



# Historical Perspective of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management

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INMM Secretary, 1973–present

On May 17, 1958, a few materials control and accountability (MC&A) professionals gathered in Pittsburgh to discuss the formation of a professional organization to advance the aspects of nuclear materials management. After general agreement on the purpose of the organization, they decided to name it the Institute of Nuclear Material Management (INMM).

They left the meeting agreeing to talk to other colleagues about the institute, and joining them in this new venture.

In a subsequent meeting in October 1958, a formation meeting was held and Dr. Ralph Lumb was elected chair, Richard S. Frankel, vice chair, Shelly Kops, treasurer, and William Thomas, secretary of the INMM. It was recognized that to start achieving the objectives they set for INMM, the most urgent concern was increasing membership and having a general membership meeting. By the end of 1958, there were fifty-five members. Since employees of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) were a key part of this early membership, and to assure a larger audience, it was decided to hold the general membership meeting in conjunction with the annual AEC/Contractors, Source, and Specials Materials Management meeting in Washington, DC, in May 1959. It was this group of nuclear material management experts that could provide the basis for increasing membership and promoting the ideals of the INMM. After the meeting, it was decided that subsequent annual meetings would be held and sponsored by INMM so as to provide an independent viewpoint of nuclear materials management. Therefore, the INMM held its first Annual Meeting the following year on June 21-22, 1960, in Columbus, Ohio, USA. Membership continued to grow, mainly by word of mouth, and by the time of the meeting the membership had reached 135.

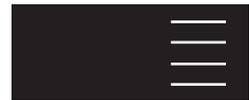
To establish an operating foundation, the INMM ratified its first constitution and bylaws in 1959, established several standing committees, and began a newsletter that continued until 1972 when the *Journal of Nuclear Materials Management* came into existence.

The purpose of the *Journal* was to increase the dissemination of nuclear materials management knowledge by presenting technical articles in a professional publication. The INMM continues to publish the technical journal four times annually. The year 1960 brought about additional committees, including the appointment of a standards committee that in 1967 led to sponsoring N-15, Methods of Nuclear Material Control for the USA

Standards Institute. This met INMM's objective of establishing standards consistent with existing professional norms. The standards group was later renamed the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). In April 1981, INMM assumed the sponsorship of ANSI N-14, Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive and Non-nuclear Hazardous Materials from the American Insurance Association.

In 1961, the Executive Committee reflected on many ideas; the establishment of a certification program for professional recognition, membership levels (Senior, Fellow, Corporate and Life), awards, and a paid secretary. Not all ideas were immediately adopted. A certification program to meet the INMM's objective of establishing professional standards for those working in the nuclear materials management field was adopted in 1962. The program consisted of a peer review of the nominee's application, continued through 1968 when testing and a fee were added to the requirements. After serious consideration in 1972, the Executive Committee decided to discontinue the program largely on legal advice regarding possible liability if one took the test and failed to be certified but continued working in the industry. Professional recognition was again introduced in 1979 when it was thought that certification might become a requirement in the nuclear materials management field. A committee of subject matter experts was appointed to establish a meaningful certification program. They developed a test bank of more than 500 questions and established two levels of certification with a cost schedule. In 1981-1982 five safeguards interns and nine safeguards specialists were certified. However, the requirement for certification was never established and so certification was once more discontinued. Senior membership was introduced as a means to identify a level of professional recognition when membership grades were established in 1983. However, in 1994, requirements for senior members were redefined to denote professional recognition consistent with contributions to INMM. While a few awards were presented in early years, the current Awards Program did not come into existence until 1978 and the INMM Distinguished Service Award was established to recognize long noteworthy service to the nuclear material management profession.

Corporate membership was established in 1962. In 1983, the requirements were changed and it was renamed Sustaining Membership. The idea of a lifetime membership was reconsidered in 1983, and is now known as an Honorary Membership. Other membership grades were not fully established until 1983



when Senior, Student, Fellow, and Emeritus were added to the membership levels.

During the 1960s, changes were made to the constitution and bylaws often to fulfill the requirements of a growing organization. Noteworthy additions included language pertinent to the incorporation of INMM in Ohio in 1967, and a provision for chapters. Although this provision for chapters was also included in the constitution and bylaws in that early period, it was not until 1975 when the first chapter was chartered in Japan. Since then, six regional and three student chapters have been chartered in the United States, and six more chapters have been chartered overseas. The active chapters are:

<b>Regional</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>International</b>
Central	Texas A&M	Japan
Northeast	Mercyhurst College	Korea
Pacific	University of Missouri	Obninsk
Southwest		Russian
Southeast		Ukraine
California		Urals
		Vienna

There has also been some interest in forming chapters in Great Britain and China. Chapters have been another means of successfully accomplishing the objectives of increasing membership and disseminating nuclear materials management information by having several meetings and seminars each year.

In the 1970s, membership in INMM became more diverse, with members being from disciplines other than MC&A. Recognizing that the dissemination of knowledge in these other disciplines further met INMM's objectives, the first Technical Working Group was established in the physical protection area in 1979. These groups were established to more fully address specific nuclear materials management areas and so as more groups developed and requirements became more formalized, the Technical Working Groups were renamed Technical Divisions and added to the bylaws. There currently six Technical Divisions that enhance the purpose of the INMM and provide, in their discipline, seminars, meetings, and assistance for the annual meeting technical program. These now include:

- Physical Protection
- Materials Control & Accountability
- Packaging & Transportation
- Waste Management
- International Safeguards
- Nonproliferation & Arms Control

For its first twenty-three years, the INMM was a volunteer organization. There were insufficient funds to obtain association management services in the early years, and volunteerism was sufficient to maintain the momentum. However, by 1980 the INMM had reached an activity level with a membership of 685,

that volunteers could no longer accomplish the central administrative functions. It was felt that to maintain the momentum, it would be necessary to obtain the services of a paid association manager. Therefore, in 1981 after the review of several association management firms, the INMM entered into contract with Messervy and Company, headquartered in the Chicago. The firm was later sold to the Sherwood Group who continues as the INMM association manager.

The success of the Institute in meeting its charter goals has been due to the considerable sacrifices and hard work (volunteerism) on the part of all its the members and, since 1981, in coordination with the Sherwood Group. Since that first annual meeting in 1960, an annual meeting, along with many other the meeting and seminars, have been held each year promoting nuclear materials management activities of all the disciplines. Additionally, the INMM in recent years has sponsored the Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials (PATRAM) meetings for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Although an annual general business meeting is required, the annual meeting itself is technical in nature. From a handful of technical papers presented in 1960, technical papers presented at meetings now exceed 300. Annual technical meetings, as well as regional meetings and seminars are expected to continually show an increase in attendance and number of technical papers presented. Membership is approaching 1,100 and it is expected to continue its growth. Student membership is growing, with three student chapters having been formed and potential for additional chapters.

As the interest in nuclear power is renewed, the principles of nuclear materials management must remain in the forefront to assure that adequate safeguards are in place not only for new nuclear activities but for other global safeguards concerns as well. Two of the purposes of the INMM are the advancement of nuclear materials management and the increase and dissemination of this body of information. In recognition of growing concerns about possible nuclear terrorism, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) President Charles Curtis, at the 2005 Annual Meeting opening plenary address, called for a new commitment and initiative to institutionalize the collection and promulgation of best practices in nuclear security. A group of INMM Fellows responded with a conceptual plan to formalize a process for this purpose, and it included the organization of a new entity named the World Institute of Nuclear Security, WINS. As the plan began to evolve, the INMM Executive Committee decided to work with a WINS Coordinating Committee that included representatives from NTI, INMM, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This committee has interfaced with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and reached out to the broader international nuclear security community to evaluate needs, enlist support, and further develop a plan for the establishment of WINS. While WINS is yet to be formally announced and established, the principal players are encouraged and positive about its future.