

NUFO Member Roles and Responsibilities

NUFO Membership Roles and Responsibilities for User Representatives and User Administrators

Brant M. Johnson

Brookhaven National Laboratory
Past-Chair NUFO Steering Committee

NUFO Mission (From Rene's talk)

- NUFO facilitates communication among users, user organizations, facility administrators, and other stakeholders.
- NUFO advocates the benefits and significance of research conducted at user facilities, as well as their operational needs.
- NUFO seeks to provide a unified message at the national level on issues of resources for science, economic competitiveness, and education for the next-generation scientific workforce.

NUFO Mission (from Charter www.nufo.org)

The National User Facility Organization (NUFO) represents the interests of all users who conduct research at U.S. national scientific user facilities, as well as scientists from U.S. universities, laboratories, and industry who use facilities outside the United States. NUFO facilitates communication among users, user organizations, facility administrators, and other stakeholders. Discussion topics include the benefits and significance of research conducted at user facilities, as well as their operational needs. NUFO seeks to provide a unified message at the national level on issues of resources for science, economic competitiveness, and education for the next-generation scientific workforce.

Two major branches of NUFO (from Charter)

NUFO is organized into two major branches:

- User Organization Representatives (Reps) focus primarily on outreach activities, whereas
- User Administrators (Admins) focus on streamlining processes to facilitate access.
- Both branches work together closely to fulfill the overall NUFO mission.
- Outreach Contacts: Can be any of the above who are designated as the outreach contact for facility users.

Who are members of NUFO? (from Charter)

Reps: Each user facility is invited to appoint to NUFO one user representative, who is typically -- but not necessarily -- the current Chair of the facility user organization or user executive committee.

Admins: Each user facility is invited to appoint to NUFO one user administrator.

GenMems: Anyone who is currently or has been associated with a national facility may ask to become a General Member of NUFO. General Members receive regular communications, are eligible to be Outreach Contacts, and are invited to attend annual meetings. **General Members do not vote on nominees for Steering Committee membership or charter changes.**

Outreach Contacts: Can be any of the above who are designated as the outreach contact for facility users.

NUFO Members by the numbers

User Reps: 37 (33 individuals)

User Admins: 36 (30 individuals)

Steering Committee: 12 (3 Chairs,
3 Coordinators, 3 elected, 3 appointed)

Steering Committee Members who are
not currently designated user reps: 4

What Can NUFO Do For You? (Cathy's talk)

- We welcome your feedback
- Suggest topics or questions for NUFO surveys
 - What type of survey might be useful?
 - What questions do you have?
- Suggest metrics for NUFO -- How can we measure satisfaction or success?
- Is NUFO meeting your needs? If not, how can we Improve?
- Contact anyone on the NUFO Steering Committee if you have other ideas for further benchmarking, topics to discuss at future meetings, new avenues for education, outreach or user advocacy

What Can You Do For NUFO? (Cathy's talk)

- Update the NUFO contact information for your facility as these change (new UEC elections)
- Provide updated copies of your facility's fact sheet and links to most recent scientific accomplishments
- Work with your scientists to develop short 'talking points' and 'elevator talks' summarizing their research and why it is important in lay terms (establish an archive of highlights)
- Inform NUFO when you learn about new policies or practices that may impact or be of interest to users or facilities
- Respond to NUFO's calls for information or action
- Participate in NUFO's meetings, outreach and education activities

What Can You Do For NUFO? (*Rene's talk*)

- Update the NUFO contact information for your facility as these change (new UEC elections)
- Provide updated copies of your facility's fact sheet and links to most recent scientific accomplishments
- Develop short 'talking points' and 'elevator talks' summarizing your research and why it is important in lay terms (establish an archive of highlights)
- Inform NUFO when you learn about new policies or practices that may impact or be of interest to users or facilities
- Respond to NUFO's calls for information or action
- Participate in NUFO's meetings, outreach and education activities
- **Become an individual advocate for science, get involved**

Closing Plea and Encouragement

- Please continue to support and become actively involved in developing and promoting NUFO.
- Recognize that there are significant challenges to communication with users and develop approaches to overcoming them (then share them with your NUFO colleagues!)
- If your facility or laboratory does not have an association of young researchers, start one!

2009 – Expectations for Users and User Facilities

Users expect a green light:

- open access for basic and applied research
- minimal delays and hassles
- minor impediments to use of facility
- uniform procedures and reciprocity (whenever possible)

Facilities expect a yellow light:

- strict and timely compliance with application process and procedures for access, ESSH, and operations.
- respect for borrowed equipment
- prompt reporting of publications, theses, patents, awards

The key to mutual success is the concept of partners in communication. NUFO seeks to facilitate clear communication between and among facilities and users.

NUFO Roles and Responsibilities (The 7 C's)

Communicate

Cooperate

Comment

Correct

Criticize

Congratulate

Collaborate!