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# ***NUFO: What is it? What's in it for users?***

*Susan Strasser*

*APS Monthly Operations Meeting*

*March 25, 2009*

## ***NUFO: National User Facility Organization: What is it?***



- Represents more than 28,000 users of 30+ nationally funded user facilities (APS is the largest) - powerful voice for science at national level
  
- User Organization Chairs (or designees) and User Administrators of each facility are automatic members
  
- Members-at-large receive regular communications; anyone can join
  
- Annual meetings rotate among facilities: 2009 meeting at Argonne
  - June 10-12, 2009
  - Hosted by all six of Argonne's national user facilities (ACRF, ALCF, APS, ATLAS, CNM, and EMC)

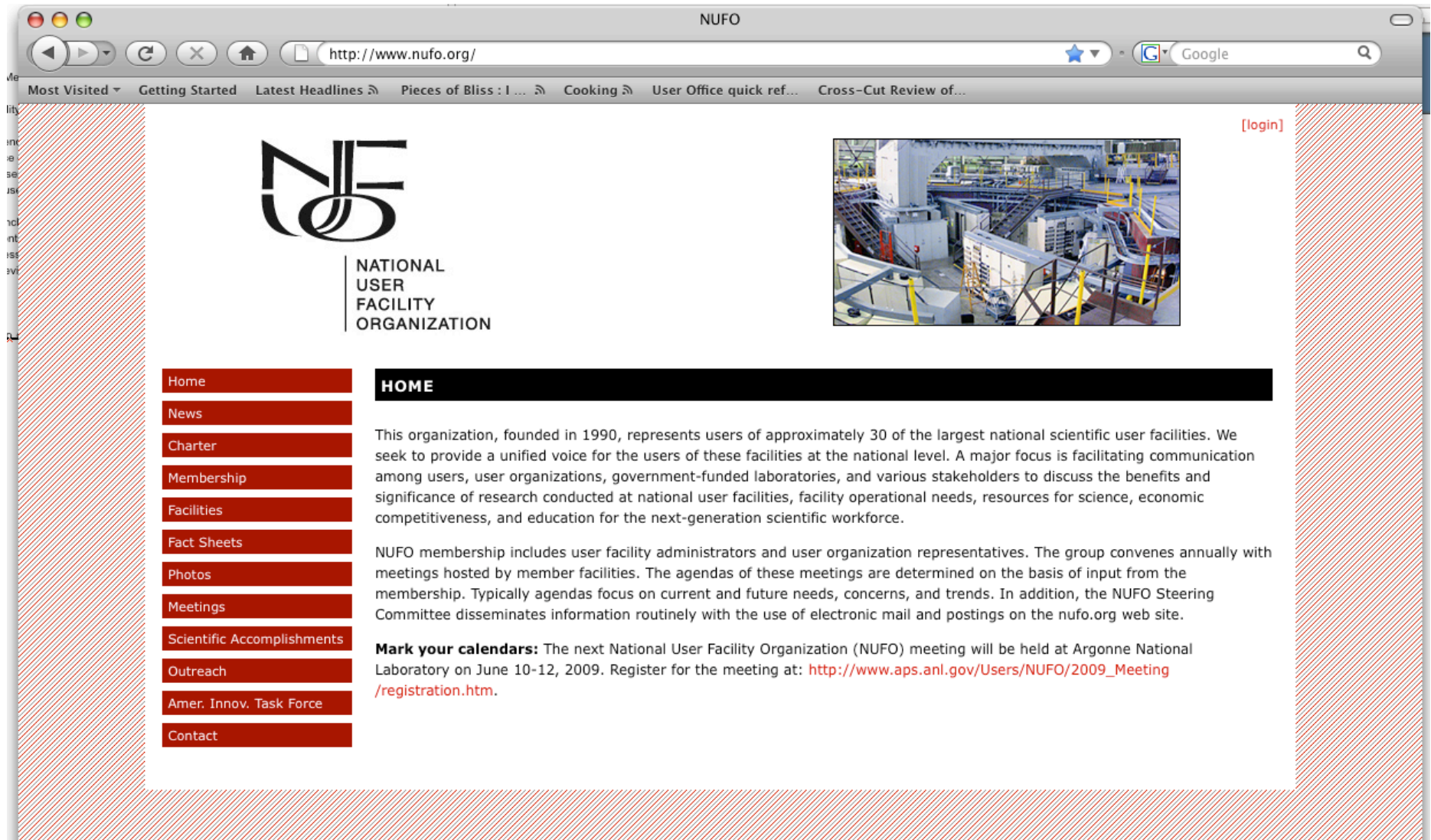
## What does NUFO do?

- Provides a voice for science at the national level
  - Member of Task Force on the Future of American Innovation (includes universities, industries, APS, ACS, etc.)
  - Outreach contacts (users) communicate with elected representatives in home districts
  - Work with individual users organization to provide coordinated responses to issues
  
- Provides a forum for benchmarking best administrative practices to serve users
  - Master user agreements
  - Non-U.S. citizen access issues
  - Proposal systems, review processes
  - Training/training reciprocity

## NUFO Organization

- Elected and Appointed Steering Committee conducts business between annual meetings
  - Three elected Chairs
    - *Rene Bellwied (RHIC/AGS – BNL)*
    - *Brant Johnson (RHIC – BNL)*
    - *Eric Stach (NCEM – LBL; also an APS user)*
  - Three elected User Administrators
    - *Susan White DePace (Manager, BNL GUV Center)*
    - *Susan Strasser (APS – ANL)*
    - *Judy Trimble (SNS – ORNL)*
  - Three appointed Members
    - *Katherine Kantarjieff (SNUG Co-Chair)*
    - *Steve Wasserman (Eli Lilly; APS)*
    - *Kevin Pitts (Fermilab)*

# NUFO Web Site: [www.nufo.org](http://www.nufo.org)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.nufo.org/>. The page features the NUFO logo (stylized 'NUFO') and the text 'NATIONAL USER FACILITY ORGANIZATION'. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, News, Charter, Membership, Facilities, Fact Sheets, Photos, Meetings, Scientific Accomplishments, Outreach, Amer. Innov. Task Force, and Contact. A main content area titled 'HOME' contains a paragraph about the organization's mission and a 'Mark your calendars' section for a meeting at Argonne National Laboratory on June 10-12, 2009, with a registration link.

**HOME**

This organization, founded in 1990, represents users of approximately 30 of the largest national scientific user facilities. We seek to provide a unified voice for the users of these facilities at the national level. A major focus is facilitating communication among users, user organizations, government-funded laboratories, and various stakeholders to discuss the benefits and significance of research conducted at national user facilities, facility operational needs, resources for science, economic competitiveness, and education for the next-generation scientific workforce.

NUFO membership includes user facility administrators and user organization representatives. The group convenes annually with meetings hosted by member facilities. The agendas of these meetings are determined on the basis of input from the membership. Typically agendas focus on current and future needs, concerns, and trends. In addition, the NUFO Steering Committee disseminates information routinely with the use of electronic mail and postings on the nufo.org web site.

**Mark your calendars:** The next National User Facility Organization (NUFO) meeting will be held at Argonne National Laboratory on June 10-12, 2009. Register for the meeting at: [http://www.aps.anl.gov/Users/NUFO/2009\\_Meeting/registration.htm](http://www.aps.anl.gov/Users/NUFO/2009_Meeting/registration.htm).

# June 10-12, 2009 Meeting at Argonne:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [http://www.aps.anl.gov/Users/NUFO/2009\\_Meeting/index.htm](http://www.aps.anl.gov/Users/NUFO/2009_Meeting/index.htm). The page header includes the Argonne National Laboratory logo, the text "Advanced Photon Source" and "A U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences national synchrotron x-ray research facility", and the U.S. Department of Energy logo. A navigation menu contains links for "About", "User Information", "Science & Education", "Media Center", "Beamlines", and "Divisions". A search bar is labeled "Search APS ...". The breadcrumb trail reads "Argonne Home > Advanced Photon Source > Users > NUFO > 2009 Meeting >".

**Agenda**  
**Registration**  
**Travel and Lodging**  
**Home**  
**NUFO website**

## NUFO 2009

We hope you'll be joining us on June 10-12, 2009, for the sixth annual meeting of the National User Facilities Organization (NUFO). This organization brings together user executive committee representatives of national user facilities with facility administrative and managerial staff for the benefit of our collective user communities.

This year's meeting is being held at Argonne National Laboratory and hosted by all six of Argonne's national user facilities: Advanced Photon Source (APS), Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF), Argonne Tandem Linear Accelerator System (ATLAS), ARM Climate Research Facility (ACRF), Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM), and Electron Microscopy Center (EMC).

Day One of the three-day meeting focuses on users, user organizations, and the role they play in promoting science at national and international levels. Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Deputy Director of the Office of Science, will speak about the important role played by facility users in fostering our national science mission. Representative Judy Biggert, ranking minority member of the House of Representatives Science and Technology Committee for the 111th Congress of the United States has been invited to discuss US science and technology priorities. Day Two looks at industrial use of our facilities and will include descriptions of best practices, barriers to partnering, and potential collaborative solutions. Day Three focuses more deeply on administrative issues, with sharing of best practices in a number of common areas.

Links to the working agenda, registration form, and travel information are on the left. There is no charge to attend this meeting but all attendees must register so that we can arrange for site access and make sure we have adequate space (and refreshments).

We look forward to seeing you at Argonne in June.

Local Organizing Committee:

- Susan Strasser and Paul Fuoss, APS
- Paul Dave, ALCF
- Allan Bernstein and Shaofei Zhu, ATLAS
- Doug Sisterson and Laurel Chapman, ACRF
- Katie Carrado-Gregar, CNM
- Russell Cook, EMC

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## *June 10-12, 2009, Meeting at Argonne: Agenda Highlights*

- First day: focus on users and user organizations
  - *Pat Dehmer*, Deputy Director of DOE's Office of Science - keynote
  - *Judy Biggert*, 13th District Rep - Invited to speak on science in the 111th Congress
  - *Eric Isaacs* - strategic role of user facilities at Argonne
  - *Katherine Kantarjieff*, SNUG – university expectations of user facilities
  
- Second day: workshop on industrial use of national user facilities
  - *Harriet Kung*, Director BES – DOE expectations for industrial use
  - *BESAC Industrial Reps* (Simon Bare and Kathy Taylor) invited – BESAC perspective
  - Industry stories; facility perspectives; discussion groups
  - Outcome: a brief report on recommended changes to enhance industrial use
  - Co-organizers of workshop: Al Ekkebus (ORNL), Steve Wasserman
  
- Third day: administrative benchmarking

## *June 10-12, 2009 Meeting at Argonne (cont.d)*

- Can access meeting Web site at [www.nufo.org](http://www.nufo.org) - click on meeting link
- Can access meeting Web site from APS Conferences Web page
- No charge to attend meeting, but registration required
- Meeting held in 402 Conference Center
- Questions? Contact me at [strasser@aps.anl.gov](mailto:strasser@aps.anl.gov)