



**North Central Chapter  
Health Physics Society  
Local Arrangements Committee  
HPS Meeting Report  
August 7, 2008**



**Highlights and observations from the 53rd Annual HPS Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.**

The North Central Chapter exhibit booth at the 53rd annual HPS meeting in Pittsburgh, July 13-17, 2008, was a rousing success. Our booth came together quite nicely thanks to the help of many members. Booth traffic was constant and the survey and participation in our drawing was well received as approximately 210 survey forms were completed. The tour committee is currently compiling the data from the surveys and will provide the committee with data soon. Photos of our booth are at the end of the report. The remainder of this report list thoughts, observations and suggestions chapter member received during the convention.

**Tours:**

- Pittsburgh LAC planned and scheduled 21 tours of which 13 were canceled due to a variety of issues. The issues cited were; lack of communication to companions, inflexibility of tour organizer with head count and deadline dates and lack of "uniqueness". The Pittsburgh LAC tried to "brand" Pittsburgh as a 'family get-away" not just a business meeting. The results were mixed at best. The golf outing was one of the cancelled events. It seems that regular golfers would rather choose their own course. Plus, the course was too far away from the convention center. Possible thoughts and ideas include; setting up discounts at local golf courses or other attractions and allow attendees to choose each attraction or activity. The open mike night was well attended and Chase Environmental has already volunteered to fund this activity in Minneapolis. The pub crawl on Monday night was also well attended. We need to remember to keep the start time late enough to members taking the ABHP exam can join. Another thought is having the pub crawl on Wednesday night when formal activities are winding down. Plus the 5K Run/Walk was the next morning.

**Shirts - Merchandise:**

- Pittsburgh produced a lot of shirts and their sales did not go well. We have numbers from Portland but not from Pittsburgh. They also forgot to place the year and location into their logo and added it later (as an extra cost) to the sleeve. We will not have that issue since our logo is already done with the year and the location in the center. Kimberly and Dan Miron, are in contact with a local shirt vendor in Minneapolis who has already provided us with a generic quote that is competitive (e.g. t-shirts about \$6.50, polo shirts about \$12.00 and long sleeve denim shirts about \$16.50). We will obtain formal bids from this vendor and others for our shirts, any other items we may want to sell, shirts for the 5K and the 1200 to 1400 handout bags/totes that each attendee receives. Other ideas include getting our choice of vendors completed in time for San Antonio and having the

vendor run some samples to display at that time. Another thought is completing the shirt choices and installing a section on the website that HPS members can look at. In other words, if we move quickly we could do some pre sales before the conference begins. (Note: The LAC chooses the meeting bag/design, recommends vendor and the secretariat orders and pays).

Hospitality Room - LAC Room - Program Committee Room - PEP Ready Room:

- The same complaint applied to all four of these rooms. There was nobody from Pittsburgh LAC staffing these rooms. Companions could not find anyone in the Hospitality room. The room was small, dull and unattractive. There was nothing there, no support staff (brochures, maps, coffee, etc). People were coming to the Program Committee room for help because no one was in the LAC Room. Also disruptive to the PEP Ready room. I think we are in pretty good shape with people already assigned to and taking care of the; Hospitality Room, Jan and McGrane and others in the LAC room, Pep Liaisons, Floor managers and Facility Liaisons. We also need to remember to train and utilize the students assigned to us.

Companion Issues:

- A lot of complaints from companions! I already addressed lack of local members for the hospitality room. Communication. Many spouse/companions would like to see earlier and better communication of information distributed to the members (e.g. tour options, things to do, restaurants, places to go). One thought is to add a companion line for "name and e-mail address" to the HPS form. Many companions never see the preliminary program or information because the members "think classic CHP's" never give the information to their companions. M. Lewandowski is already a board member and will suggest this idea to national. Another idea from Chuck Roessler is to form an "HPS Auxiliary" for companions (much like a VFW Auxiliary). The companions could join the HPS Auxiliary for a nominal fee and maybe even help local chapters organize these conference/meetings. *{Ed. Note, I like this idea!}* Glenn suggested an e-mail listing of companions so meeting information could be distributed to them at the same time as members.

Other concerns and thoughts:

5K Run/Walk:

Hold close to hotel to keep transportation cost down. Don't hold pub crawl the night before the morning of the 5K run/walk (thus my comment about holding pub crawl on Wednesday evening. Check rules and get OK from national on vendors/sponsors for 5K and or any other activities (legal and tax issues).

Signs:

Better signage for meeting, sessions, courses, etc. Note: This may be better in MPLS since we are in a fairly confined area (two levels center around Hall A in the convention Center) instead of all over the CC and on different levels. PEP liaisons, floor managers.

Missing Information:

The booth did not have good information about the headquarters hotel or downtown Minneapolis restaurants, etc. (McGrane to gather better maps for the downtown area,

more brochures and Hilton Hotel information before San Antonio). Our website will have a lot of this information.

No coffee during breaks between sessions, PEP CEL's etc, all coffee was in Exhibit hall on other side of CC from session rooms.

Assign students to floor personnel, LAC, PEP ready etc.

Include links on Website for "Best of Twin Cities" magazine and "City Pages" newspaper.

Parks for kids (Hospitality Room?)

Other end of spectrum is companion request for information on more "adult" oriented entertainment (as opposed to parks and Sponge Bob or Square Pants I guess...)

Use Britt's Pub for the beginning and ending location for the pub crawl.

**The End! Finally**



