

AIHA-NCS Monitor

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President's Message



Happy New Year! It feels strange to write that, now that 2013 is well underway and we have already seen the inauguration of our 44th President into his second term of office and changes to his Cabinet, including the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis stepping down. On a much smaller front, but important to keeping the NCS running, is the change in line-up of our Executive Committee. As the Executive Committee turns over this July, we will need to fill many positions, including President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and First Year Director. These are great opportunities to volunteer and to become more involved with NCS. Other areas where we're in need of volunteers include our IH-in-the-Community efforts. Jyoti Kumar, our Educational Outreach / IH-in-the Community Chair, is focusing her efforts on reaching out to local colleges and universities so she needs a volunteer to lead our participation in the Expand Your Horizons Workshop in March.

On the events front, we are planning our annual Technical Symposium for May 1st at SRI International in Menlo Park so mark your calendars! Our first ever lunch meeting was held on Jan. 15th in Sunnyvale and was a great success! We had a great speaker on laser safety and many members who typically have not been able to attend dinner meetings were able to participate. Over 30 people attended the lunch meeting. A summary of the meeting is included in this newsletter. While we don't plan on replacing dinner meetings completely, look forward to more lunch meetings in the future! And don't forget that the March 12th dinner meeting (at Spenger's in Berkeley) is our annual Student's Night! Please come out and support our students. We will be awarding the Legge and Tebbens Awards. Nominations are accepted through Feb. 22. We are also making our fourth contribution to the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF) as part of a five year commitment to award a scholarship to an eligible student attending a California college or university.

And we can't make our contributions to the future of our profession without your support. It is time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Please note that membership dues are payable no later than March 1st. Part of the membership dues goes toward paying the scholarships and awards. You can renew your membership on the AIHA-NCS website: www.aiha-ncs.org.

Thinking more about it now, it's not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year – a Happy Chinese New Year on February 10. Over 1.4 billion people will be celebrating it and bringing in the Year of the Snake!

AIHA-NCS Dues

AIHA-NCS membership dues renewal notices were emailed out to members during the second week of Jan. If you have already renewed your membership dues either through the AIHA-NCS website/by mail or via the national AIHA dues form, thank you for your continuing your membership! For those of you who haven't renewed yet, please take a moment to go to www.aiha-ncs.org and renew today. Click on "Renew Membership" under the Members Only section. You can also renew by mail by printing out the Form to Pay Due by Mail.

2012 Einert Award Recipient

Congratulations to Garrett Brown, MPH, CIH, who was announced as this year's recipient of the Christine Einert Award in July and presented the award at the November dinner meeting. The Einert Award is the most prestigious award the AIHA-NCS presents, and is given annually to a member whose qualities as a professional and colleague have been marked and appreciated over the years by fellow AIHA-NCS members. In approximately 20 years with Cal/OSHA, Brown has conducted hundreds of inspections in Alameda County, and as part of statewide teams, has inspected California's Central Valley agricultural fields and garment sweatshops in Los Angeles and Orange County. Since 1993, he has served on a volunteer basis as coordinator of the Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network (MHSSN), providing pro bono information, technical assistance, and training to workers in Mexico, Central America, and Asia. This organization was selected for AIHA's 2011 Social Responsibility Award. Brown is also a member of COEH's Advisory Committee and in March 2009 was awarded the "Fellow" designation by the American Industrial Hygiene Association.



The Einert Award is given in honor of Dr. Christine Einert. Dr. Einert was a physician whose involvement with occupational health started in the 1930's. Dr. Einert joined the California State Department of Health in 1947 where she continued to work until her retirement in 1968. Dr. Einert was a CIH and was active in both national AIHA and ACGIH. In 1981 the ACGIH honored her with the Meritorious Achievement Award. Dr. Einert remained an active member of the AIHA-NCS until she passed away in 1983. In 1962 she chaired the national subcommittee responsible for founding the AIHA Local Sections Council, which still provides the forum for the exchange of information between national AIHA and the local sections.

NCS SHORTS

Michael R. Cooper and Colleen Thornton

New Marketing Chair & Vendor Coordinator

AIHA-NCS welcomes Jim Flores of Forensic Analytical Laboratories as our Marketing Chair & Vendor Coordinator. Jim is a recent new member of AIHA-NCS and has been involved in the NCS and the CIHC as sponsor and a guest.

Update Your NCS Member Profile

Many of us have changed jobs, email addresses and phone numbers since becoming NCS members. This information is used to contact members regarding annual dues, volunteer opportunities and other Section business. Help us keep our membership contact information current by clicking on the "Update Member Profile" link here or in the "Members Only" section of the NCS website.

New Members

The following individuals were approved for membership in the local section by the Executive Committee:

November 2012:

Tom Bates, Jacqueline Kryszak, and Jack Storace

January 2013

Hamid Arabzadeh, Kaila B. Benton-Vitz, Glenn R. Cass, William T. Hunt, James A. Kegebein, Khodayar Khoayari, Matthew Lawler, Robert A. Nocco, Thomas P. Rudolph, Lewis P. Scarpace, Yunxia Wang, Martin Wesley, Michael Roth, Jim Flores

NCS Member Nominated for AIHA Board of Directors

Chris Laszcz-Davis, member of the Northern CA Section (NCS) and former CIHC & NCS President, has been selected by the AIHA Nominations Committee as a candidate for election to the position of Director of the Association. The election will be open for on-line voting beginning about March 1. In support of our local section member, please consider voting for Chris to serve as one of their new AIHA Directors for 2013.

Developing World Outreach Initiative

Richard Hirsh

The DWOI had an amazing and very rewarding year in 2012. Our record breaking fundraising led to the ability to sponsor several training programs, book shipments and support for multiple technical projects. David Hornung is coordinating transfer of his leadership for book shipments to other volunteers including Taner Pamuk and newcomer Daniel Grinnell. They recently joined forces with several other DWOI volunteers including Garrett Brown, Nina Townsend, her husband Ignacio, Bill Mitchell, and Mike Horowitz to update our reference book inventory and ship books to ISGUM in Turkey. Other shipments to Asia and African recipients are planned later this year. We also were able to secure several AIHA electronic publications in pdf format. The list of available electronic publications includes: A Strategy for Assessing and Managing Occupational Exposures, Industrial Hygiene Reference and Study Guide, The Noise Manual - 5th edition, Toxicology Principles for the Industrial Hygienist, Welding Health and Safety- A Field Guide for OEHS Professionals, and The Occupational Environment: Its Evaluation, Control, and Management (white book). We'll be making these references known to past recipients and advertise them in the updated inventory.

Our long distance member Karen Gunderson was in the bay area in December and was able to pick up sampling equipment including humidity/temperature monitors, calibrators, air sampling pumps and reference book donations sent by Lauren Geddes, an IH with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation. Karen also obtained air sampling pumps and batteries from NCS member Randy Cook to bring back to Indonesia. SKC volunteered to check those pumps to ensure they are operable. Karen has completed training University staff on the newly donated equipment from SKC at the University of Indonesia. Students have now translated some of the OHTA learning modules into Bahasa. She recently worked with Darisman at LION to plan an investigation into asbestos exposures current and past at an asbestos processing facility.

The DWOI grant committee of Perry Gottesfeld, David Zalk and Nina Townsend reviewed over 25 proposals from NGOs and Universities in 8-10 countries and ranked them to select our choices for funding technical projects. The top three proposals that were selected were in ranked order:

1. University of Nairobi - Kenya – Evaluation of airborne and blood lead levels in lead acid battery recycling and manufacturing plants in Kenya after implementation of recommendations.
2. BPBS – India - Short term intervention to assess Occupational Lung Safety status among Decentralized Power Loom Weavers and awareness generation.
3. JRP – India - Proposal for Reducing Silica Exposures and Occupational Health Hazards from Stone Crushing Mills in Orissa

Consensus was reached by DWOI members to fund the aforementioned 3 projects with available funds at \$2000 each. We will wait until we hear about AIHA funding for 2013 to consider funding other high ranking proposals from Afghanistan, India and Indonesia. There was also one long term proposal for Uruguay on OHTA training module development which will be considered under the training grant.

DWOI has now contacted the recipients, transferred the funds and finalized grant agreements with each party which specify expectations on reporting project progress and summaries back to DWOI.

DWOI also recently provided several training course sponsorships for courses to be held in 2013 including:

- Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims, Hong Kong - OHS Basics Training for Union Leaders
- Self-Empowerment Center, Chongqing City, China - Training seminar on occupational safety and health laws to enhance awareness of the rights of migrant workers,
- Occupational and Environmental Health Network, India - Silicosis Victims – Justice and Rehabilitation
- MLPC, India - a legal workshop to strategize for informal mine workers and legal intervention.

Thanks to all the DWOI volunteers and supporters who helped make 2012 a banner year for the committee! We are now planning our co-sponsorship of the March NCS Dinner meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Zap! What Do You Need to Know About Laser Safety

January Lunch Meeting Highlights



Our January meeting was at the Sunnyvale Recreation Center in Sunnyvale. The guest speaker at this luncheon meeting was Stephen Hemperly with HGST, a Western Digital company.

Stephen began his laser safety talk with introductory remarks about the types of lasers and the characteristics of the non-ionizing radiation they emit that makes them potentially hazardous. He provided examples of sources of potential laser radiation exposure and explained the laser safety-related parameters needed to evaluate the extent of that exposure. He reviewed the radiometric terms and the units used to express laser radiation exposures limits [maximum permissible exposure (MPE) values] and explained the relationship between those limits and the accessible emission limits (AELs) used to delineate the seven laser hazard classes: Class 1, 1M, 2, 2M, 3R, 3B, and 4. His discussion of laser safety included a review of applicable standards. Those standards include Cal/OSHA regulations which are surprisingly limited in their scope and the more extensive set of ANSI standards listed below that establish a “standard of care” with respect to laser safety.

- ANSI Z136.1-2007 Safe Use of Lasers
- ANSI Z136.2 Safe Use of Optical Fiber Communication Systems Utilizing Laser Diode and LED Sources – includes free space communication (possible republication 2012/2013)
- ANSI Z136.3-2011 Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities
- ANSI Z136.4-2010 Recommended Practice for Laser Safety Measurements for Hazard Evaluation
- ANSI Z136.5-2009 Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions
- ANSI Z136.6-2005 Safe Use of Lasers Outdoors
- ANSI Z136.7-2008 Testing & Labeling of Laser Protective Equip.
- ANSI Z136.8-2012 Safe Use of Lasers in Research, Development and Testing
- ANSI Z136.9-Lasers in Industrial Applications (2013 publication)
- American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Entertainment and Displays (possible first publication 2013-2015)

Stephen also covered the biological effects of excessive exposure to laser radiation (mechanisms of injury to the eye and skin) that form the basis of applicable exposure limits (MPE values). Ancillary (non-beam) hazards that can – depending on the laser or laser system -- include various chemical, physical, and ergonomic stressors were also briefly touched upon. Stephen concluded his talk with a discussion of laser hazard control measures, including laser eye protection and the determination of its wavelength-specific optical density, in the context of laser safety program elements per the above –referenced ANSI Z136.1 standard. Examples of laser eye protection were shown and their relative efficacy in attenuating output from a laser pointer was demonstrated.

Responding to questions both during and after his presentation, Stephen shared multiple references on lasers and laser safety by putting them on display at this meeting. He also made available to meeting attendees copies of a single-page laser pointer safety guidance document and a “quick reference sheet” on lasers. Stephen can be contacted to obtain a copy of the laser pointer document and other laser safety-related information. The reference sheet is available from either the AIHA Non-Ionizing Radiation Committee via the national AIHA’s website or directly from Stephen.

Application Deadline for Student Scholarships is Approaching

Each year the AIHA-NCS gives awards to commemorate Dr. Bernard D. Tebbens' and Dr. Robert T. Legge's contributions to the fields of occupational medicine and public health and to support and encourage the study and practice of Industrial Hygiene in the Bay Area by recognizing and rewarding worthy students for academic excellence or service to the profession. The Bernard D. Tebbens award goes to a full time graduate UC Berkeley Environmental Science student who has completed at least one year and the Robert T. Legge award is open to any Bay Area student in IH or related environmental health studies. The application deadline for the 2013 awards is February 22nd. Please apply on our website or forward this information to Bay Area industrial hygiene and environmental health students. If you have any questions about the student scholarships, feel free to contact William Cyrs at wcyr@chemrisk.com.

CIHC 2013 Conference Planning Call for Volunteers

The CIHC Board is beginning planning for the 2013 CIHC Conference to be held in San Francisco, California in early December. The CIHC is looking to engage with the local sections to provide opportunities for local section members who wish to serve in a leadership or support role in the conference planning. Below is a listing of various conference committee assignments, with major assignments to be finalized at their March Board meeting. If any NCS member is interested in being involved, please contact either Ron Hutton (rehutton777@aim.com) or Ed Klinenberg (Edward.Klinenberg@ngc.com) no later than March 10.

Conference Roles:

- Registration
- Communications
- Communications/Web Site Support
- Exhibitors/Sponsors Contact/Arrangements
- Audio/Projection
- Conference Program Materials
- Speaker Gifts
- Conference Social Events
- Session Arranger or Co-arranger

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 19 – IH Forum Series #1 – Topic TBA – Elihu Harris State Office Building, Oakland,

Tuesday – Thursday, March 5-7 – SafeBridge Consultants Potent Compound Safety “Boot Camp” and Advanced Concepts Course: “Boot Camp II” – San Francisco –http://www.safebridge.com/services_training.html

Tuesday, March 12 – AIHA-NCS Dinner Meeting & Student Night – Speaker and Topic TBA – Spenger’s Fresh Fish Grotto, Berkeley - www.aiha-ncs.org

Wednesday, March 13 - Bay Area Safety Symposium – California Center, Pleasanton –<http://assesf.com/main.sc>

Wednesday, May 1 – AIHA-NCS Annual Technical Symposium – Topic TBA – SRI International, Menlo Park

Saturday – Thursday, May 18-23 – AIHce – Montreal, Canada – <http://www.aihce2013.org/>

Tuesday – Thursday, May 21-23 - Associate Safety Professional (ASP) Review Workshop – Mission College, Santa Clara – <http://www.assesj.org/events.php>

AIHA-NCS Board

PRESIDENT

Colleen Thornton, MPH, CIH
Harris and Lee
Environmental Sciences, LLC
(650) 996-5028
colleen@hlevn.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Terri Choe, MPH, CIH
Forensic Analytical
(510) 266-4600
tchoe@forensicanalytical.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

James R. Martin, CIH
Martin Consulting
(925) 899-7640
martinconsultingCIH@gmail.com

SECRETARY

David Hornung, MPH
Cal/OSHA
(510) 502-2513
dhornung@dir.ca.gov

TREASURER

Sheila McCarthy, CIH
BioMarin Pharmaceutical, Inc.
(415) 506-6675
shmccarthy@bmrn.com

DIRECTORS

Eric Winter
SRI International
eric.winter@sri.com

Martin Suen, CIH
martinsuen@gmail.com

Michael Cooper, CIH, CSP, MPH
(585) 507-3228
michaelcoopermiph@gmail.com

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