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AIHA
The American Industrial Hygiene Association
Advancing Occupational & Environmental Health And Safety
Prairie Section
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October, 2004

Greetings from the Prairie Section AIHA! A Board meeting followed by a dinner meeting and presentation took place on September 23rd at Jerry's Grille in Bloomington. Attending the Board meeting were George Byrns, Kevin Marshall, Phil Miller and Don Bassett.

The main focus of the Board meeting involved our Annual Spring Workshop. While some of our workshops have been extremely successful, there is still some concern about declining attendance. In general, we believe the best way to have high attendance will be to hold a workshop that will be of interest to a cross section of professionals, including Safety Professionals and Occupational Health Nurses, among others. CM points (CEU's) will be awarded for attendance, which is always an incentive to attend. Moreover, it is nice to be able to receive education points locally without having to travel a great distance. As requested last month, we are interested in *your* ideas for a workshop topic.

Last spring we planned to offer a half-day workshop on advanced IH monitoring using direct read instruments, but cancelled the workshop because only a handful of members had confirmed their attendance. In our September Newsletter, we asked members to indicate whether or not they thought we should reschedule the monitoring workshop or if we should consider a different program. We have still not received feedback regarding interest in sponsoring a spring workshop. So please, contact George or Don at the numbers above if there is a topic you'd be interested in having presented. We are going to delay making a decision on a Spring Workshop until we gain some feedback from members. We also discussed the idea of holding a joint meeting with the ASSE on Emergency Preparedness, and will keep you posted with future updates.

Phil Miller then shared a flier regarding a seminar being sponsored by the Iowa/Illinois Local Section that takes place on October 13, 2004 at the Genesis Heart Institute - Alder Education Center in Davenport, IA. The seminar is titled "FUN in the FUNdamentals of Toxicology-Industrial Hygiene Concepts in the Practice of Occupational and Environmental Health," or Toxicology Within the Risk Assessment Process. The "early bird" registration fee for this seminar is only \$65, and more information can be found on their website at <http://www.aiha.org/localsections/html/iowaillinois/index.html>.



THE PRESENTATION

Tom Bierma, Ph.D MBA, Professor of Environmental Health at ISU, gave an excellent presentation titled “Management Concepts for Industrial Hygiene.” This presentation was much appreciated for a variety of reasons! First, it covered material likely to be on the CIH exam, as summarized from the AIHA’s own “white book.” Secondly, it covered management methods that are actually occurring in most workplaces today. And last but not least, for those of us fortunate enough to have had Tom as a Professor while attending ISU, it was wonderful to see him again and to renew old friendships. Thank you Tom, for making an excellent presentation!

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting we be on Thursday, October 28th at Jerry’s Grill in Bloomington, 1605 Morrissey Drive, with a Board Meeting at 5:00 and dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Mr. Michael Hoffman, PE of MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. will speak about Phase I Assessments. Mike has over 30 years of experience and performs these assessments weekly, and we appreciate his willingness to speak. Please plan on attending!

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We’re trying to get more people to attend our meetings. Usually, our attendance is between a dozen to perhaps twenty people, but our goal is to “outgrow” the conference room we currently use. Some of you might be wondering what to expect at one of our meetings. Admittedly, some years ago they were more formalized and more rigidly structured than they are now. As the median age of our membership has lowered, we’ve listened to members and adjusted our meeting format accordingly. Jerry’s Grille is an exceptionally clean, casual and welcoming establishment with excellent food and a full menu of soft drinks, wine, beer and cocktails. Located at the Brandtville Center on the south edge of Bloomington near I-55 and I-74 off Veteran’s Parkway, it was voted to be one of the best establishments in the 2003 *Pantagraph* Reader’s Choice Awards. You do not need to “dress-to-impress!” Many of us arrive immediately after work and have no time to change clothing. The meetings usually end at 8:00, but some of us stay later to trade “war stories’ in the lounge and have a little fun. Others leave immediately after we adjourn. Whichever you choose, we all seem to have a good time and our speakers have all been excellent.

The important thing is that we learn from one another’s experiences, exchange information important to our profession, hear what others are doing in their respective industries and listen to a presentation from a speaker considered to be an expert in their field. Who says that continuing education can’t be fun?



Come to this meeting on October 28th. As described above, we have a Professional Engineer with over 30 years of experience at conducting Phase I Assessments willing to speak to us, and we want to give him a hearty welcome with a large turnout. Bring your spouse, a colleague or friend, and forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested in hearing this presentation. We will welcome anyone interested in advancing his or her knowledge of Environmental Health and Safety.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Bassett