



Appendix E: HOW TO FORM A LOCAL SECTION PLANT BRANCH

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What is an ANS Local Section Plant Branch?

Structurally, a Plant Branch can be as simple as a committee formed under the charter and bylaws of an ANS Local Section.

Functionally, it is an opportunity for nuclear professionals who may be geographically distant from the operations of the established ANS Local Section, such as nuclear power plant personnel, to gather and interact on issues of mutual concern or interest.

Why form a Plant Branch?

Organizing a geographic or Plant Branch is simple and easy. Functioning as a portion of a Local Section, the branch does not need to be incorporated, establish separate Bylaws and Rules, or file tax information. All of these things are the responsibility of the parent Local Section.

Do Plant Branch members need to be ANS National members?

No, Branch members are Local Section members, and they are not required to be national members. However, one of the goals of Local Sections is to promote ANS products, programs and services, including Society membership. While approximately one-third of the Local Section members are also national members, the goal is to increase this number.

What does a Plant Branch do?

A Plant Branch provides an opportunity for plant professionals from all organizational levels to interface on the same level, establishing partnerships and team relationships, and recognizing the importance of their professional role.

GETTING ORGANIZED

1. Determine whether a population of individuals exists who would be interested in supporting an ANS Plant Branch. At least five or six should be willing to provide leadership during the first few years.
2. If the Plant Branch is to be organized at a nuclear power plant, or at a location where most of the members would work for a single organization, it is a good idea to obtain company management approval and support for the proposed Plant Branch.

3. Contact the Local Section leadership to discuss the need for and interest in forming a Plant Branch. Local Section boundaries are established by zip code. If the branch falls geographically within a Local Section's boundary, it would normally form under that Section. It may, however, form under a neighboring Local Section with which it has a more favorable geographical position. Where this situation arises, both Local Sections should be contacted, and differences discussed and resolved. Resolution may require a change to the charters of the respective Local Sections to reflect the zip code changes.
4. An individual who has experience conducting operations within a Local Section should be part of the initial organizing team. If necessary, the branch should request that its Local Section provide a "mentor" while the initial organization is being formed.
5. An agreement with the Local Section should be reached which allows a member of the branch leadership to participate in the operations of the Executive Committee of the Local Section.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Dues paid by branch members are paid to the Local Section. By prior agreement, a certain amount of these funds, either on a per capita basis or a fixed sum, should be returned to the Branch for conducting operations.
2. It may be appropriate for the Local Section to provide "seed money" to the branch to support initial organizational efforts
3. Where meeting expenses are to be incurred, access to a checking account will be needed. Bank accounts established to support the operation of the branch should be under the tax identification number of the Local Section.
4. Financial transactions of the branch shall be reported at least annually to the Local Section's Finance Committee. These reports are an integral part of the financial records of the Local Section.

START OF OPERATIONS

With the approval of the Local Section's Executive Committee to commence operations, the branch may begin conducting meetings in support of the interests of its members and prospective members.

There are no restraints on the format the meetings may take. It is recommended that they be structured in terms of content, scheduling, and format to best suit the unique needs of the members. Normal work hours, timing of outages, and special interests of prospective members should be considered in establishing a program.

LOCAL SECTIONS AND PLANT BRANCHES: CLARIFYING THE DIFFERENCES

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Recent efforts to increase utility employees involvement in ANS have resulted in increasing interest in Local Sections (LS) and Plant Branches (PB). The information which follows clarifies the differences between LS and PB.

What is an ANS Local Section?

ANS Local Sections are groups of people in a general geographic area with interests in nuclear science and technology. The individuals come together to form a local group that furthers the objectives of the American Nuclear Society. To form a Local Section, at least 20 ANS members living in the proposed geographic area petitions for status as an ANS Local Section. Once authorized by the ANS Board of Directors, an ANS Local Section exists as an ANS “constituent unit” under ANS Bylaws and Rules. Its area of operation is defined by ZIP CODES as determined by its petition and ANS.

What is a Plant Branch?

A Local Section may specify in its governing documents (i.e., Bylaws or Rules) that it may form Plant Branches. Branches draw participants from a specific location or facility – historically but not necessarily a utility plant – which may be at a significant distance from the usual site of the Local Section meetings. (Not all utility plants have ANS Plant Branches.) A Plant Branch may be able to accommodate the specific scheduling challenges of shift workers. Branches exist as subsidiaries of a Local Section and operate under the Standard Bylaws for Local Sections and Rules of the Local Section (and within limits of ANS Bylaws and rules).

What do Local Sections and Branches do?

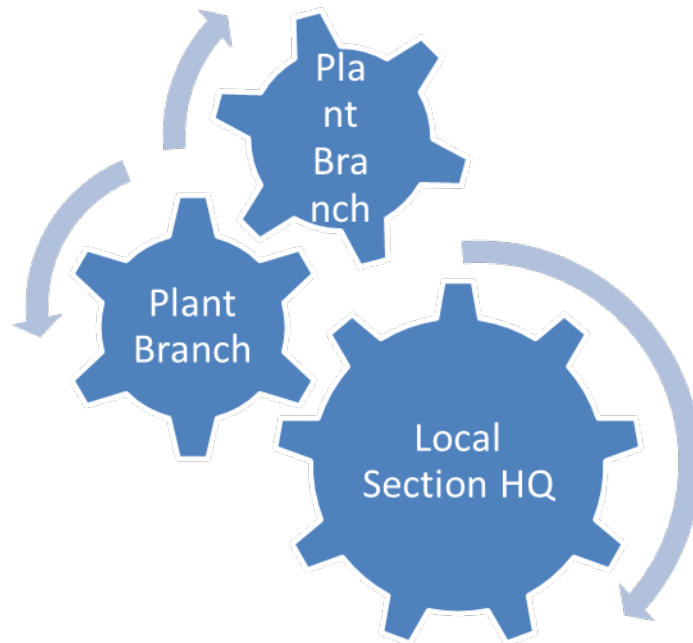
Local Sections and/or Plant Branches schedule periodic meetings where members and guests hear presentations on a variety of topics such as:

- technical information and other professional topics
- new programs or governmental policies impacting nuclear science and technology
- trends in licensing/regulation

Local Sections and/or Plant Branches also plan and conduct outreach into the community. These activities can be as diverse as:

- cleaning the roadside of trash or distributing smoke detectors
- sponsoring teacher workshops, boy scout/girl scout workshops, or making classroom visits
- sponsoring an information booth at a community event
- talking to local service clubs and organizations

Example of Local Section/Plant Branch Relationship



Local Section area is defined by ZIP CODES
Plant Branch is related to a specific facility or facilities

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

American Nuclear Society
555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, IL 60526
Tel: 708-579-8209
governance@ans.org