

NTS-AIHA News  
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### NTS-AIHA Committees

Programs: Chair- Barbara Wilds

Community: Chair-Stevan Pierce

Jobs-David Bull

Science Fairs-Bill Vining

Newsletter-Don Hudnall

Website-Kay Hawkins

Membership: Chair-Don Hudnall

### Section Summary

Founded 1952

108 Year 2001 Members

15 Year 2002 Members

We will be 50 years old in 2002

<http://www.AIHA1.org/Sections/NTS/>

### Newsletter sponsors –

North Texas Section

American Industrial Hygiene Assoc.

P.O. Box 610925-DFW Station

Dallas, Texas 75261

# North Texas Section American Industrial Hygiene Association

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Director-Don Hudnall (Ph: 817.280.2832 Fax: 817.280.6393 - dhudnall@bellhelicopter.textron.com)

Job Opportunities-David Bull (Ph: 972.935.9660-marla-davidbull@msn.com)

Past President-Ed Norris (Ph: 940.497.7767 Fax: 940.497.1952 - edwin.l.norris@boeing.com)

## What do I like about the NTSAIHA?

By Don Hudnall

I recently contacted the Carolinas local AIHA section with a respirator training dilemma in a remote facility. All my questions were answered with one call. Dilemma solved. That's what started me thinking about the value of being in a local AIHA section and what I liked best about being in the NTSAIHA.

I think I like being involved in the NTSAIHA the best. For years being a member meant going to a lunch or dinner meeting when the topic was of interest. A little networking, getting the Membership Directory when published, and the OSHA/MSHA Regulatory Update were the highlights.

That was until I started attending Board Meetings just so I could see what was happening "behind the scenes". Eventually I became the Newsletter Editor and a Director. Now there are many, many things I consider very valuable benefits of being in the NTSAIHA.

I hope you don't mind my ramblings but here are a few things I really enjoy about the NTSAIHA.

- ❑ Increasing the information exchange with other local organizations such as ASSE, HFES, NTAOHN, CHMM, AWMA and TEHA. Great networking opportunities.

- ❑ Increasing communications, sharing newsletters and job opportunities with other local TX AIHA sections.
- ❑ Being a judge in the Dallas / Fort Worth Science Fairs. Bill Vining coordinates the NTSAIHA involvement.
- ❑ Editing & distributing the newsletter. It gives me an opportunity to keep on top of current issues.
- ❑ Meeting with the rest of the Board members at Fuddrucker's in Irving. Much more relaxed than previous meeting places.
- ❑ Talking with NTSAIHA members when they call or when I call them with questions. More than that, it is a feeling that NTSAIHA members welcome calls from other NTSAIHA members. Like a family.

There is so much more such as the general meetings, seminars and seeing our year 2001 checkbook balance increase so dramatically.

Next month a notice will be sent asking for NTSAIHA Officer nominations for year 2002. Think about getting involved. If being an officer does not suit you, grab an idea and run with it like Kay Hawkins with the web site, like Bill Vining with the Science Fairs or like David Bull as the Job Opportunity contact.

Thanks for brining the NTSAIHA to life. Don't forget to renew your membership for 2002. Have a great holiday season! ☺

## Happenings From The Hill-11/12/2001

By Aaron Trippler, AIHA  
Government Affairs Group

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO DECIDE OSHA AND NIOSH BUDGETS

In what is becoming a common occurrence, Congress will have to rely on a Conference Committee of the House and Senate to reach agreement on a new budget for occupational health and safety in fiscal year 2002.

The Bush Administration and both Republicans and Democrats had hoped to conclude the 2002 fiscal year appropriations process many weeks ago. It was hoped that this might be the year when the federal budget was approved on time. However, September 11 threw everything off and debate is still taking place. An originally scheduled end of the first session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress was scheduled for early October. The new date has not yet been decided, but many hope to conclude business by Thanksgiving. This remains to be seen.

For occupational health and safety, the appropriations bill we are waiting for is the Health and Human Services bill. This bill includes appropriations for both OSHA and NIOSH. Here is where things stand:

Both the House and Senate have approved different versions of the bill. The administration requested \$426 million for OSHA, essentially a level-funding approach. The House approved \$435 million and the Senate has approved \$450 million. Outlook: look for the Senate figure to be very close to the final appropriation.

As for NIOSH, the administration requested \$266 million, a \$6 million increase over last year. The House

approved \$270 million and the Senate has approved \$276 million. Again, look for the Senate figure to be very close to the final appropriation.

### OH & S LEGISLATION MOVING VERY SLOWLY

As Congress prepares to adjourn until next January, legislation important to occupational health and safety has taken a back seat to current events. Since September 11, hundreds of bills have been introduced in Congress, with nearly all pertaining to events surrounding the Terrorist attack and ways to address national security.

AIHA had hoped that several bills would have made their way out of Congress by now. One would have codified the Voluntary Protection Program. There seems to be very little opposition to this bill but it remains held up in Committee. Another bill is a small business bill that contained AIHA amendments that would have provided for qualified and competent individuals to conduct small business seminars on how to comply with federal regulatory requirements such as OSHA. This bill has passed the House and awaits Committee action in the Senate.

One area that is receiving much discussion is the creation of an Office of Homeland Security. Several members of Congress and others are asking tough questions of this new office, specifically why OSHA is not included as one of the federal agencies that participates in this office.

### CHANGES BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE AT OSHA

In a move that was predicted several months ago by AIHA and others, OSHA has begun to make internal changes to reflect the wishes of the new Administration. In addition to the naming of John Henshaw as the new head of OSHA, the pilot program that reorganized OSHA's

rulemaking process has been scrapped.

The pilot program consolidated the offices of health standards and safety standards into one office in an attempt to have agency personnel work together on rulemakings, hopefully speeding up the process. While many believed that the program operated well, most of the staff at OSHA were not in favor of the program.

No comment from OSHA as to who may be appointed to head either the health standards or safety standards office. However, the top regulatory official at OSHA has departed the agency. Marthe Kent had served as the director of this combined office and was responsible for drafting several OSHA rules. Her transfer, under an intergovernmental personnel agreement, to the National Safety Council was also not entirely unexpected.

In other OSHA news, OH&S watchers are waiting to see what the new OSHA regulatory agenda shows. With word leaking out that OSHA may not be looking at many new rules, regulations or standards, insiders are wondering just what may be on the agenda. Some expect the issue of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be one issue that may be at the top of the list. Others expect the issue of Beryllium to be discussed.

With the possibility of a small regulatory agenda, others believe this is the perfect opportunity for OSHA to begin a "change of attitude". John Henshaw has outlined his wishes for more compliance assistance and voluntary efforts, as well as making OSHA a "leader" in occupational health and safety. It is expected that John will enlist the assistance of many of the professional associations in his attempt to improve the credibility of the agency. ☒

## Treasurer's Report

01/01/01 Through 11/19/01

<b>INFLOWS</b>		<b>\$</b>
<i>Dues Inc</i>	1,390.00	
<i>Mold/IAQ Seminar</i> <i>(July 10- -4,734.35)</i> <i>(March 28-7,770.52)</i>	12,504.87	
<i>Newsletter Sponsor</i>	25.00	
<i>Refund</i>	-10.00	
<i>OSHA Update</i>	934.00	
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	14,843.87	
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>		<b>\$</b>
<i>Bank Charge Exp</i>	15.00	
<i>Mold/IAQ Sem. Exp</i> <i>(July 10—2491.18)</i> <i>(March 28-2,519.21)</i>	5,010.39	
<i>Monthly Mtg Exp</i>	38.97	
<i>Newsletter Exp</i>	27.43	
<i>OSHA Update Exp</i>	2,075.90	
<i>Postage</i>	6.80	
<i>Returned Check</i>	60.00	
<i>Returned Check Fee</i>	5.00	
<i>Science Fair Exp</i>	413.10	
<i>Uncategorized</i>	0.00	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	7,802.45	
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>		<b>\$</b>
<i>Overall Total</i>	7,041.42	
<i>Checkbook Balance</i>	13,759.61	

## OSHA Revises BBP Field Directive

By Stefanie Corbitt

OSHA issued a revised field directive on compliance with its recently amended Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

According to OSHA, the directive highlights the major new requirements of the standard including: (1) evaluation and implementation of safer needle devices as part of the re-evaluation of appropriate engineering controls during an employer's annual exposure control plan; (2) documentation of the involvement of non-managerial, frontline employees in choosing safer devices; and (3) establishment and maintenance of a sharps injury log for recording injuries from contaminated sharps. ⊗

## BBP Std and Working Around Sewage? Q&A

### Question:

During our latest round of bloodborne pathogen awareness refresher training, the question arose regarding whether the Environmental Technicians responsible for operation of the sanitary sewer system should receive hepatitis vaccinations. I poked around the CDC website and found guidance on disposal of infectious waste.

This document states "Bulk blood, suctioned fluids, excretions, and secretions may be carefully poured down a drain connected to a sanitary sewer. Sanitary sewers may also be used to dispose of other potentially infectious wastes that can be ground and flushed into the sewer." Is this a suggestion that pouring such wastes into a sanitary sewer will render them "safe," or is it instead a very short-sighted view on the potential downstream exposure issues for sewer workers?

I would welcome your thoughts on whether sanitary sewer workers are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and whether they should receive hepatitis vaccinations.

### Response 1

Getting a bloodborne disease through exposure to sewage is very unlikely. The best bulletin I have located is from the California Dept. of Health - California Morbidity, Feb 1998 - Recommended Immunizations for Sewage

If you were going to immunize sewage workers for anything I would suggest HepA which is spread via they fecal oral route, although there is no evidence that sewage workers get Hep A at any higher rates than the general population. We cover Hep B, post exposure, through our first aid bloodborne pathogen program. And Hep A with an immune globulin shot (post exposure) if they are unfortunate to

become a "swimmer" or somehow ingest or get sewage sprayed into their eyes face or mouth.

### Response 2

I agree. The Water Environmental Federation (our industry coverall organization) recommends against Hep B immunization. OSHA when it created the BBP standard looked at Hep B and recommended against it. There have been multiple studies recommending against it on an international basis. I also agree that there is a greater possibility that you could get Hep A than Hep B when working around wastewater. (see the WEF publication on biohazards in Wastewater).

### Response 3

I have worked for many municipalities, all over the country, evaluating their confined spaces. And I have personally evaluated jobs such as jet flushing, grease trap clean-out, wet sides of sewage lift station debris clean-outs and declogging, pumping stations and equipment repairs, and many other jobs, including operations at primary and secondary treatment facilities.

To the extent that the worker is exposed to the sewage, especially if the sewage/wastewater exposure is in a mist, protection from biological hazards, including diseases communicable through the oral-fecal route or the inhalation route, should be provided. Protection can be from injection/immunization, but should also be in the form of respiratory protection and hand protection. If exposure is in the form of misted sewage (as from jet flushing), this sewage will settle on the worker from the hair on down. Protection from this exposure needs to be provided. In addition, the truck the crew is using needs to be protected from contamination (seats, steering wheel, ...).

*Sewage continued on page 4*

## NTSAIHA Members Paid for 2002

**Armstrong, Marion  
Boustead, Brad  
Bramlett, Tracy  
Cole, Howard  
Garrison, Robert  
Goodwyn, Craig  
Kidder II, Charles  
Kurt, Tom  
Liukonen, Larry  
McDowell, Patrick  
McDowell, Wendy  
Pierce, Stevan  
Robinson, Shane  
Sward, Ed  
Waddoups, Brenda  
Walsh, Gerry  
Wilds, Barbara**

*Your check is probably still in the mail if you have sent in your year 2002 dues but your name is not listed.*

*Sewage continued from page 3*

Many municipalities provide potable flushing/hand washing water on the side of the truck, others provide waterless cleaners.

Cold and flu viruses, strep, staff and pneumococcus bacteria, pseudomonas, rickettsia, and other communicable disease agents are common in the sewage systems, as are many types of allergenic, toxigenic, and pathogenic fungi and molds. I suggest your crews look beyond hepatitis A and C to the full range of biological infections that they could be exposed to, and then approach preparing a JSA.

### Response 4

I agree that the workers should be protected from EVERY potential exposure. Hepatitis B can live in dried blood and body fluids for 20 days. Imagine how long it might be if moist?

There is a new vaccine out that combines both Hepatitis A and B and is more efficacious than either by itself.

Another thought is that OSHA has updated the BBP Standard and implemented tracking requirements effective for 2001. Not only needlesticks, sharps, but also splashes must be evaluated for logging purposes. I know that will be one of the top targeted inspections at health care facilities, as well as, those handling biohazardous wastes and sanitary wastes. ☒

### Local Job Opportunity

Rec'd 11/06/2001

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc. is a rapidly expanding company looking for ambitious individuals seeking employment in the industrial hygiene arena. Our industrial hygiene (IH) division investigates losses in the areas of indoor environmental quality, wrongful death, negligence, and other OSHA related topics. The IH division also supports other investigative and administrative activities including hazardous materials scene supervision, training, safety and compliance audits, engineering support, and other hygiene related areas.

Several positions are open for consultants with experience in the areas of microbiology, chemistry, indoor air quality, and sampling. This position will include field work in microbial investigations, moisture intrusions into structures, hazardous materials site work and training, and other industrial hygiene investigations as needed. Experience

in remediation, asbestos, microbial science, etc. is advantageous. This position may include limited travel and lends itself well to home based work.

Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc. has eleven branch offices throughout the country and may fill this position at any geographic preference.

We offer a comprehensive benefit package including medical, prescription, dental, and life insurance; 401-K program, profit sharing, bonus program, 6 holidays off, paid vacation, optional optical program, and pre-tax medical expenditure program. Training and classes are provided for support in endeavors to gain certifications.

If employment in these areas interests you, please send your resume to Robert Scudder, Unified Investigations & Sciences, Inc. 223 East Greenbriar Lane, Dallas, Texas 75203. Also, feel free to visit our website for more information at [www.uis-usa.com](http://www.uis-usa.com), or call our office at 1-800-615-4840. Feel free to contact me at my home office 972-429-6376. ☒



# Year 2002 Membership Form

**NTS-AIHA Membership Benefits Include**

- \$15 savings on registration for seminars. Attend one seminar and recoup the cost of your annual dues.
  - Spring -Welding Hazards/Health Effects Full Day Seminar possibly joined with another topic.
  - Fall - OSHA/MSHA Regulatory Update Full Day Seminar
- \$10 savings on each issue of newsletter sponsorship. \$15/issue for non-members. \$5/issue for members
- NTS-AIHA Membership Directory sent in December and upon request. Members only.
- Immediate notification of local job opportunities for members on email distribution list.
- Monthly newsletter. Preferred sending via email to members. Hardcopies sent upon request.
- NTS-AIHA Voting Rights.

## Dues are only \$15 / year

Thank you for taking the time to complete the following information even if you are renewing your membership. This helps to keep the NTS-AIHA Membership Directory current. Thank You For Your Support

### NTS-AIHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Business address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletter to:(check one)      Business: \_\_\_\_    Home: \_\_\_\_    Email: \_\_\_\_

In membership directory, list my: (check one)    Business: \_\_\_\_    Home: \_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive immediate notification of job opportunities via email: (check one)    No: \_\_\_\_    Local I.H. Jobs: \_\_\_\_    All I.H Jobs rec'd: \_\_\_\_

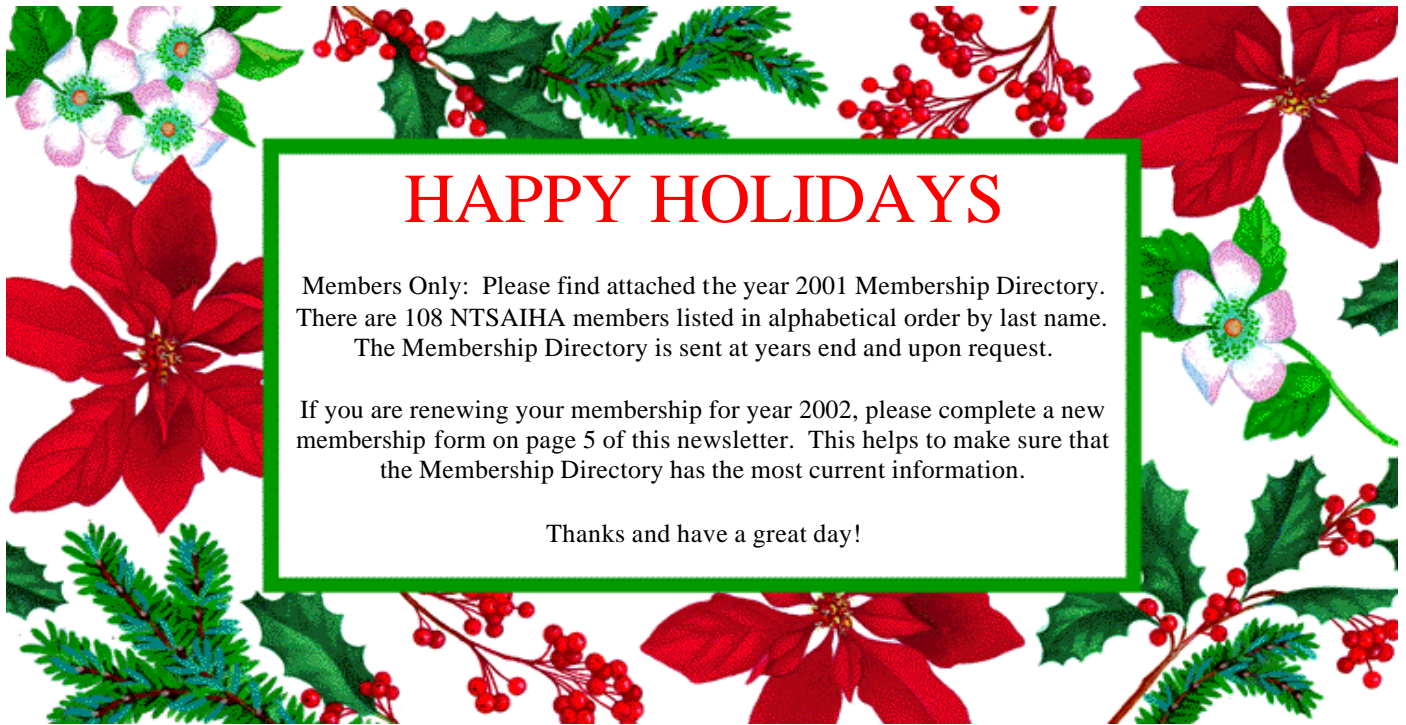
Are you a national member:      Yes: \_\_\_\_    No: \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$15.00 per year.....Make checks payable to NTS-AIHA

Send this form and payment to:

**North Texas Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association  
P.O. Box 610925, Dallas, TX 75261**



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Members Only: Please find attached the year 2001 Membership Directory. There are 108 NTSAIHA members listed in alphabetical order by last name. The Membership Directory is sent at years end and upon request.

If you are renewing your membership for year 2002, please complete a new membership form on page 5 of this newsletter. This helps to make sure that the Membership Directory has the most current information.

Thanks and have a great day!

NTS-AIHA  
P.O. Box 610925 - DFW Station  
Dallas, Texas 75261

Address Correction Requested