan Boyle, carolinas@na-ygn.org)

Approximately 90 members representing all of the Carolinas region chapters attended the 2011 Carolinas Regional Conference hosted at Duke Energy offices in Charlotte, NC on January 27-28. The conference featured a number of excellent speakers including ANS President-Elect, Eric Loewen; SCE&G's Chief Nuclear Officer, Jeff Archie; Shaw Power Group Senior Vice President and former NRC commissioner, Jeff Merrifield; and members of the Carolinas Nuclear Cluster. The event was kicked off with a social at Strike City where teams competed in games including bowling, pool, Wii basketball, and cornhole.

Members of the **Progress Energy chapter** in the Raleigh area competed in the infamous 12 donut, 4.6 mile "Krispy Kreme Challenge" charity run. The chapter is also making arrangements for Congresswoman Renee Ellmers and her staff to tour the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. The newly revitalized **URS Nuclear Center chapter** has taken the initiative to start an "office wellness" plan. They also judged an elementary school science fair on February 10th and are planning to tour the Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility in Columbia, SC. The **Midlands chapter** organized an epic paintball event which also included members from the VC Summer and Robinson Nuclear Plants and from Westinghouse-Charlotte. Over 50 members from the **AREVA Charlotte chapter** attended their annual ski trip to Snow Shoe, WV. The chapter is working to develop a social media advocacy program to promote nuclear power and is working to revamp AREVA's recruitment process. The **GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy chapter** is hosting a tour of their facilities in Wilmington, NC for the UNC Charlotte chapter members.

Southeast (Regional Lead Jessica Needham, southeast@na-ygn.org)

Please welcome Jessica Needham as the new Southeast Regional Lead. Jessica has taken over for Chris Hearn as Chris prepares to become US Affairs Chair in May. Several members from the SE Region ran for core positions in the recent NA-YGN election. Many of the chapters have gone through their leadership turnovers and we have several new Chapter Leads as well as a new Chapter. Join us in welcoming TVA's newest chapter at their Bellefonte Nuclear Site.

Midwest (Regional Lead Sean Tanton, midwest@na-ygn.org)

In January, **Exelon West** held a Nuke 101 event where they gave several local teachers information about nuclear science and technology that they could take back to their schools and teach their students. Presentations, demonstrations, and plant tours were given during the daylong event. Members from multiple Exelon sites as well as the **Zachry Nuclear chapter**, participated and made the event successful. Planning for the first ever Midwest Regional Conference is well under way. The theme for the conference will be OPEX. It will be held on August 12th at the Sargent & Lundy Chicago office. In addition to the above, chapters in the region were also busy kicking off 2011 with meetings to inform their members about the goals they have set for the year.

West (Regional Lead Virginia Cleary, west@na-ygn.org)

On Feb 2-3, NA-YGN chapters from throughout the West spent two days sharing knowledge and meeting industry peers thanks to the hard work and effort of the **Palo Verde chapter**, the hosts of this year's NA-YGN West Regional Conference. The conference was held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Avondale and at Palo Verde, with presenters from inside the company and throughout the industry. Several speakers presented on topics ranging from leadership to nuclear industry-related current events in Washington DC. Attendees, who represented **chapters from Energy Northwest, Diablo Canyon, Sandia National Labs, San Onofre, Flowserve and Palo Verde**, gave presentations about their respective local chapters and actively participated in a facilitated benchmarking session for YGN best practices. Conference goers took advantage of the close proximity and came to Palo Verde for a plant tour. Scott Bell, nuclear training instructor, Total Operations Training, took the attendees on a tour of the Protected Area while Chris Henrichsen, Engineer III, Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Technical Support; and Mike Hansford, nuclear training instructor, WRF Operations, hosted a tour of Water Reclamation.

EVENTS

March 23-27

NA-YGN Career Awareness Event
National Society of Black Engineers Convention
<http://www.nsbe.org/Convention/Overview>

April 28

Webinar on Hill Day
webinars@na-ygn.org

May 6

Local Chapter Leads Call
usa@na-ygn.org

May 8-10

NA-YGN Annual Professional Development Conf.
Washington, D.C.
pd@na-ygn.org

May 2011

NA-YGN Career Awareness Event
Service Academy Career Conference
Washington, D.C.
<http://saac-jobfair.com/DC/DC.htm>

June 5

NA-YGN Professional Development Seminar
Niagara Falls, Ontario
canada@na-ygn.org

June 25-27

NA-YGN Career Awareness Event
American School Councilor Association
Seattle, Washington
<http://www.schoolcouncilor.org>



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