



ANS Washington DC Section

Winter 2019 Newsletter

Opening Welcome from the Past, Present, and Future Chairs of DC-ANS

By Jeff Gorman, Amber Johnson, and Jim Behrens

An issue of main concern to the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and to the local Washington, D.C. section (hereafter DC-ANS), is that much of the American public and its political leaders have limited understanding of the importance and value of nuclear technology and nuclear power. As a result, nuclear power plants are being shutdown, resulting in less resiliency and reliability of the nation's electric grid, and more carbon dioxide is being released to the atmosphere. Nuclear professionals need to work to fill this information gap. To address this need, we urge you to join both ANS National and DC-ANS and help support their important educational and advocacy activities.

Benefits of joining ANS include free online resources, a complimentary subscription to *Nuclear News* magazine, access to other publications and journals, and significant discounts for industry meetings. Visit www.ans.org to join ANS and learn more about the organization. For more information about DC-ANS, including meetings and activities in the D.C. metropolitan area, northern Virginia, and Maryland, visit the [DC-ANS website](#).

DC-ANS is an active group of people interested in nuclear technology in its many aspects, including power production, defense issues, non-proliferation, medical uses, radiation effects, nuclear science, and agriculture. DC-ANS holds periodic dinner meetings and talks related to nuclear topics. It also participates in educational outreach activities such as science fairs and giving talks at local schools.

The rest of this newsletter covers some of the recent activities of DC-ANS. We hope that they are of interest to you. Please let us know of topics that you would like to see covered in subsequent issues of the newsletter and at dinner meetings or other DC-ANS activities.

The Eisenhower Medal

By Tracy Coyle and Jim Behrens

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Award was created by the ANS Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy Division (NNPD) in 2014. The award was established to acknowledge people and organizations contributing to the area of nuclear nonproliferation.

Since being established, the award has been presented at the ANS Winter Meetings held in Washington DC. In 2015, the award was presented to Secretary George Shultz and Dr. Sid Drell. The 2017 award was presented to Senators Sam Nunn and Richard "Dick" Lugar together with Dr. Sig Hecker.

This award has been elevated from an NNPD division-administered award to an ANS National Top Tier award. The new Eisenhower Medal now joins alongside the Seaborg Medal and the Zinn Medal. The Seaborg Medal is for nuclear science and engineering, the Zinn Medal is for nuclear technology and the Eisenhower Medal for nuclear policy. For complete award descriptions and nomination forms, please visit the [ANS Honors and Awards](#) page.

The Washington DC Local Section has given its support to NNPD since 2014 and now continues by giving support to ANS National. The 2019 Eisenhower Medal will once again be presented during the 2019 ANS Winter Meeting in Washington DC. Stay tuned. Updates will be given in future issues of this newsletter.



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The ANS and Hoover Institution Roundtable Meeting at Stanford University

By Tracy Marc and Jim Behrens

Members of the American Nuclear Society and prestigious [Hoover Institution](#) met on December 5, 2018 at Stanford University to begin roundtable discussions on nuclear policy and technology. The roundtable was chaired and organized by ANS national and DC-ANS member James Behrens and former Secretary of State [George Shultz](#), Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Hoover Institution.

In attendance from ANS were: ANS President John Kelly, Incoming President Marilyn Kray and Immediate Past President Bob Coward. Other ANS members included: Jim Behrens, Dr. Todd Allen, Dr. Rita Baranwal, Kathleen Barron, Jeff Gorman, Gene Grecheck (past president 2015-2016), Dr. Andy Klein (past president 2016-2017), John Kotek, Dr. Eric Loewen (past president 2011-2012), Dr. Peter Lyons, Steve Nesbit, Bill Ostendorff, Mark Peters, and Craig Piercy.



*Participants at the First Hoover – ANS Roundtable
December 5, 2018*

The full day meeting covered discussions on sustaining the existing U.S. nuclear reactor fleet, the future of advanced reactor technologies, national and international security, the fuel cycle, and social and political barriers to nuclear power in the U.S. A copy of the meeting agenda can be [viewed here](#).

This first meeting set the foundation for a rapport between the two groups to meet and identify ways ANS and Hoover can work together to advance the challenges nuclear technology faces today.

Saving the Savannah

By Gail Marcus and Jim Behrens

Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his famous Atoms for Peace speech in December 1953 to the United Nations in New York. One of the results stemming from this speech was an effort to use nuclear fission to provide the power for commercial ships. The United States built one nuclear-powered commercial ship and named it the N.S. Savannah (Nuclear Ship Savannah). This ship was in service from 1962 to 1970 as both a cargo and a passenger ship. It is owned by the U.S. Maritime Administration and is docked in Baltimore Harbor where it is currently undergoing decommissioning. When decommissioning is finished in a few years, the ship will be looking for a new home and new future use.

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The Savannah is a National Historic Landmark, and an ANS Nuclear Landmark. It's an intact first-generation nuclear facility, and likely to be one of the very few Atoms for Peace objects to survive and be accessible to the public. The ANS is participating in federal consultation efforts, and plans to join an advisory group to provide input regarding the ship's possible future options. Some want to turn the ship into a museum; however, nothing specific has been established.

The Washington DC Local Section wishes to help in this ongoing effort. Updates will be provided in upcoming issues of this DC-ANS Newsletter. In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more about the fascinating history of this ship and its nuclear power plant, as well as about the current activities, by checking out some of the references below.

[Nuke Power Talk](#)

[ANS Nuclear Cafe- What Next for Savannah?](#)

[ANS Nuclear Cafe – A Savannah Story](#)

[Aboard the NS Savannah – America's First and Last Nuclear Merchant Ship](#)

[Take a tour of the NS Savannah](#)

Newsletters Contributors

A Newsletter Contribution

From The Honorable William "Bill" Ostendorff

In October 2018, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) co-hosted a symposium with the Naval Historical Foundation to recognize the history of the US naval reactors program started by Admiral Hyman G Rickover with the first nuclear powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, and the first atomic power plant at Shippingport. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John Richardson and Director of Naval Reactors, Admiral Frank Caldwell were speakers on the program as was former US Senator John Warner, former Secretary of the Navy and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator Warner is a long-time advocate for the Navy's nuclear power program. Former U.S. Navy submarine officer and NRC Commissioner Bill Ostendorff was asked to address the audience on the national security aspects of the nation's commercial nuclear energy industry. The article presents Commissioner Ostendorff's perspectives on the topic and is available to ANS members in the November 2018 issue of *Nuclear News*. ANS members can download the issue using their ID and password.

[Nuclear energy and national security, Nuclear News November 2018](#)



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A Newsletter Contribution

From Dr. Todd Allen

Many discussions about advanced nuclear energy focus on technology advancements or regulatory improvements. These are important but likely not sufficient to bring new nuclear into the market. Also important are the acceptance of the communities that will host the facilities. Third Way convened a discussion of 30 experts on communities and how they approach major energy facilities. Read more about what they said.

[Breaking the Nuclear Box: What Frank Lloyd Wright Can Teach Us about Engaging the Community to Successfully Deploy Advanced Nuclear Technologies](#)

Closing Remarks

The 2018-2019 Annual Season for the DC-ANS began on July 1st 2018 and within the months of July through December, it held two dinner-meetings, both in Maryland, with one in Rockville and the other in Annapolis.

On August 29th 2018, our guest speaker was Craig Piercy. The meeting was held at Far East Restaurant in Rockville, MD. Please visit our website for speaker's brief bio, talk title, and talk description.

On November 8th 2018, our guest speaker was RADM John D. Spencer. This meeting was held at Buddy's Crabs & Ribs in Annapolis, MD. Speaker's brief bio, talk title, and description can once again be found on our website.

A number of dinner-meetings are being planned within the months of February through May 2019. The Annual Meeting will be on May 14th and our guest speaker will be Marilyn Kray, Incoming President of the ANS.

Please visit our website often to learn about both past, and upcoming, events and meetings.

Newsletter Editor James W. "Jim" Behrens

If you have stories or ideas for the newsletter, please email us at ans.dc.section@gmail.com

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