



Local Section News

President's Page - Blake Knight

Greetings,

I hope this note finds you all doing well. I look forward to serving as your president during the upcoming year. We have planned several interesting meetings that I hope you will find interesting. I would like to thank Jim Tillery for his leadership last year as president. He did a great job. Have a safe summer and I look forward to seeing you all soon. ❖

Board Notes (May 20, 2002)

Bylaws Summary

In 2001, AIHA asked local sections to add a Bylaws section dealing with officer removal. This would allow for the removal of an officer who engaged in unethical, criminal, or other activities that may have an adverse impact on the local section. In February 2002, this addition to the Bylaws was approved by the membership. The revised Bylaws were immediately submitted to AIHA for approval. Normally, this is a routine approval process where the Executive Director simply signs the revised Bylaws and returns them to the local section. After several months, we inquired about the status of this approval and were told that the Executive Director, Richard Strano, would not approve them for two reasons.

1. Mr. Strano no longer wishes to be responsible for approving local section Bylaws. He believes someone on the AIHA Board should be responsible for this.

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February 7, 2002 Meeting

Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL

We met at the Birmingham News facility. We had a large turnout. Although the presses weren't running, we were able to see the process from start to finish. Viewing the newsroom, graphic departments, composing areas, and presses to see how a newspaper is created, printed, and distributed. ❖

March 14, 2002 Meeting

Strange & Unusual Stories/Elections - Birmingham, AL

First, President Jim Tillery discussed the nominations for president-elect and two Board positions. Joe Siegel was voted in as President Elect, Lyn Fondren will complete Joe Siegel's board term and Kacy Cobb was voted to fill the vacant board position. Next, several IH students were given the opportunity to interact with local section members and ask career-related questions. Finally, we shared our strange, unusual, and humorous IH stories. ❖

April, 2002 Meeting

Student Presentations - Florence, AL

On April 25, we held our annual student presentation dinner-meeting at UNA in Florence. President-Elect Joe Siegel presented Past-President Jim Tillery with a plaque, thanking him for his leadership and service. Secretary / Treasurer then John Horwarth discussed the new officers for '02-'03, membership survey, and section account balance \$1,558.76. The failure of the Sunshine Amendment at the national level was also discussed. The Alabama section is always be open with its members regarding voting, finances, board meeting minutes, etc. **UAB: Tim Hallmark** presented "A Comparison of Methods for the Analysis of Leaded Wipe Samples." Research Thesis Advisor: Martin Harper, **UAB: Kou Srivatsa** presented "The Relationship between Visible Fungal Growth and Fungal Spore Counts in Air Samples from Southern California Residences." Research Thesis Advisor: Ken Dillon **UNA: Amanda Creekmore and Quentin Hodge** presented "Acoustical Enclosure for an Air Compressor: Design Principles." Advisor: Crescente Figueroa ❖

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2. Mr. Strano believes our Bylaws should be written in a "gender-neutral" format.

Since we followed our original instructions from AIHA and these seemingly arbitrary reasons for holding them up were not raised until after we submitted the revised Bylaws, we agreed to revert to the old Bylaws (August 2001 version). Should AIHA provide us with some more formal guidance on Bylaws content in the future, we will reevaluate the situation.

Future meetings: Dates and suggested locations:

Sept 19 - Plant tour (Possible include Coke Bham, Honda or Oxychem Muscle Shoals),
November 14 - Presenter (Joe is trying to schedule a presenter to discuss the Sept 11 response in NY) ,
Jan 16 - GE Plastics Montgomery ,
March 13 - Niki's West - Elections, Student Q&A's ,
April 3 - UNA Student Presentations

Financial Summary: The section account balance at America's First Federal Credit Union is \$2,168, but we have not yet received the UNA catering bill which will be approx. \$525. Due to the high number of no-shows, we lost money on that meeting. To take advantage of better interest yield, \$1,000 of the section account was transferred into a savings account yielding 2%. The rest of the section's funds are in a checking account yielding 1%. The \$200 annual pledge to the Vern Rose Scholarship Fund has been made for 2002. The recipient for 2001-2002 was Jessica Keplinger, a member of our local section.

Membership: After decreasing from 75 to 56 between 1999 and 2001, the 2002 membership has climbed back to 75, including fourteen new members this year. Eleven 2001 members have not yet renewed their memberships. Average meeting attendance for the last five meetings has been 33. The high was 45 at last November's meeting at UAB. We had fourteen new members in 2002.

Submissions to AIHA : All required annual submissions were completed and sent to AIHA well ahead of deadlines. The Secretary/Treasurer maintains copies of these documents. These submissions include: Local Sections Activity Plan, Membership Roster, Updated Officer List, and Group Tax Exemption Report

Committees: Communications-Although no longer serving on the Board, Bonnie Jenkins has agreed to continue producing the newsletter and will also administer and compile the membership survey. Program - Joe Siegel will coordinate. Nominating- John announced his plans to resign his Secretary/Treasurer position in 2003 because he will be canceling his AIHA national membership. Jim Tillery and Lynn Fondren will coordinate.

Ergonomics Update

John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, announced in April details

about the formation of the National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics. This committee is part of OSHA's comprehensive approach to reducing ergonomic-related injuries and illnesses in the workplace. "Our four-pronged approach for continuing and accelerating the reduction of ergonomic-related injuries and illnesses in the workplace -- guidelines, research, outreach and assistance, and enforcement -- will benefit from the experience and expertise of the members of this committee," said Henshaw. The committee will advise on a number of issues involving information on various industry or task-specific guidelines; identification of gaps in the existing research on ergonomics and the application of ergonomic principles to the workplace; current and projected research needs and efforts; methods of providing outreach and assistance that will communicate the value of ergonomics to employers and employees; and ways to increase communication among stakeholders on the issue of ergonomics. U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao also announced in April that OSHA will work with representatives of the *nursing home profession on its first set of ergonomic guidelines*. The draft guidelines are expected to be ready for public comment later this year and will be published in the Federal Register for review. In June, Henshaw announced *Grocery stores and poultry processing* will be the focus of the next two sets of industry-specific guidelines to reduce ergonomic-related injuries. Representatives from both industries will work with OSHA to develop the guidelines.

OSHA ISSUES HAZARD INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR EXPOSURE TO BERYLLIUM IN DENTAL LABS

A new [Hazard Information Bulletin](#) issued by the OSHA alerts dental laboratories on how to prevent exposure to beryllium, which can cause chronic beryllium disease (CBD), a debilitating and often fatal lung disease, or lung cancer. This bulletin informs dental labs and workers of the potential hazards and offers effective methods to prevent exposure to beryllium."

The Hazard Information Bulletin presents a case of CBD recently diagnosed in a dental lab technician and recommends the types of engineering controls, work practices, training, personal protective equipment and housekeeping procedures that can be used to reduce beryllium exposure and the risk of CBD. It also provides information on a health surveillance tool that can be used to identify workers with CBD, or beryllium-sensitized individuals, who are at a high risk of progressing to CBD.

Under OSHA's current beryllium standard employees cannot be exposed to more than 2 micrograms of beryllium per cubic meter of air for an 8-hour time-weighted average. Recent information suggests that compliance with this exposure limit is not adequate for preventing the occurrence of CBD. The Hazard Information Bulletin calls for, to the extent feasible, the use of improved engineering controls and work practices.

2001-02 OFFICERS

& BOARD MEMBERS

President – Blake Knight, CIH, CSP

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President-Elect – Joe Siegel, CSP

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Secretary/Treasurer – John Horwarth

113 Sweet Gum Lane, Chelsea, AL 35043
Phone: 205-870-5563, Email: jhorwarth@tmgroup.com

Board Member – Lyn Fondren

Email: lfondren@healthsafe.uab.edu

Board Member – Kacy Cobb

Email: kacy@hamiltonvision.com

Board Member – Dr. Martin Harper

Email: mharper@uab.edu

Board Member - Past - President - Jim Tillery

Email: jctiller@southernco.com

ABIH Question Writing Workshop

On April 19th, the local section sponsored an ABIH question writing workshop. The goal of the workshop was to develop questions suitable for the CIH and CAIH exams. All costs of the workshop, including breakfast, lunch, and participant mileage, were paid by ABIH.

ABIH's Manager of Technical Affairs, Lyle Edinger made his first visit to Alabama to lead the workshop. Lyle, a CIH and one of five employees at ABIH's Lansing, Michigan office, also answered several questions from the group regarding exam changes, certification maintenance, and recent activities at ABIH.

Twelve CIH's attended the workshop and were awarded 1 CM point for their efforts. Jenny Bailey – Citation Corporation, Kacy Cobb – Independent Consultant, Jack Davis – Gadsden Water Works, Matt Hollub – Safe State – Univ. of Alabama, John Horwarth – The Hackney Group, Bonnie Jenkins – GE, Blake Knight – Alabama Power Company, Judy McBride – UAB, Mike Parris – Alabama Power Company, Gene Saywell – GE, Bill Walls – Safe State – Univ. of Alabama, Brain Walters – Safety Excellence

Many thanks to new local section member Jenny Bailey for hosting a fun and productive workshop. The local section is considering a similar workshop with BCSP in the fall.

Financial News

THE SECTION ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF MAY 20, 2002 IS \$1643.18.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES !

Dues for the year are \$10. If you have not paid your dues, please mail a check to the following address.

Attn: John Horwarth, 113 Sweet Gum Lane, Chelsea, AL 35043.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE

www.aiha.org/sections/websect.html

Contact Bonnie Jenkins to add items, such as job openings, articles of interest, etc. ❖

Check out OSHA's New Quick Takes A bi-weekly e-news memo with information, updates and results from OSHA about safety and health in America's workplaces. See www.osha.gov to sign up.

OSHA OFFERS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GUIDANCE

The OSHA bulletin suggests that international business travelers follow recommendations for immunizations published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. In addition, the new OSHA guide urges business travelers to consult the U.S. Department of State consular information sheet for individual countries they plan to visit. These country guides and other helpful State Department publications are available at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Some travel tips applicable for all travelers include washing hands frequently, walking and driving defensively and wearing seatbelts, avoiding dairy products that may not be pasteurized and eating only food that has been properly cooked. For example, OSHA recommends that travelers visiting developing areas drink only bottled water or carbonated drinks, avoid going barefoot, refrain from eating food purchased from street vendors and avoid handling animals that may carry infectious diseases-especially monkeys, dogs and cats. OSHA's new technical information bulletin "[Safety and Health During International Travel](#)" [PDF] is available on the agency's website.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our 2002-2003 Calendar

September 19 Plant Tour

Topic: TBA

November 14 Dinner Meeting

Topic: TBA

January 16 Plant Tour – GE Plastics

Location: Burkville, AL (outside of Montgomery)

March 13 Dinner Meeting, Birmingham, AL

Topic: TBA & Elections

April 3 UNA, Florence, AL

Topic: Student Presentations

Alabama Section – AIHA Membership/Meeting Summary

Year	Paid Members
1999	75
2000	74
2001	56
2002	75

OSHA FINAL RULE ON RECORDING HEARING LOSS

OSHA issued a final rule on July 1, 2002 that revises the criteria for recording work-related hearing loss. The agency will also seek comments on a proposal involving the recording of MSDs on OSHA's injury and illness logs. Beginning Jan. 1, 2003, employers will be required to record work-related hearing loss cases when an employee's hearing test shows a marked decrease in overall hearing.

PART 1904 -- [AMENDED]

1904.10 Recording criteria for cases involving occupational hearing loss. (a) Basic requirement. If an employee's hearing test (audiogram) reveals that the employee has experienced a work-related Standard Threshold Shift (STS) in hearing in one or both ears, and the employee's total hearing level is 25 decibels (dB) or more above audiometric zero (averaged at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz) in the same ear(s) as the STS, you must record the case on the OSHA 300 Log.

(b) Implementation.

(1) What is a Standard Threshold Shift? A Standard Threshold Shift, or STS, is defined in the occupational noise exposure standard at 29CFR 1910.95(g)(10)(i) as a change in hearing threshold, relative to the baseline audiogram for that employee, of an average of 10 decibels (dB) or more at

2000, 3000, and 4000 hertz (Hz) in one or both ears.

(2) How do I evaluate the current audiogram to determine whether an employee has an STS and a 25-dB hearing level?

(i) STS. If the employee has never previously experienced a recordable hearing loss, you must compare the employee's current audiogram with that employee's baseline audiogram. If the employee has previously experienced a recordable hearing loss, you must compare the employee's current audiogram with the employee's revised baseline audiogram (the audiogram reflecting the employee's previous recordable hearing loss case). (ii) 25-dB loss. Audiometric test results reflect the employee's overall hearing ability in comparison to audiometric zero. Therefore, using the employee's current audiogram, you must use the average hearing level at 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz to determine whether or not the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB or more.

(3) May I adjust the current audiogram to reflect the effects of aging on hearing?

Yes. When you are determining whether an STS has occurred, you may age adjust the employee's current audiogram results by using Tables F-1 or F-2, as appropriate, in Appendix F of 29 CFR 1910.95. You may not use an age adjustment when determining whether the employee's total hearing level is 25 dB or more above audiometric zero.

(4) Do I have to record the hearing loss if I am going to retest the employee's hearing?

No, if you retest the employee's hearing within 30 days of the first test, and the retest does not confirm the recordable STS, you are not required to record the hearing loss case on the OSHA 300 Log. If the retest confirms the recordable STS, you must record the hearing loss illness within seven (7) calendar days of the retest. If subsequent audiometric testing performed under the testing requirements of the § 1910.95 noise standard indicates that an STS is not persistent, you may erase or line-out the recorded entry.

(5) Are there any special rules for determining whether a hearing loss case is work-related?

No. You must use the rules in § 1904.5 to determine if the hearing loss is work-related. If an event or exposure in the work environment either caused or contributed to the hearing loss, or significantly aggravated a pre-existing hearing loss, you must consider the case to be work related.

(6) If a physician or other licensed health care professional determines the hearing loss is not work-related, do I still need to record the case?

If a physician or other licensed health care professional determines that the hearing loss is not work-related or has not been significantly aggravated by occupational noise exposure, you are not required to consider the case work-related or to record the case on the OSHA 300 Log.