

Harvey B Newman
Professor of Physics, Caltech
Candidate for US LHC Users Executive Committee
Statement

As one of the founders of the US LHC Users Organization, and chair of its Executive Committee since 2009, I am pleased to be running as a candidate for another term. As summarized here, US LUO has been very effective, and its diversity of activities and effectiveness are growing. 2013 has been a banner year in that we have established the legal existence of our organization as the US LUA, an unincorporated users association that I founded and registered in the District of Columbia, based at URA headquarters. The existence of US LUA as a separate legal entity has allowed URA to agree to act as our host organization. The upcoming term will thus be crucial in setting up and beginning the operation of US LUA on a solid course, in a new long-lasting framework. I would be glad to have the opportunity to complete the transition, and help ensure US LUA's initial success.

Since its founding in April 2007, the US LHC Users Organization has evolved into a very effective vehicle representing the US community working in the US and at CERN, and enhancing the scientific participation of US scientists and engineers in the LHC physics and accelerator R&D programs. By coordinating and disseminating current information on many of the issues that most directly affect the US community living near CERN, from visas to schools to medical insurance and bank accounts, and on where to find counseling when needed, US LUO has worked assiduously, in cooperation with the US LHC Operations Program and the Advisory Committee of CERN Users, to help the US LHC community live and work more effectively in the environs near the CERN laboratory.

The annual US LUO meetings, arranged with the help and support of the HEP lab directors and department heads, and this year with the generous help of the University of Wisconsin, have been excellent occasions to review the latest LHC physics results, discuss key issues affecting the community including US involvement in CERN, hear of the perspectives in Washington, and above all highlight the work of many young physicists and students. One of the most notable and valuable aspects of these meetings is the Lightning Round Competition, where the winning speakers are invited by US LUO to join the annual HEP trip to Washington DC, conducted together with the Fermilab UEC and SLUO.

Through the annual HEP trip to Washington, US LUO has provided very effective communications channels between scientists in the US LHC community and the US Congress, as well as the funding agencies and the decision makers in the DOE Office of Science and the NSF, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Office of Management and Budget. The annual trips have been an excellent venue engaging and training dozens of young physicists and students: in the workings of government, in the decision processes that affect and may determine the future of our careers, and in learning how the efforts of physicists both individually and collectively can shape, and in some cases help determine, the future of our field. The annual HEP trip has been complemented by other occasions such as the User Science Exhibitions on the Hill, organized by the National User Facility Organization (NUFO) of which US LUO is a part, as well as the recent event celebrating the Higgs boson discovery and Nobel Prize.

Given the establishment of the US LUA, and the conclusion of an agreement with URA, we have begun to focus more on the future. Key items for the upcoming term, as US LUA, include:

- Establishment of US LUA as a tax exempt non-profit recognized by the IRS. I am presently carrying forward this process with the help of expert tax consultants and URA.

- Raising funds for more solid operations with a slightly larger scope as soon as the IRS filing as a non-profit is done.
- Strengthening our (uslua.org) web presence; reinvigorating the scope and maintaining the currency of the information stored there
- Strengthening the work of the US LUEC Well-Being committee: on resources in case of personal problems, on career resources and information, and on other quality of life issues for young physicists and families living abroad. Also enhancing the quarterly informal get togethers for young physicists at CERN that we started this year, which have been a great success.
- Formalizing our US LUA operations in order to keep track of funds raised and their use, as necessary to maintain tax-exempt status.
- Finding additional funding sources, including NSF travel grants to allow more US LUA young members to present their work at some meetings.
- Increasing our presence at national science events, starting with the 2014 USA Science and Engineering Festival.

In summary, the US LHC Users Association will continue to provide great value to our user community and the LHC program, and we look forward to a new phase where that value will rapidly increase. With your support, I look forward to contribute, and help lead US LUA into its next phase of existence, with bright prospects of a longer term future that until recently did not seem possible.