

## Mike Johnson named new CNTA Executive Director



Mike Johnson

On October 1, Michael D. (Mike) Johnson began serving as the Executive Director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA). Johnson replaces Dr. Clint Wolfe, who has been appointed Director Emeritus of the organization. Dr. Wolfe had been CNTA's Executive Director since 2008.

Chuck Munns, CNTA Chairman, defined the qualities Johnson brings to the organization. "Mike has a broad array of nuclear experience, including time at the Savannah River Site, that will serve CNTA well," Munns said. "His expertise and understanding of the nuclear industry, coupled with his drive to educate and inform stakeholders, citizens and others, will make him a superb leader at CNTA and in the nuclear industry."

Johnson is a 40-year veteran in the nuclear industry, including nuclear waste management, nuclear facility start-up operations, radiological control operations, infrastructure management, and program and project management.

Johnson said he is ready to take on the challenge of using his skills in a different but significant way.

"It's obvious to me that people, in general, need to have a better understanding of the benefits of all things nuclear," Johnson said. "My experience shows me that we have the

facts to demonstrate how well nuclear fits into our country's future. I look forward to telling that story on behalf on CNTA."

Johnson's most recent assignment before his retirement was President and Project Manager for Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), where, from 2011-2013, he led the remediation of radioactive and hazardous waste tanks at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Site. He led removal of high level waste from single shell tanks and transfer to double shell tanks in preparation for feeding the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant for vitrification.

Before joining WRPS, he was Executive Director, Waste and Effluent Disposition, on the Sellafield Ltd. Facility nuclear site in the United Kingdom. There he established and led a new directorate to enable consistent and efficient site-wide management of all radioactive waste, including low-level, high-level, mixed, and transuranic (TRU) waste.

In the DOE complex, in addition to WRPS, he has worked at Oak Ridge, Savannah River Site (SRS), Los Alamos, and Idaho Cleanup Project. His primary jobs at most of these sites have involved leadership of facilities performing the high-level waste mission, including closing the first high-level waste tanks at the Idaho Site with concurrence from the State of Idaho, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and DOE. At SRS, Johnson's facility prepared and fed the first high-level waste sludge to the Defense Waste Processing Facility for vitrification.

Johnson is a 21-year veteran of the United States Navy where he served on nuclear-powered submarines. In his last assignment, he was commanding officer of the attack submarine USS Sturgeon, a nuclear-powered submarine.

# Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) Who they are and what they do

CNTA provides factual, objective information on nuclear subjects for the public, students, teachers and elected officials.

We do this to improve the public's knowledge of and comfort with the real benefits and comparative risks of nuclear activities, including the generation of electricity, the practice of nuclear medicine, food irradiation, industrial uses of nuclear materials, nuclear weapons management and nuclear waste remediation.

We also support the activities of regional economic development organizations as they seek nuclear missions for SRS and the CSRA.

Nuclear energy provides 20 percent of our nation's electricity safely and reliably. One in three Americans entering a hospital receives a procedure involving radiation, many of which are potentially life-saving.

Radiation is used to make smoke detectors and ice cream. It powers satellites and helps age ancient artifacts. Despite its ubiquity in our lives, many people do not appreciate the value of nuclear energy or the many ways it enhances daily living – which is one reason CNTA was created.

Founded in 1991, CNTA is a nonprofit,

grassroots citizen's organization. We are community leaders, small business owners, corporate managers, elected officials, educators, nuclear-related professionals and others with no nuclear experience.

CNTA provides the public with accurate analyses of nuclear issues using facts from many credible sources, including regulatory agencies, technical experts, university research programs, independent researchers and the considerable expertise within our membership.

Through public forums, presentations, newspaper articles, editorial opinion pieces, and interviews, CNTA participates in discussions about the value and safety of nuclear energy and in support of Savannah River Site missions.

Our most effective outreach is to students, through their teachers. We sponsor an extensive program of nuclear science fundamentals workshops for middle and high school science teachers, and provide them the resources to take the lessons back to their classes.

Over the years we have affected the education of over 15,000 students. We offer scholarships to both high school and college students interested in some

aspect of nuclear science.

CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture/Banquet, named for the nuclear pioneer who played a key role in the development of nuclear weapons. Each year the lecture brings a nationally known speaker to the CSRA.

In 1996, CNTA created the annual Distinguished Scientist Award to recognize significant scientific achievements in the area of nuclear science in the region.

In 2002, CNTA created the annual Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship, now offered by Savannah River Remediation, to recognize an outstanding college junior or senior who is pursuing studies for a career in a nuclear field.

Our monthly "Up and Atom" breakfasts for our members and their guests feature speakers with expertise in a variety of nuclear topics.

CNTA is committed to being a credible, consistent voice on behalf of beneficial nuclear technologies and the Savannah River Site. We need your help to ensure that our voice is being heard. The future of our region and the nation depends on all of us.

## CNTA Initiatives

Here are just a few of our initiatives that describe the broad scope of our activities:

- CNTA is informing the public about the economic importance of SRS to the economy of South Carolina and Georgia and the contributions of SRS employees to the quality of life in their communities. We are doing this at public meetings and through our Speakers Bureau.
- In meetings with state officials, Congressmen, and local elected officials, we have created a sense of urgency to bring new missions to SRS that will replace the programs that have limited life.
- CNTA representatives participate in public hearings on issues related to SRS and formally commented on



DOE plans for the Site.

- CNTA is called upon by the media to offer a counterpoint to anti-nuclear and anti-SRS statements made by adversaries of SRS and other nuclear facilities.
- CNTA speakers discuss the benefits of various applications of nuclear technology and the myths related to them with civic clubs, student groups, church groups, and in media articles.
- We have urged DOE and elected officials to continue the programs

studying the health and safety of employees and the population in the vicinity of SRS.

- CNTA sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture, which brings internationally recognized experts to Augusta to speak on nuclear topics. Dr. Edward Teller, the nuclear pioneer and the first speaker in this series, gave CNTA his permission to use his name for the public lectures.
- Our frequent Up and Atom Breakfasts update our members on current nuclear issues. Our periodic newsletter, *Aware!*, keeps our members aware of the activities of CNTA.
- CNTA works for new missions for SRS.