



Local Section News

President's Page

Outgoing President -Brent Bailey

Wow! How time flies. It seems that yesterday we were all storing water, food, and ammunition for Y2K. Now - almost 6 months later we are worried about the damage that the "Love Bug" might cause. No matter whether you love them or hate them, computers are now THE essential tool in most industries. As anyone who follows the stock market knows - high tech. now rules the industry. In the future most of the "higher paying" jobs will be in the high tech industries. In addition, computers, palm pilots, fax machines, email, the internet and other high tech inventions have changed the way that industrial hygiene is performed. Already, more and more industrial hygienists are "telecommuting". The intrigue of IH equipment that offered datalogging is now common. To be able to compete in today's job market computer skills, including internet skills are expected rather than desired.

A friend of mine (Mike Parris) once told me about

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February & April Meetings

February Meeting

UAB Hazardous Waste Facility, Birmingham, AL

The local section on Feb. 24, 2000 took place at the UAB Hazardous Materials Facility. Ted Krayer, the hazardous materials manager for UAB conducted the tour and provided information as we went through the building. The walk-through included the medical waste disposal area that has both incinerators for sharps, chemotherapy agents and animal carcasses and a microwave unit with shredder for most other biohazardous waste.

We looked at the chemical staging area and drum storage. Also, the radioactive storage area (we don't have any high level stuff except for the meter calibration source) where low level waste is held for decay and then managed.

Ted also explained the recycling program for alcohol, xylene and fluorescent bulbs. The last part of the tour was about the hazardous material response team which operates out of the facility and covers the UAB campus for most spills. Very large spills would be handled with the help of the Birmingham Fire Dept. The team has a fully equipped truck with level A suits and SCBA's as well as clean up materials and overpacks.

APRIL MEETING

University of North Alabama, Florence, AL – Student Presentations

On April 20 we traveled to the University of North Alabama, home of the student AIHA chapter we sponsor. We thank all those who attended (some driving for many hours). William Holden, a senior, presented "Size Selective Sampling to the Evaluation of Wood Dust". Sampling of the inhalable particle mass (IPM) fraction is rapidly gaining acceptance for exposure evaluations of

his father's career as a typewriter repairman. A once necessary industry - the invention of word processors and later computers, turned the craft of repairing typewriters into a novelty. The same thing happened to blacksmiths and harness makers. For industrial hygiene to survive in the next 50 years the practicing IH's must become flexible. Ergonomics must be embraced, and industrial hygienists must be considered experts in this field. Industrial hygienists must be willing to learn the safety sciences and environmental sciences. Management skills must be improved, and IH's must be willing to become part of the management team. Biological hazards such as molds, and various bacteria, including concerns of biological terrorism will become major IH issues.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the Alabama Section members for their support during this year. I would like to issue a special word of thanks to Bonnie, Judy, Jim, Regi, Matt, and Allen for their patience and support. I look forward to the 2000-2001 year.

Incoming President – Bonnie Jenkins

I'd like thank Brent, Allen and Matt for their service this past couple of years. I am honored and look forward to serving the local section for the upcoming year. The board will be meeting to set goals and plan our calendar for the year. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

News from the Board

On April 5th Brent Bailey called to order a meeting of the AIHA Board. The first order of business discussed was the upcoming election of new officers. In addition to new officers, two board members terms were ending, with elections to be held at the next Local Section meeting on 4/20/2000. The nominating committee made the following recommendations for 2000/2001 Officers and Board Members to be brought before the Section. President, Bonnie Jenkins, President-Elect, James Tillery, Secretary/Treas. Regi Jennings and New Board Members, John Horwarth and Joe Siegel.

Upcoming meetings were discussed, with suggestions made for a plant tour at Solutia for the June meeting, and a possible vendor night/baseball game meeting at the Hoover Met. Ideas for future meeting agendas included an expert speaker on ergonomics to address ergonomics programs and the possible impact of the OSHA Ergonomics Standard. It was also suggested that the Section leadership explore the feasibility and demand for technical training sessions of one-half or full-day length to be offered to the membership. ❖

AIHCE Name Change

In December of 1999, the AIHA Board of Directors voted to change the annual conference name from the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHCE) to the Environmental Health Safety Conference & Exposition (EHSCE). This new name will become effective beginning with 2001. According to the board, EHSCE will better reflect the educational content, exhibitor mix, and job titles / responsibilities of those attending the conference. In addition the board fills the name change provides a marketing advantage. The AIHCE is AIHA's number one net producer making possible lots of programs/services that protect member benefits. The AIHA board felt it must exercise its leadership responsibilities to protect the financial potential of current and future conferences.

What will EHSCE mean to you?

The board feels as a professional attending EHSCE, a wider array of opportunities will be available. Additional PDCs, roundtables and technical sessions representing a combination of safety, environmental management, and industrial hygiene will be offered, thus reflecting the professional expertise most members believe future jobs will demand. How is this change related to the association name change that was debated and voted on last year? The board feels it is not related, as the conference is separate from the association. The conference name should relate to both the educational content and exhibiting companies. A decade ago, there were no professional development courses on safety or environmental issues. The name change did receive 53% variable votes, which was short of the two-thirds majority approval needed. ❖

2000-01 OFFICERS **& BOARD MEMBERS**

President - Bonnie Jenkins

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Board Member – Joe Siegel

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Board Member – John Horwarth

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Past President – Brent Bailey

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Financial News

THE SECTION ACCOUNT BALANCE WAS REPORTED AT OUR LAST MEETING TO BE \$746.67.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN !

Dues for the 2000-2001 year are \$10. If you have not paid your dues, please mail a check to the following address.

Attn: Regi Jennings , US Steel, PO Box 599, MS SAFE, Fairfield, AL 35604.

Dues are used for speakers, for subsidizing student meals, donation to the Vernon Rose Endowment Fund, newsletter and mailing costs. ❖

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating our Membership directory. If you have an address change, please notify Regi Jennings. ❖

aerosols that can affect the upper and lower areas of the respiratory system. This is happening because IPM sampling methods are believed to correct some of the inadequacies associated with the traditional “total dust” sampling method. In the study that was presented, paired comparisons were made under similar ambient conditions between the IOM samplers (developed after a design of the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh, Scotland) and total dust samplers for the evaluation of wood dust. It was found in almost every instance that the IOM sampler concentration was either similar or exceeded the concentration of the “total dust” method operating either under the open- or closed-faced option.

Another senior student, Jessica Keplinger, reviewed one of her co-op assignment. She is responsible for updating the Job Safety Analyses at GE Appliances. She discussed their format, how they manage them and the benefits of the JSA's.

We offered two services to the students. One is the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed and second a presentation on interview techniques. Bonnie Jenkins will coordinate with Dr. Figueroa.

Elections for new officers were held. Those present at the meeting approved the recommendations of the executive committee. ❖

OSHA SAYS “NO” TO HOME OFFICE INPSECTIONS

OSHA issued a directive on the issue. The directive makes it clear that OSHA will not hold employers liable for work activities in a home office and states that OSHA will not, nor should employers, inspect home offices. ❖

OSHA ACCEPTING WORKER COMPLAINTS ON-LINE

Beginning April 28, workers can use the Internet to file complaints about safety and health hazards at their workplaces, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced today. The Workers' Page is available on OSHA's home page at <http://www.osha.gov/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOCAL SECTION MEETING – JUNE 8TH

SOLUTIA, DECATUR, AL
5:30 pm Plant Tour, 6:00 pm Dinner,
6:45 pm Speaker – Rachael Sarnacki on
“Ergonomics”

AIHC&E , MAY 20-25

ORLANDO, FL
For INFO <http://www.aiha.org/conf.html>

ANNUAL REGION IV VPPA CONF., JUNE 21-23RD

CARIBE ROYAL RESORT, ORLANDO, FL
CONTACT KEITH ROMINES at 941-742-3314

AL GOVERNOR’S SAFETY & HEALTH CONF., AUG 28-30TH

PERDIDIO BEACH RESORT HOTEL, ORANGE BEACH, AL
FOR INFO
<HTTP://BAMA.UA.EDU/~DEIP/GOVSHC13.SHTML>

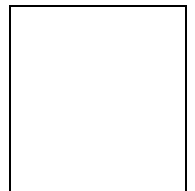
OSHA ERGONOMICS HEARINGS IN FULL SWING

The long-awaited public hearings on the OSHA ergonomics standard opened in Washington DC on March 13 and will continue in different venues at least through May 12. Because of the number of requests to testify, and the overwhelming controversy with this standard, the dates were extended and additional hearings added. ❖

GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?

We are looking for suggestions for speakers and meeting locations. If you have any ideas, please pass them along to a member of the executive committee by phone or email. See Executive Committee information on page three. ❖

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED