



September 2008

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**DIRECTOR**

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It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end, the leaves will start changing color, and the US Presidential election will be upon us in less than two months. This time of the year means lots of action for the LV-AIHA Board as we start to mobilize for another year of events for our members.

Big thanks go out to Jen Ellis for her term as President! Her 2007-2008 term was a great success and we were able to provide affordable and exciting opportunities for our members to expand their professional network and continue their professional development. Jen's energy and enthusiasm has helped to reinvigorate the local section.

In addition, please join me in thanking Tim Docherty for his years of service on the board. Tim's tireless contributions helped to ensure that our section remained a valuable resource for Lehigh Valley EHS professionals. I'd like to wish Tim the best of luck as he takes a break from the Board to pursue an MBA degree.

I'd like to welcome Doug Reigle and Fred Alkons to the Board. I'm sure many of our members are familiar with Doug and Fred as they have been active members of the section for years. We're looking forward to their contributions and benefitting from the experience of these two IH veterans.

To round out our team, Joe Gentile will continue his steadfast work as section treasurer and Bruce Allen will also remain on the board in a director position.

We can always use more help, so please contact a board member if you would like to host a meeting, host a plant tour, present a topic, contribute a newsletter article, or sponsor an event.

Most importantly, we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events! Your continued support in our local section is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Blake Morris*



2008-2009 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Date/Time	Topic	Location
October 28, 2008 5 PM to 9 PM	Past-Presidents' Dinner Meeting	Allentown Brew Works 812 W. Hamilton Street Allentown, PA
November 2008	Plant Tour – TBD	TBD
December 4, 2008 7 PM to 10 PM	LV-AIHA Holiday Social	Bethlehem Brew Works 569 Main Street Bethlehem, PA
February 2009	Breakfast Meeting – TBD	TBD
April 23, 2009 7:30 AM to 4: 30 PM	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual LV-AIHA Industrial Hygiene Conference	Best Western 300 Gateway Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017
April 24, 2009 7:30 AM to 4: 30 PM	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual LV-AIHA Professional Development Course	Best Western 300 Gateway Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017

UPCOMING TELEWEBS

If you are interested in attending or hosting any of the following telewebs, please contact Blake Morris. If five or more members show interest in any teleweb, the local section will make arrangements to present it at a dramatically discounted price. Rather than paying \$325 to view it by yourself, why not get together with colleagues and participate for only \$30?

**October 22, 2008** – Cell Phones, Microwaves, Pacemakers and More...  
Nonionizing Radation Myths and Realities

**November 6, 2008** – Particle Size-Selective Sampling: What You Need to Know about Human Health Impacts

**November 18, 2008** – Color Coding of Respirator Air Purifying Elements: NIOSH Requirements and Limitations



## American Industrial Hygiene Association

Lehigh Valley Section

### **LV-AIHA UPCOMING MEETING**

**Title:** Past Presidents' Dinner Meeting  
**When:** Tuesday, October 28, 2008  
**Location:** Allentown Brew Works, 812 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA  
**Time:** 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$30.00 Members, \$60.00 Non-Members, Free for Past-Presidents!!

Come join us at the LV-AIHA's Past Presidents Dinner Meeting. Our section has been in existence for nineteen years and has had seventeen different Presidents during this time. We would like to recognize the efforts of these folks and catch up on what everyone has been up to lately.

We have lined up two great speakers to present current topics in the EHS field. Please plan to stick around after dinner for some professional development (and we're not putting dessert out until the break to make sure you stick around!!).

**Agenda:**

5:00 PM to 5:30 PM Registration/Hors D'Oeuvres  
5:30 PM to 6:00 PM Past Presidents Recognition & Chapter Update  
6:00 PM to 6:45 PM Dinner  
6:45 PM to 7:45 PM Presentation: An OSHA Update and VPP Best Practices  
Speaker: Scott Shimandle, OSHA – Allentown  
7:45 PM to 8:00 PM Break  
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM Presentation: Combustible Dusts: OSHA's New Emphasis Program  
Speaker: Dennis Hendershot, Chilworth Technology

The Allentown Brew Works is housed inside the historic Harold's Furniture Building at 812 W Hamilton Street. Years in the making, the new Allentown restaurant and brewery are part of the continuing vision of the Fegley family that established the original Bethlehem Brew Works in 1998. Proud to be part of the resurging downtown, the 400 seat restaurant is a testament to the vibrant heartbeat that thrives in this "Queen City."

While street parking may be available, a public parking lot is available after 5 PM. As you pass the Brew Works on the Hamilton St, turn left on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, drive a ½ block and turn left into the Public Parking lot.

This meeting is pending approval by the ABIH for Certification Maintenance (CM) Points.

**RSVP by October 21, 2008 to:**  
[jgentile@rouxinc.com](mailto:jgentile@rouxinc.com)

**Payment should be sent to:**  
Joseph Gentile  
500 Trails End Court  
Easton, PA 18040-7956



**American Industrial Hygiene Association**

Lehigh Valley Section

**LV-AIHA Past Presidents Dinner Meeting**

**Title:** Past Presidents' Dinner Meeting  
**When:** Tuesday, October 28, 2008  
**Location:** Allentown Brew Works  
812 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA  
**Time:** 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
**Cost:** \$30.00 Members, \$60.00 Non-Members

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Company</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Registration Fee:</b>	<b>Member / Non-Member</b>
<b>Receipt Requested:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>



American Industrial Hygiene Association

Lehigh Valley Section

## EHS in the News

### **Federal OSHA issues third largest fine in history following sugar refinery explosion**

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today issued citations proposing penalties totaling \$8,777,500 against the Imperial Sugar Co. and its two affiliates alleging violations at their plants in Port Wentworth, Ga., and Gramercy, La. OSHA initiated the inspections following an explosion and fire on Feb. 7, 2008, at the Port Wentworth refinery that claimed the lives of 13 employees and hospitalized 40 others. Three employees still remain hospitalized. The proposed penalties against Imperial Sugar represent the third largest fine in the history of OSHA.

OSHA's inspections of both facilities found that there were large accumulations of combustible sugar dust in workrooms, on electrical motors and on other equipment. The investigation also determined that officials at the company were well aware of these conditions, but they took no action reasonably directed at reducing the obvious hazards.

"I am outraged that this company would show a complete disregard for its employees' safety by knowingly placing them in an extremely dangerous work environment," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Edwin G. Foulke Jr. He added, "What is even worse is that a month after the devastating catastrophe in Port Wentworth that claimed the lives of 13 people, this company had done little to ensure abatement of the combustible dust hazards at its other plant. If OSHA investigators had not inspected and posted an imminent danger notice regarding areas at the second plant, the same thing could have happened again."

OSHA proposed \$5,062,000 in penalties for safety violations at the Port Wentworth refinery and \$3,715,500 for safety violations found at the Gramercy refinery. The citations include 108 instances of willful violations related to the combustible dust hazard, including the failure to clean up dust and not using appropriate equipment or safeguards where combustible dust is present. OSHA also has issued 10 citations for other willful violations, 100 citations for serious violations and four citations for other-than-serious safety and health violations.

The company has 15 business days to contest the citations and proposed penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. OSHA's Savannah, Ga., area office staff inspected the Port Wentworth site, while the agency's Baton Rouge, La., area office staff inspected the Gramercy, La., location.