

THE IMPINGER

AIHA - Deep South Section

Applied Industrial Hygiene - The Bridge to Prevention

April 2001 Newsletter



**DEEP
SOUTH
SECTION**

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Membership Renewals are Due

Please complete the "Dues Renewal Form" and submit your dues to Jimmy Villar at the address on the form. Please verify the information on the mailing label and let Jimmy know of any changes that you may have. If you know of someone who is not on our mailing list and should be, please let us know so that we can include them and keep our list current.

Next Meeting:

Date: April 26, 2001
Time: 6:30 Social/7:00 Dinner Meeting
Cost: \$22
Location: Ralph & Kacoo's (Wedding Room)
Bluebonnet Dr., Baton Rouge
Topic & Speakers: "Risk Assessment for NORM during Refinery Project Modifications" (Ralph Marshall); "Tetraethyl Lead Tank Demolition" (Mike Harris); "Confined Space Exposure Monitoring Issues" (Steve Verret)

Calendar of Events

April - Dinner Meeting
May - Technical Tour; Recreational Activity
June - Dinner Meeting
July - Recreational Activity
August - PDC; Dinner Meeting
September - Technical Tour; Seminar
October - IH Fundamentals Course; Dinner Meeting
November - Community Service; School Visits
December - Christmas Party

Check out our Website at www.aiha.org

(look under AIHA Local Sections) We are continuously trying to improve our website. If you have any ideas or comments, please let Trudy know so that we can involve all members and have a great local section website!

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Presidents' Message - By Bob Siener

"The sun's rays slash through the windshield of the helicopter we ride as we make our way east early one morning. The pilot uses sunglasses and an additional tinted screen to deflect the intense light that blinds nearly everyone onboard. We don't know how he is able to see, but see he must. For he is the only one who knows the course and can operate this machine that carries precious cargo for the work we must do."

Industrial hygienists are as critical to our organization as pilots are to aircraft. We prepare a flight (assessment) plan, we assess potential risks and see to it that controls are in place to **prevent** occupational health hazards. We lead our organizations and hold precious cargo in our hands. Our mission with this year's theme for the Deep South Section is to demonstrate how prevention works by examining IH in action. Through our dinner meetings, technical seminars, technical tours and networking we will focus on applying the principles of anticipation and prevention.

Much thanks to Richard Matherne for getting the DSS website in place. Trudy Mayers will be the custodian who will work with the AIHA webmaster to keep it up to date. The website can also be expanded based on the desires of our local membership. As we all have extremely busy schedules, I know you will find the website to be a useful tool to stay in touch with what's happening in the DSS. Recently, our usually quiet agenda was abruptly thrust into the political debate on Ergonomics and everyone must now know what an ergonomic is, even if they don't know how to catch one. Seriously, the attention that ergonomics received in the press and on Capital Hill has raised awareness, the first step in prevention. While the legislation has been repealed, it is not the end of the issue nor of how Industrial Hygiene can be of service to hazard analysis and prevention of MSD's. Look for us and the AIHA to be actively involved in the continuing solutions.

Using ergonomics as an example, let's take a look at you, the profession, our DSS and national AIHA. We can identify that we are industrial hygienists or allied professionals, members of the Deep South Section of AIHA and maybe national AIHA. But what value is that? We pay dues, get listed on the roster and receive a newsletter. We

probably have attended at least one meeting or know someone who has. And we all have more commitments on our time from family, friends and work than we have available time. So this balancing act we do can quickly get us over the permissible exposure limit for stress or we make critical control decisions, just cut back on those commitments. We all have done it and must do it from time to time. The DSS should not be our primary commitment. But we should recognize the inherent value in the DSS and national AIHA. We have local and national networking opportunities, a national vehicle to have our voice heard, resources to help make our job easier and much more.

The 2001 Leadership Team, Ralph Marshall, Jimmy Villar, Trudy Mayers, Tanner Martinez, Mike Harris and I will make every effort to provide an environment that optimizes the opportunities available to you through membership in the DSS. Of course we need one vital ingredient, **you**. Please join us when you can to share in these opportunities. We have an exciting year planned with meaningful technical sessions as well as fun leisure events. Thanks to initiatives started last year and some new ones, we hope to offer a DSS that provides you some benefits, whether they are professional, technical or social.

Some of the goals we have for 2001 are:

- Establish a DSS Website
- Improve Communication and Information Sharing
- Provide quality technical Meetings
- Host beneficial Special Events
- Have lots of fun

A few thoughts to consider when looking at becoming involved in the DSS activities:

The next time your management asks what other companies are doing about an IH issue, will you know whom to call? The next time an issue arises that you haven't had direct experience with, will you have a colleague to discuss it with? When you feel you're in a position that may compromise your professional integrity, can you confide in anyone? Does it make you feel valued if you are able to help a colleague? Do you feel like you are a contributing member?