



Go Nuke!

A newsletter from the North American Young Generation in Nuclear

January 2008

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NA-YGN – It's Not Just For Young Engineers

By Amy Buu, President of NA-YGN

So let me share a story that maybe some of our NA-YGN members have encountered. You just met someone who works in the nuclear industry; they ask you which professional organizations you belong to and you say NA-YGN. Do they say "Oh yeah, I've heard of that group. That's the young engineers group that doesn't let anyone over the age of 36 be part of the group. All they seem to do is have fun."

Have you experienced this scenario? How did you respond? What did you say? Well, I hope you let them know that NA-YGN isn't just for engineers and it's also not just for anyone under 36 years old. And, what's wrong with having some fun? ☺

NA-YGN is a great organization where *everyone* who wants to help support the nuclear industry, the people of the nuclear industry and the communities around us can come together on common goals. Being part of NA-YGN does not take an intense sign up process, nor does it mean you even have to be a certain age to help out. You just have to have less than 10 years work experience and be less than 36 years old to **vote** during our annual elections process. If voting is not

your main concern, then everyone can be a member of NA-YGN.

Did you know that we have members as professors, university students, as well as members who are in plant/field operations, craftsmen, accounting, legal departments, administration, management, marketing, human resources, supply chain management, information technology...(I could go on, but I'll stop) in various organizations across North America? It takes participation from a variety of disciplines to make this industry viable.

So what do all of these NA-YGN members with different backgrounds and disciplines do? We are advocates for nuclear, foster professional development and networking opportunities, as well as build positive relationships within the community – oh yeah, and have fun while doing it. ☺

So if you are interested in helping me dispel these misnomers or increase the diversity of NA-YGN, then I would like to start a little task force to help NA-YGN reach out to everyone who wants to be part of the NA-YGN movement. E-mail me at buu@na-ygn.org if you're interested in being part of this initiative to spread the news about NA-YGN. Not a member yet? Our membership is free and the online registration form takes only 10 minutes tops. <http://www.na-ygn.org/aboutus/member.cgi>. Our website is www.na-ygn.org.

ANS/NA-YGN Young Professionals Congress

November 10, 2007

**Grow Strong Communities –
Break Ground on Your Future
Washington D.C**

During the Young Professionals Congress - a day dedicated to the growth and professional development of young professionals in the nuclear industry - young professionals from across the country came together to learn about creating effective working relationships and to explore how they can form synergies to address emerging industry issues. This was the second biennial conference co-organized by the Young Members Group (YMG) of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) and the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NA-YGN) and was held on Saturday, November 10th in Washington, D.C. as part of the weeklong ANS International Conference. Representation at the conference was diverse, as attendees came from various utilities, national laboratories, government agencies, vendors, universities and consultants. The Young Professionals Congress provided a unique opportunity for YMG and NA-YGN to further establish their *raison d'être*, to provide members with leadership and professional development avenues.

Nichole Ellis, conference co-chair, commenced the day with an overview of activities and presentations. Introductions to the ANS YMG and NA-YGN followed; key initiatives and involvement opportunities in each organization were presented. Commissioner Peter Lyons, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), delivered the keynote speech on the importance of communications today. Commissioner Lyons highlighted the importance of communicating the benefits of nuclear power and promoting careers in engineering and the sciences. Marvin Fertel, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Chief Nuclear Officer, presented a talk on

dispelling myths about the global nuclear energy partnership. Mr. Fertel gave examples of how easily information can be misleading if is not carefully examined with consideration to the source, context, and motives. Marvin highlighted that in an overwhelming sea of information through television, radio, print media, and the internet, the ability to separate fact from fiction and sound science from elaborate marketing is crucial to being able to using information effectively. David Czufin, Work Control Director at Exelon Nuclear, spoke about the importance of networking with peers. David gave a brief overview of his career and detailed the critical role that peer networks played in his advancement. He described the unique opportunity that peers have to demonstrate their talents and build trust.

YMG and NA-YGN members also made presentations throughout the day that focused on critical issues in the nuclear industry; these topics included, employee retention, how to expand networks, knowledge transfer, and leadership influences. During the conference, attendees interacted with one-another through various activities and networking recesses. One of the sessions had the attendees develop elevator speeches to practice effectively communicating to peers and leaders in a precise and timely fashion. The session delved into the key points of a successful personal campaign that may promote an idea, goal or desired career transition.

The conference was concluded by closing remarks delivered by Sarfraz Taj, conference co-chair. The conference was tremendously successful with much praise for the presentations, organization and activities. As the *pièce de résistance*, the ANS President, Donald Hintz, stopped in to welcome the attendees and congratulate YMG and NA-YGN for organizing a successful event that promotes the continued success of the nuclear industry.

President's Corner

By: Amy Buu

Want to network online with other NA-YGN members?

By Amy Buu, President of NA-YGN

The NA-YGN Core has been asked about this type of capability for our members and has explored Facebook and MySpace. The problem is those websites are typically banned from our company websites due to the amount of server space and/or perceived abuse of these websites.

How can you do this for free and in a more professional manner? The answer is LinkedIn. LinkedIn is an online network of more than 16 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries.

When you join, you create a profile that summarizes your professional accomplishments. Your profile helps you find and be found by current and former colleagues, classmates, and partners. You can add more connections by inviting trusted contacts to join LinkedIn and connect to you.

Your network consists of your connections, your connections' connections, and the people they know, linking you to thousands of qualified professionals.

Through your LinkedIn network you can:

- Get introduced to other professionals through the people you know
- Meet other NA-YGN members with your similar interests and career experiences
- Get a chance to learn what other NA-YGN members are doing in their respective careers
- Keep in touch with NA-YGN members as they move from company to company

Currently, there are about 70+ NA-YGN members who are part of the Linked in Network. If you become a member, here's my LinkedIn profile: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/amyslink>.

One reason why I like LinkedIn is that it allows me a quick way to keep in touch with various people – not just with NA-YGN, but even within my company, other organizations, and my past walks of life.

Now, imagine the possibilities if all 3,189 NA-YGN members joined LinkedIn. LinkedIn is free to join. However, you can upgrade your account to utilize other LinkedIn Services for a fee.

Check it out today - <http://www.linkedin.com/> and if you join, feel free to invite me to be part of your network!



Local Chapter Updates!

Local Chapter Leader Teleconference

The NA-YGN Core hears our members. In response to Local Chapter Leaders looking to stay informed on all the latest news on the national level, the Affair Chairs of NA-YGN are now holding bi-monthly teleconferences. Each local chapter is asked to have a member in attendance. Benefits of attending these calls include national updates of upcoming events, highlighted best practices, and answers to questions and concerns in an open forum. If your local chapter is not yet participating, contact your Affairs Chair for information regarding the next meeting.

The Next Regional Lead meeting will take place on February 28 from 3:00 - 3:30PM EST. If your Local Chapter Leader cannot participate, please have your local chapter designate an alternate.

Northeast Tylor Upton, northeast@na-ygn.org

Shaw raised \$500 in a local food drive, and the chapter was mentioned in the Global Shaw newsletter. Shaw has also talked with young professionals from Pilgrim in order to possibly form a larger local chapter. Chapter growth was reported, as well as holding of local elections.

Midwest Molly Woodard, midwest@na-ygn.org

Dresden hosted a holiday party for the station and chapter members. Braidwood attended the Braidwood Community Information Night in November and handed out general nuclear information pamphlets to the public. Clinton had a pool tournament with a local college. OPPD helped local grade schools participate in the Drawing Contest. They also took a technical tour of the nuclear medicine facilities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. OPPD also was very instrumental in aiding with company specific

benefits discussions due to a company-wide insurance plan change geared towards younger and newer employees.

Southeast Torey McCaney, southeast@na-ygn.org

The four chapters of the Southern Company have recently elected new chapter leads. TVA restructured their chapter, with Browns Ferry becoming the second chapter. TVA also gave a simulator tour to a group of local middle school students. STP recently held a kickoff meeting, so the Southeast is growing.

Carolinas Adam Strange, carolinas@na-ygn.org

Progress had some leadership changes at their local chapter. Many members and Regional Leads are helping to make this transition a smooth one. Midlands went to see Governor Whitman speak at a local event, as well as attended a local school event to discuss engineering careers. Duke also held social events since the last issue.

Mid-Atlantic George Tsakanikas, atlantic@na-ygn.org

Hosted the ANS/NA-YGN Young Professionals Congress in Washington D.C., which included about 60 participants from North America and Canada.

West Krisin Zaitz, west@na-ygn.org

Palo Verde held its first annual banquet and officers awards and have posted photos of the event on their website, <http://www.pv-ygn.org/>. The SONGs chapter held their first site volleyball tournament and had nearly 300 in attendance. SONGs also held their first elections and will turn over at their end of the year banquet in March.

Liz, US Affairs Chair: USA@na-ygn.org

Canadian Affairs Chair: Canada@na-ygn.org

Laura, Mexican Affairs Chair: Mexico@na-ygn.org



On Friday September 14th 2007 Southern California NA-YGN in conjunction with San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) sponsored the 2007 SONGS Volleyball Tournament. This tournament, which brought together all skill levels of volleyball players was a great opportunity to promote the name of NA-YGN between SONGS employees and their families.

The 2007 SONGS Volleyball Tournament consisted of over one hundred people. The teams were comprised of players of all ages and abilities. For this reason, there were two brackets set-up: one for individuals who wanted to play for fun and the other for individuals who wanted to compete competitively. This gave everyone the opportunity to have a great time.

Even though there were only two tournament winners (as can be seen in the pictures provided) everyone who took part in the event left a winner. This was evident by the number of individuals who congratulated Southern California NA-YGN on a great tournament and those who wanted another tournament in October. So Cal NA-YGN would like to thank all the NA-YGN and non NA-YGN members who participated in this event, especially SONGS Management for their generous support of the 2007 SONGS Volleyball Tournament!



Carolinas & Southern NA-YGN Regional Event Racing Towards Your Future August 10th and 11th 2007 University of North Carolina – Charlotte, North Carolina

Remember to look up. Remember to speak clearly. Don't look uninterested during the other presenter's speeches. Don't forget to open up with a joke. Did I dress correctly? God, I hope my CNO isn't in the audience when I am making my presentation. I should have practiced more in the mirror. I hope my charts aren't too busy for the audience to read.

When young professionals arrived in Charlotte, many of them were thinking these exact thoughts as they entered the auditorium at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. The theme of the event was "Racing Towards Your Future." This was a very poetic theme for a NA-YGN event. This generation is racing. They are racing towards their personal futures, they are racing towards new nuclear, they are racing to catch up with our more mature counter parts prior to them retiring. They are racing!

Unlike the national events, the regional activities are an opportunity for the young professionals to be the star attraction. It was decided to help the young professionals from the Carolina's region to develop their public speaking and organizational skills by allowing them to speak on topics of career development and local chapter opportunities. This was a hit amongst attendees who commented that they liked the fact that they were able to hear from more of their peers.

Additionally, organizers Andy Huffman from Areva and Sara Chisholm from Duke Energy wanted to remind young professionals that they need to own their own career development. No one else is going to be responsible for it. The NA-YGN network will help open the door for opportunities, the industry will offer

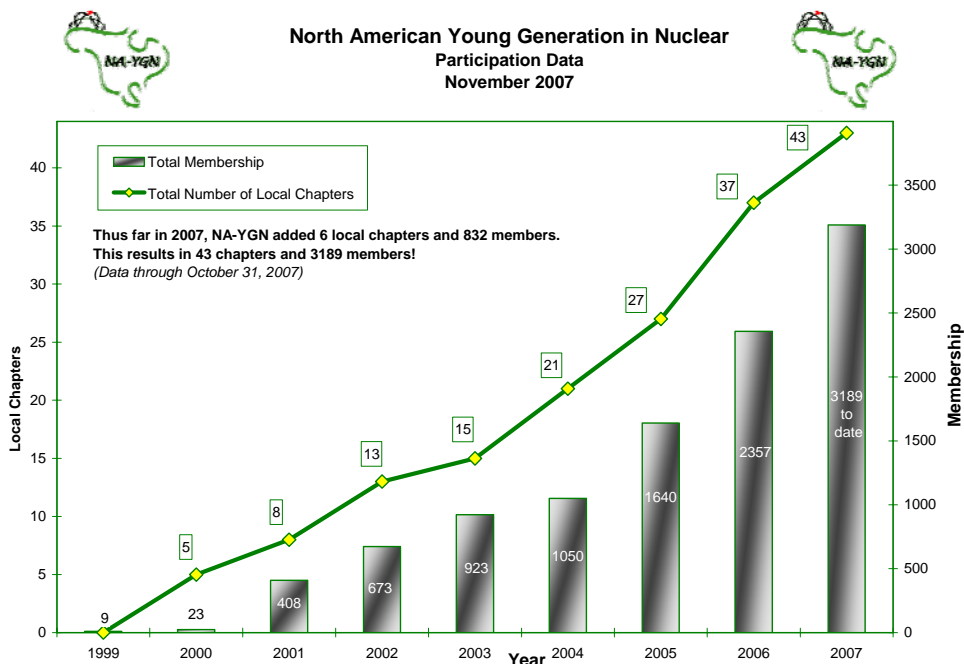
opportunities, but only the **YP** can choose to take those opportunities. This point came across strong and clear to the attendees. Executive support was apparent when Tom Christopher gave the key note address and when H. Bru Barren of Duke Energy snuck into the mix by describing potential spent fuel solutions. The NA-YGN President, Amy Buu described the process of performing an annual Career Development SWOT. Bob Moll of TVA gave an update on the Browns Ferry Restart project, while multiple university professors described steps they were taking to prepare for the nuclear renaissance.

The US Affairs Chair, Elizabeth McAndrew-Benavides left the attendees with the following piece of advice: "As young professional you will be told to work on your weaknesses, which usually are thing things you hate. What you should be told to do is to work on your strengths. Become great at what you are already good at. When you leave here today and you race home to complete your Career SWOT, please remember to focus not only on your weaknesses, but on your strengths. Become great at something you love! When you become great at something, you establish the benchmarks the rest of us use to gauge ourselves off of."



PROOF THAT WE ARE GROWING!!

Since last May 2007, NA-YGN has experienced a growth in chapters and in our membership!



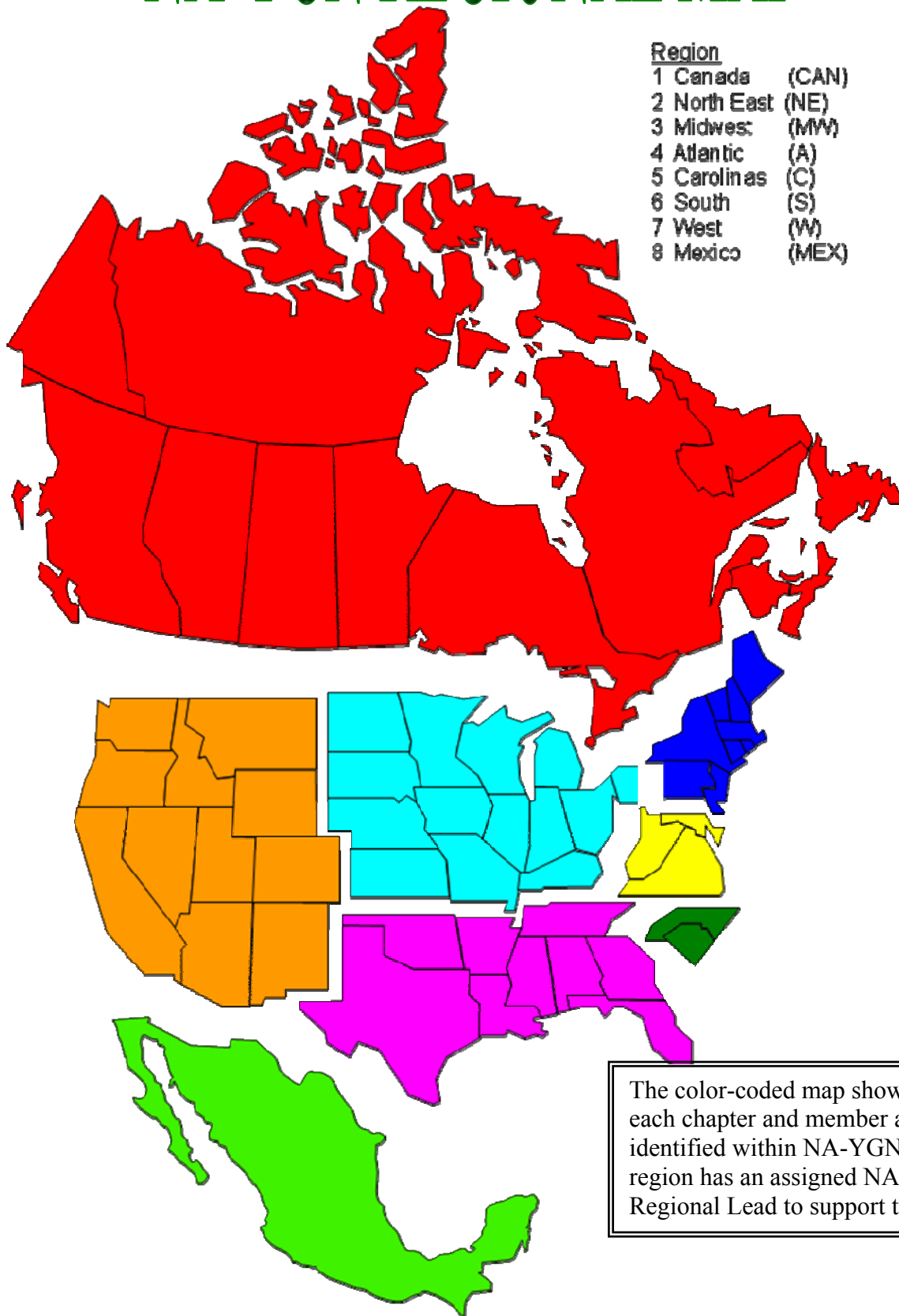
NA-YGN Annual Workshop

Drive Your Success: Train For Tomorrow!



To network with other NA-YGN members, get your travel approved to join together at the Fairmont Chicago, May 4-5, 2008. Before April 14th, advanced registration fees are \$325.00. After April 14th, registration fees will be \$425.00. Hotel information is: The Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601. Reservations: 800.257.7544 or 312.565.8000. www.fairmont.com/chicago. The reservation cutoff at The Fairmont Chicago is April 11. Standard rooms at the Fairmont are available at a discounted rate of \$279. After April 11, the room rate will be at the discretion of the hotel. Please call the hotel to make a reservation. If you have hotel reservation questions or concerns, please contact Arika Johnson at amj@nei.org. Register for the workshop on-line at: <https://register.nei.org/conferences/naygnregistrationform.asp>

NA-YGN REGIONAL MAP



The color-coded map show how each chapter and member are identified within NA-YGN. Each region has an assigned NA-YGN Regional Lead to support them.

EVENTS

National and International Events

February 28-March 1, 2008

ANS Student Conference, Texas A&M

www.ans.tamu.edu/2008conference.html

May 5-7, 2008

NA-YGN Annual Workshop Chicago

www.na-ygn.org/pd

For more information:

<http://www.nei.org/newsandevents/conference/sandmeetings/naygn/>

August 3-6, 2008

Utility Working Conference,

Amelia Island, FL

“Knowledge Transfer: The Key to Continuing Operations Excellence.”

September 20-26, 2008

IYNC 2008, Interlaken, Switzerland

www.iync.org

November 9-13, 2008

ANS Winter Meeting and Nuclear

Technology Expo, Reno, NV

GO SNOOP!!!
GO SNOOP!!!

Duncan Robinson, previously NA-YGN Affairs Chair, has recently accepted a position with Constellation Energy as Supervisor of PWR Reloads.

Dr. Shannon Bragg-Sitton, former NA-YGN President, has recently accepted a position with Texas A&M University.

Andy Huffman, former Carolinas Regional Lead, has recently taken a position with Westinghouse in Monroeville, Pennsylvania.



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