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Where the Elite Meet

People familiar with this magazine will note that each issue usually includes a report on an industry conference I've recently attended. Starting with the granddaddy of all nuclear waste conferences, the Waste Management meetings each February in Tucson, and then moving on to the two American Nuclear Society meetings each year, the biennial High-Level Waste conferences in Las Vegas, the Spectrum conferences, the Electric Power Research Institute's Low-Level Waste conference, and various ANS topical meetings and executive conferences, there is plenty of opportunity for me to keep current on industry trends and to learn about the successes (and occasional failures) at commercial and government D&D and cleanup projects. (Incidentally, there are also a lot of international conferences, but as much as I would like to spend Aprils in Paris or Septembers in Tokyo, alas the *Radwaste Solutions* budget just does not allow for such perks.)

This issue contains three reports from the recent ANS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee (see pp. 47, 54, and 57). The ANS Decommissioning, Decontamination, and Reutilization Division and the Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division regularly sponsor incredibly valuable sessions on hot topics and emerging issues in the waste world during the two ANS meetings each year. And I am always impressed not only by the speakers at these sessions, but by the audience members as well. Utility CEOs sit next to students; D&D managers rub shoulders with national laboratory scientists; regulatory staffers interact with those they regulate; and a mere reporter (getting in everyone's way taking photos) is tolerated as well.

Sitting in at these sessions gives me a greater depth of knowledge of the topics that this magazine tries to cover. Editors of industry magazines are supposed to know everything about the industry, which I hope my readers realize is totally impossible. But meeting presentations give me a lot of information that I can use later as I plan future issues. And, as a bonus,

many of the presentations I hear at these meetings later are transformed into articles, giving my readers some of the benefits of meeting attendance without the travel expense.

But I have been chastised (and rightly so, I might add) because while I give the names of the speakers at the sessions in my meeting reports, I generally fail to give the names of the session organizers. This has been, indeed, a major failing on my part.

Good sessions at technical conferences don't just happen. They are created by knowledgeable people who take the time and expend the energy to develop topics, coax people to prepare presentations, choose a session chair, and run herd over the whole process (not unlike the work of a magazine editor, I might add). For this work, they receive no other recompense than perhaps a brief listing in a final program. So, kudos to all those session organizers whose sessions I have covered over the last several years. You are doing a great job, and I promise to mention your names in the future.

And Now for Something Completely Different . . .

Really alert readers who regularly scan page 2 of this magazine (the masthead page) will notice that the address of the *Radwaste Solutions* editorial office has changed. Once again this editor is following her itinerant spouse across the country to a new home, moving from Richland, Wash., to the Lynchburg, Va., area. The new address of the editorial office, as of October 1, 2001, is:

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Radwaste Solutions readers are invited to get in touch at any time. The magazine welcomes your comments.—Nancy J. Zacha, Editor ■



Listening and Learning at Industry Conferences