



AMERICAN  
NUCLEAR  
SOCIETY:  
YOUNG  
MEMBERS  
GROUP

# YMG Newsletter

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## Meet Your Elected Members

The ballots are in, the counts are tallied and the first group of officers to be elected by YMG members has been named. As of the close of the June meeting, the YMG members listed below have officially assumed the duties and responsibilities of their elected positions.

### Chair

**Dena Belschner** - Nuclear Power Operations, Bechtel Power Corporation. BS, Nuclear engineering, University of Maryland, 1996.

### Vice Chair

**Kent Welter** - Reactor Systems Engineer, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. BS, Oregon Institute of Technology, 1997; PhD, Nuclear Engineering, Oregon State University, 2002.

### Executive Committee

**Shannon Bragg-Sitton** - Technical Staff Member, Los Alamos National Laboratory. BS, Nuclear Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1997; MS, Medical Physics, University of Texas at Houston, 1999; MS, 2001; PhD, 2004, Nuclear Engineering, University of Michigan.

**Jennifer Butler** - Engineer, New Plant Engineering, AREVA NP, Inc. BS, Nuclear Engineering, PSU, 2002; MS, Nuclear Engineering, PSU, 2006.

**Shana R. Helton** - Nuclear Engineer, Spent Fuel Project Office, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. BS, Nuclear Engineering, University of Illinois, 2000; MSE, Nuclear Engineering Radiological Sciences, University of Michigan, 2001.

**Darby S. Kimball** - Senior Engineer, Bechtel National Inc. BS, University of Virginia, 2000; PhD, Nuclear Engineering University of California Berkeley, 2006.

### Secretary

**Ralph Winiarski, Jr.** - Manager, Nuclear Criticality Safety Engineering, Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility. BS, University of Cincinnati, 1994. Registered Professional Engineer, TN.

### Treasurer

**Bradley Rearden** - Research and Development Staff Member, Criticality and Shielding Methods and Applications Group, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. BS, 1993; MS, 1995; PhD, 1999, Nuclear Engineering, Texas A&M University.

**Heather J. MacLean** - Nuclear Engineer, Fuels & Materials Performance, Idaho National Laboratory. BS, Nuclear Engineering, University of Wisconsin, 1996; PhD, Nuclear Engineering, MIT, 2004.

**Lisa A. Stiles-Shell** - Manager - State Initiatives, Coalitions and Grassroots, Nuclear Energy Institute. BS, Nuclear Engineering, University of Missouri-Rolla, 1994; MS, Nuclear Engineering, MIT, 1997.

**George A. Tsakanikas** - Engineer II, Bechtel Power Corporation. BS, Mechanical Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 2001.

**Andrew J. Zillmer** - Engineer, Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne. BS, Physics and Nuclear Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003; MS, Nuclear Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## NEW 2006 – 2007 YMG STRATEGIC PLAN

Fellow YMG Members,

I am pleased to report that the effort we kicked off last November at the Young Professionals Congress continues to grow, as evidenced by the recently completed 2006 – 2007 YMG Strategic Plan. Thanks to all that provided the honest feedback and great ideas regarding potential hindrances and actions that could be taken to increase young professional membership and involvement in ANS. Using this input, we have generated the first annual Strategic Plan, which describes the specific actions that YMG will take over this year to achieve our long-term goals. Highlights of the Strategic Plan include:

- Development of a YMG ANS “Welcome Package” for all new YMG Members and all graduating ANS Student Members, including an overview of the ANS structure and all Divisions and Technical Groups, an ANS and YMG contact list for questions and information, and information about the upcoming meetings and ways to get involved in YMG and ANS.
- Organization of a “Call List” for all graduating ANS Student Members and Young Members that have not renewed their membership. The callers will address the benefits of Society membership and encourage future involvement. For members who choose not to renew their membership, reasons for doing so will be gathered and provided to the Society.
- A YMG Newsletter will be distributed on an approximately bi-monthly basis, specifically targeting publishing a letter just prior to and just after the ANS Summer and Winter meetings. The newsletters will discuss ongoing YMG activities, performance against the current Strategic Plan, a call for volunteers and ways to get involved in the Society, as well as other timely items.
- Support of ANS Annual Meetings through participation in multiple sessions and panels at both the November and June meetings.
- Increased coordination with other industry groups supporting young members, including naming a liaison to the North America Young Generation in Nuclear (NA-YGN) and working with NA-YGN to appoint a joint representative to the International Youth Nuclear Congress.

Please note: The entire plan may be viewed on our website: <http://ymg.ans.org>.

I hope that the Strategic Plan successfully captures many of the items that YMG was created to address. If you have any additional comments or thoughts, please feel free to contact me or any members of the Executive Committee. Also, there are many opportunities and needs for your involvement in YMG and ANS, please let us know if there are any areas in which you'd like to participate. After all, increased young professional involvement is what we're all about!

Thank you again for your help in bringing us to this point.

Dena Belschner  
[dbelschn@bechtel.com](mailto:dbelschn@bechtel.com)  
YMG Chair



**Did you know**  
**ANS sponsors**  
**the development**  
**of consensus**  
**standards for use**  
**in all aspects of**  
**nuclear science**  
**and engineering?**

## ANS Standards Committee Needs You!

We need your assistance! ANS sponsors the development of consensus standards for application to all aspects of nuclear science and engineering. More than 110 standards have been issued by ANS and almost 80 new and revised standards are being prepared. This work requires the technical input and collaboration of many volunteers. (Travel may not be necessary.)

We invite you to help in this endeavor by joining nearly 1000 other volunteers. Please contact the ANS Standards Administrator, Pat Schroeder, for additional information at 708-579-8269 or [pschroeder@ans.org](mailto:pschroeder@ans.org). Individuals expressing interest in a particular discipline will be personally contacted by a member of the ANS Standards Committee.

# License to Engineer

One year ago, I got up at 4:30 in the morning and drove over an hour for the privilege of taking an 8-hour exam on nuclear engineering. Yes, I said privilege.

The exam was the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam, and passing it was the last step to get licensed as a Professional Engineer. I had wanted the P.E. license since I decided to enter engineering. Why?

Being licensed means that an independent authority has verified that you are qualified to perform work that affects public safety. Being licensed means you can work in states and on jobs that require a license without having to be supervised by someone who's got one. Being licensed sets you apart, strengthens your credentials, and opens doors. In fact, in many areas of the nuclear industry, a P.E. carries more weight than a Ph.D. (Being licensed also means getting extra letters after your name, a fancy stamp, and often a pay raise.)

But the Nuclear PE Exam is in trouble. Applications have been dropping, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), which manages the testing, has placed the nuclear PE exam on probation. If applications don't rise, they may cancel the exams entirely – and no one will be able to become a "P.E. (Nuclear)" anymore.

Here's how you can do it:

**Graduate.** Any ABET-accredited engineering program will do.

**Take the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.** This exam is offered twice a year, often on campuses. Since it covers the basics of an undergraduate engineering education, most people take it just before or after graduation while the material is still fresh - but if you missed it then, you can still register.

**Work.** Requirements vary by state, but generally you will need about four years of work experience in nuclear engineering. Note that some states require experience to be gained either on or with a licensed P.E. - ask the company you work for if they can provide this.

**Take the PE Exam.** The nuclear exam is offered each October. An application is required; this application certifies that you have completed the previous three steps and includes letters of reference from colleagues or supervisors. Workshops and study guides for the exam are available from ANS (which also writes the exam questions).

For more information, visit <http://www.ncees.org/> – or feel free to send me email.

Darby Kimball, P.E. (Nuclear)

[dskimbal@bechtel.com](mailto:dskimbal@bechtel.com)

## Changes to YMG Bylaws and Rules

The new YMG Bylaws & Rules have been accepted with 10 votes from the Executive Committee, all in favor, which easily exceeded the quorum of votes and simple majority required to approve the changes. The Bylaws and Rules have been amended

to: (1) allow student members to hold officer positions, (2) change the length of term for officers from two years to either one or two years, and (3) clarify the process for dissolution of a division. Due to the change, student members in good standing

in the Society may now hold the office of Secretary or Treasurer, and serve on the Executive Committee in the Technical Group.

## Call for Volunteers...

Thinking about getting more involved? No better way to start than pitching in on the following committees and activities for YMG.....

- Fun Run in Albuquerque – Attending the Winter Meeting? Help out with the YMG sponsored fun run! (Dave Pointer, [dpointer@anl.gov](mailto:dpointer@anl.gov))
- Website – Create the “new face” of YMG. (Kent Welter, [kbw@nrc.gov](mailto:kbw@nrc.gov))
- Awards Committee – Establish YMG sponsored awards and nominees. (Darby Kimball, [dskimbal@bechtel.com](mailto:dskimbal@bechtel.com))
- Membership Committee – Lead the charge in attracting and keeping ANS young professional membership. (Meghan Goldman, [Meghan.Goldman@nuclear.energy.gov](mailto:Meghan.Goldman@nuclear.energy.gov))
- Finance Committee – Help establish our operating budget. (Brad Rearden, [reardenb@ornl.gov](mailto:reardenb@ornl.gov))
- Newsletter/Publications Committee - Help compile and check the newsletter and other YMG publications. (George Tsakanikas, [gatsakan@bechtel.com](mailto:gatsakan@bechtel.com))

If interested, please contact the committee or activity lead directly.

# ANS Winter Meeting

## Schedule of Events

Don't miss these sessions sponsored by YMG and NA-YGN at the ANS Winter Meeting!

Monday, Nov 13 (2:55-5:00 pm)

- **Get Connected!** - A panel workshop session focusing on the development of networking skills (Jointly organized by ANS YMG and NA-YGN)
- **Focus on Communications: Pronuclear Activism in Cyberspace** (organized by the ANS PI Committee with the support of NA-YGN)

Tuesday, Nov 14 (1:00-4:00 pm)

- **Focus on Communications: Pro-nuclear Communications**
- **Focus on Communications: What Can We Learn from the Students?**
- **NA-YGN mixer (6:00pm-8:00pm)**

Wednesday, Nov 15 (7:00pm-9:00pm)

- **Public Information Workshop: "Focus on Communications: Speaking to the Media"** (organized by the ANS PI Committee with the support of NA-YGN)

Sunday November 12 through Tuesday November 14

- **NA-YGN will again be hosting a booth at the Technology Expo**



Albuquerque Convention Center



Photo Credit: www.marblesandstudios.com

## November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ANS Winter Meeting						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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