



American Nuclear Society

Nuclear Criticality Safety Division

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

1 – 2pm EST, February 11, 2025

Member, position	Present?	Proxy
Officers		
Dominic (Fred) Winstanley, chair	x	
Andy Prichard, vice-chair	x	
Theresa Cutler, treasurer		
Kristan Wessels, secretary	x	
Tracy Stover, past chair	x	
Kim Burns, PDC Chair		
Katy Worrell, student member		
Executive Committee At large Through June 2025		
Michael L. Zerkle		
Larry L. Wetzel		
Hannah P. Morbach		
Executive Committee At large Through June 2026		
John Bess		
Mandy Bowles Tomaszewski	x	
Kristin Stolte		
Executive Committee At large Through June 2027		
Dallas Moser	x	
Shauntay Coleman	x	
Amy van der Vyver	x	
Liaison roles		
Student liaison: Ethan Krammer		
ANS Board liaison: Katy Worrell		

General themes:

- Keeping “adding value to the wider membership” at the forefront of everyone’s mind.*
- How to engage with the membership and encourage “doers” to progress activity.*

- Welcome and roll call
 - Quorum and proxies
- Action responses

Scholarship advertisement – No report.

Scholarship-No additional information.
- Officer/ Liaison Reports
 - Chair’s Report (Fred Winstanley)

See discussion on summer meetings.



American Nuclear Society

Nuclear Criticality Safety Division

- b. Vice Chair's Report (Andy Prichard)
Nothing to report.
- c. Treasurer's Report (Theresa Cutler)
No report.
- d. Secretary's Report (Kristan Wessels)
January meeting minutes submitted to ANS. Volunteer needed to take meeting minutes in March. Michael Fendler volunteered if he is available.
- e. PDC liaison (Fred/ Andy)
 - i. 1 page abstract discussion - Feedback to John Fabian
No updates from PDC on 1 page abstracts. Discussions are on-going.
- f. Student liaison (Katy/ Rowdy)
No report.
- g. ANS-8 series standards (Doug Bowen)
ANS 8.26 is published. ANS 8.20 is with Standards Board.
- 4. NCSD 2025 Topical (Theresa Cutler)
Needing more sponsorship. Paper reviews are finishing up and notifications will be sent to authors. ~140 paper submitted, which exceeded the goal of 100 papers.
- 5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Program: Ben Martin
14 papers (including 4 lightning talks) were submitted for the November meeting and are out for review. The low number was expected due to the Topical and the meeting was planned to be panel heavy.
 - b. Membership: Kristin Stolte
The membership snapshot for this month is as to be expected.
 - c. Honors and Awards: James Cole
Nothing to report. Setting up meeting.
 - d. Scholarship: Julie Ezold
 - i. 2025 NCSD Pioneer Scholarship Applications Due February 1st
Two applicants for scholarship. Application reviews are due by 3/1. A question was asked if other divisions are having similar issues. There are about the same number of applicants as last year.
 - e. Communications: Theresa Cutler
 - i. Newsletter (Riley/ Katy)
No report.
 - ii. Website/ results of NCSD Website Survey – Ashley Raster
Uploaded January meeting minutes. Looking at (re)uploading presentations from old conferences.
 - f. Education: Michael Fendler
Working on webinar series and re-invigorating mentorship program. The UK Early Careers Criticality Safety Network is looking for speakers for their webinars. Contact Amy van der Vyver if you are interested.



American Nuclear Society

Nuclear Criticality Safety Division

- g. Bylaws and Rules: Brittany Williamson
Deb Hill will inform Brittany that the latest professional division bylaws and rules were approved by the PDC.
- h. Special Committee on Outreach to Military, Trades and Operations: Mackenzie Gorham
No report.
- i. Young Members subcommittee: James Cole
Nothing to report.
- j. Nominating: Tracy Stover (*Committee has completed business*)
Nothing to report.
- 6. Old/New Business
 - a. ANS board proposal (Kelsey Amundson)
 - i. Report on subcommittee response (Kristan Wessels, Catherine Percher, Theresa Cutler, and John Miller) and feedback from Kelsey.
Submitted. See attached email. Kelsey stated that the recommendation of the special committee to the board is to move to one national meeting a year beginning in 2028. This will be voted on at the summer meeting. Multiple divisions shared viewpoints.
 - b. Committee membership details up to date?
 - i. Committees up to date are: H&A, Young Members, Nominating, Scholarship
 - ii. Opportunity for new committee members including vice-chairs? All parts of NCSD represented? Opportunity to engage, involve and benefit from the ideas of younger members.
 - c. **Potential for NCSD funds to be used for a Young Member Group social.**
Tabled for later discussion.

Actions

Action	Actionee	Date Raised	Date Due
Discuss potential ways to better advertise NCS scholarship with scholarship committee <i>Ethan is connecting on student conference. Student Committee is planning a scholarship application working session.</i>	Katy Worrell/Ethan Krammer	11/17/24	3/5/25
Review funding structure of scholarship <i>Propose that this be closed and an action raised to discuss options for the division surplus at the June meeting.</i>	Julie Ezold	11/17/24	1/14/25

Committee Opportunities

- Membership: Vice-chair



American Nuclear Society

Nuclear Criticality Safety Division

- Scholarship: New members
- Other: ?

Links

[Home -- Nuclear Criticality Safety Division \(ans.org\)](http://ans.org) (NCSD website)

Others in attendance: Kelsey Amundson, Kermit Bunde, James Cole, Julie Ezold, Michael Fendler, Deb Hill, Ashley Raster,

From: [Amundson, Kelsey M \(LANL\)](#)
To: [Wessels, Kristan M \[Y-12\]](#)
Cc: [Miller, John A \(SNL\)](#); [Percher, Catherine M \(LLNL\)](#); [Cutler, Theresa E \(LANL\)](#); [Winstanley, Dominic D \(SL\)](#)
Subject: [External] Re: NCSD Subcommittee Recommendations for Future Meetings
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:08:40 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-signature .png](#)

All,

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on this discussion. While the decision to transition to one national meeting a year is not final (since the board has not voted on the matter), the special committee has come to the conclusion that one national meeting is preferable based off comments from multiple divisions and the financial data available. Many division representatives have stated the number of conferences per year being time-consuming and challenging to accomplish mission-relevant work (between national meetings, topicals, and other programmatic meetings). However, this decision now does not mean that having a 2nd national meeting a year won't be re-considered in the future.

As part of this decision the special committee is looking at multiple ways to accommodate these changes, including adding another day back to the conference and looking at how embedded topicals are done (however, some hotel contracts are already made and changing them can be challenging). Conference location improvement was an assumption regardless of the outcome (making sure conferences are in desirable locations that are easy and cost-effective to get to).

There are also multiple ways NCSD may be able to accommodate more presentations, such as incorporating lightening talks. The special committee will be recommending that ANS make this process easier, since multiple divisions find them beneficial (especially when the content is focused on project updates). ANS also makes it easy to host webinars, so that may also be an avenue that NCSD could consider so they can reach out its membership more frequently. Webinars may also be a way to get more junior professionals involved with NCSD since management would only need to find funding for an hour or two of their time rather than an entire conference. Then as they become more involved, they have better justification to attend the in-person conferences.



Kelsey Amundson
R&D Engineer
NEN-2, Advanced Nuclear Technology

Mobile: 505-551-2632
Schedule: 4.5/40 (Remote)

Los Alamos National Laboratory
lanl.gov

From: Wessels, Kristan M [Y-12] <Kristan.Wessels@y12nsc.doe.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:44 PM

To: Amundson, Kelsey Marie <kamundson@lanl.gov>

Cc: Miller, John A (SNL) <millerj@sandia.gov>; Percher, Catherine M (LLNL) <percher1@llnl.gov>; Cutler, Theresa Elizabeth <tcutler@lanl.gov>; Winstanley, Dominic D (SL) <dominic.d.winstanley@sellafieldsites.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NCSD Subcommittee Recommendations for Future Meetings

Kelsey,

At the Winter 2024 meeting, the Nuclear Criticality Safety Division formed a subcommittee to provide feedback on future ANS meeting options. We understand that continuing the summer meetings as-is is untenable to the society. Transitioning to a single meeting in the winter may be a viable option, however, we feel that as a division we would need to have more opportunities for technical sessions. Potential options include extending the meeting past Wednesday or allowing the divisions to have technical sessions during plenary time slots. NCSD would have to turn down papers with the current winter conference schedule, which we believe would limit attendance and potentially further participation in the society.

Converting the summer meeting to a workshop/training only format does not seem viable to the NCSD. Relying the NCSD membership to determine the subject and develop the content would be a large time commitment and a significant burden to the division. Additionally, we feel that while it may draw more junior member of the society, more experienced members attend ANS meeting for the technical presentations and will not have the justification to attend workshops. Therefore, the cross-generational information sharing that is a great benefit for our membership. Division participation will decrease as junior members become active in the division at the urging of more experienced members. We feel that while the new format may have good attendance at first, attendance will decline over time and would be a financial burden to the society.

Potential options that the subcommittee recommends:

- NCSD is one of a handful of divisions that can book a room with technical sessions for the entirety of a meeting. Provide these divisions (including NCSD) a room for the summer meeting and allow the division to decide the format for the meeting. Divisions that feel that they would benefit from the workshop format should be allowed to have workshops in lieu of technical sessions.
- Convert the summer meeting to a virtual meeting. This option was shown to be viable during COVID.
- Better conference location management and limiting embedded topicals to the summer meeting.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Kristan Wessels