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President Elect: Dr. George Byrns**
Past President: Mark Melody
Treasurer: Phil Miller
Secretary: Jennifer Dawson



DIOSH Day Rep: Kevin Marshall
Newsletter Editor: Chuck Jenkins

AIHA

Advancing Occupational & Environmental Health And Safety

The American Industrial Hygiene Association

Prairie Section

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Greetings from the Prairie Section AIHA! On July 1st we held a short meeting at the Pub II in Normal to discuss our plans for next year. Attending were Don Samdahl, George Byrns, Kevin Marshall, Phil Miller and Don Bassett.

The first order of business was to ask for volunteers for Prairie Section AIHA officer positions. One position that is critical is next year's President-Elect. While he travels to some degree, Don Bassett volunteered to serve as President-Elect and newsletter editor and indicated that he is looking forward to serving the Prairie Section. Our thanks go to Chuck Jenkins for the fantastic job he did as the former newsletter editor getting the word out to members. Kevin Marshall has done a wonderful job as DIOSH Day Coordinator and volunteered to continue in that capacity, and Phil Miller volunteered to continue as the Treasurer, which is greatly appreciated because he has done a fantastic job at it. Our congratulations also go to Jennifer Dawson who will have her second child this October. But because of that (for good reason,) Jennifer decided to pare down her responsibilities a bit and will be stepping down as Secretary. We truly appreciate the dedication Jennifer has shown for the Prairie Section, and the wonderful job she did as Secretary. Thus, Phil Miller volunteered to serve in that capacity in addition to serving as Treasurer. **We will have formal elections at our first dinner meeting of the year on Thursday, August 26th** at Jerry's Grill in Bloomington, 1605 Morrisey Drive, with dinner starting at 6:00 pm. An election ballot is included at the end of this letter. Please print and mail it as described.

At our next meeting, Professor George Byrnes of ISU will be making a presentation titled, "*The Healthy Worker Survivor Effect Due To Low Back Pain In Nurses.*"

The second order of business was to identify potential topics of interest for future dinner meetings. Please, if you have an idea for a topic, let us know! The following topics were suggested:

- Phase I assessments (need to identify a presenter)
- The role of industrial hygiene in emergency response (need to identify a presenter)
- Formaldehyde (need to identify a presenter)
- The Healthy Worker Effect (George Byrns)
- Principles of occupational safety and health management (we will ask Professor Tom Bierma of ISU if he would be willing to offer a presentation.)



George Byrns then volunteered to contact the new ASSE local section president about having a joint program next year. We are pleased to announce that on September 21, 2004 the ASSE will be a cookout and planning meeting for occupational health nurses, industrial hygienists and safety professionals at State Farm Park in Bloomington. More information about it will be coming soon.

The final order of business was for Kevin Marshall to present to Phil Miller, our Treasurer, this year's proceeds from the DIOSH Day conference. The exact amount will be reported in the next newsletter.

DIOSH DAY 2005

The 14th annual Downstate Illinois Occupational Safety and Health Day will be held in the Peoria Civic Center on Wednesday, March 2, 2005. A call for presentations was sent out via email on July 7, 2004 and has a deadline of August 20, 2004! If you didn't receive it, please email don_bassett@hseworld.com or info1@triconpeoria.org for a copy. You can also visit their website at <http://www.dioshday.com/> for more information.

Our next meeting will be on August 26th at Jerry's Grill, with dinner starting at 6:00 pm.

OTHER RECENT NEWS

The National Academies released a report titled "Damp Indoor Spaces and Health" on May 24, 2004. In it, it reported that "Scientific evidence links mold and other factors related to damp conditions in homes and buildings to asthma symptoms in some people with the chronic disorder, as well as to coughing, wheezing, and upper respiratory tract symptoms in otherwise healthy people. However, the available evidence does not support an association between either indoor dampness or mold and the wide range of other health complaints that have been ascribed to them." The document can be found here: <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309091934?OpenDocument>

In November, 2003 the CDC published guideline for the "Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities." The objective was to develop an evidence-based environmental infection control guideline that reviews and reaffirms strategies for the prevention of environmentally-mediated infections, particularly among healthcare workers and immunocompromised patients. The document can be found here: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/enviro/Enviro_guide_03.pdf

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Bassett, Prairie Section AIHA Newsletter Editor