

President: Dr. George Byrns*
President Elect: Don Bassett**
Past President: John Tackett



Secretary/Treasurer: Phil Miller
DIOSH Day Rep: Kevin Marshall
Membership Coordinator: Chuck Jenkins

AIHA

The American Industrial Hygiene Association

Advancing Occupational & Environmental Health And Safety

Prairie Section

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September, 2004

Friends and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of our friend and colleague Don Samdahl, who passed away at his Bloomington home on Tuesday August 31, 2004. Don was very active in the Prairie Section AIHA and the Central Illinois Chapter of the ASSE, and was both a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Safety Professional. Don completed his BS in Chemical Engineering at University of Alabama, and MS in Risk Management at the University of Wisconsin Stout. He had a successful career as a chemical engineer in industry before achieving success in EH&S.

Don also served on the Illinois State University Safety Program faculty during the 1980s, and was EHS manager of the General Electric facility in Bloomington for many years. After retirement from GE, he consulted to University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign and the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

Don served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and was active in the Naval Reserves for 16 years. His wife Georgene, a son, Eric; daughter, Suzie; brother, David; sister, Ruth plus two grandchildren survive him. Memorials can be made to the Community Cancer Center, 407 E. Vernon; Normal, IL 61761.

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AUGUST MEETING

A Board meeting followed by a dinner meeting and presentation took place on August 26th at Jerry's Grille in Bloomington. Attending the Board meeting were George Byrns, Kevin Marshall, Phil Miller, John Tackett and Don Bassett.

The first order of business was to review the ballots for Prairie Section AIHA officer positions, presented by Phil Miller. Elected were Dr. George Byrns, President; Don Bassett, President-Elect; and Phil Miller, Secretary Treasurer. Kevin Marshall will continue as DIOSH DAY Representative, Chuck Jenkins will serve as Membership Coordinator and Don Bassett will write the newsletter. Congratulations to everyone!



Phil Miller then submitted the Treasurer's report. Total receipts for the year were \$3210.12 with \$2735.72 received from DIOSH Day. Cash reserves from checking and certificates of deposit totaled \$14,258.72. Phil also presented a letter sent to him from Purdue University thanking the Prairie Section for sponsoring students to the AIHCE.

A discussion continued with regard to holding a workshop in the spring of 2005. While some of the workshops have been extremely successful, there was some concern about declining attendance. Clearly, attendance will be higher if a topic is chosen that will generate a lot of interest from a cross section of professionals. Thus, we are still seeking input from members on topics of particular interest. Industrial Ventilation was brought up as a topic, and we would like to know if this is of interest to YOU! Please contact us simply by responding via email or by phoning us at the number above on this letterhead.

There was also a discussion about starting the Board and Dinner Meetings one-half hour earlier, but no formal action was taken and will be discussed again at our next meeting.

THE PRESENTATION

A large audience of AIHA Members, Occupational Health Nurses, persons interested in Ergonomics and several ISU students attended to hear the presentation made by Dr. George Byrns, MPH, Ph.D. CIH of Illinois State University. George spoke about low back pain in the healthcare industry in a presentation titled "*The Healthy Worker Survivor Effect Due To Low Back Pain In Nurses.*" Every seat in the conference room was taken and a spirited discussion took place after George was finished speaking. Our thanks go to George for an informative and well-prepared presentation!

OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Our next meeting we be on Thursday, September 23rd at Jerry's Grill in Bloomington, 1605 Morrisey Drive, with a Board Meeting at 4:30 and dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Dr. Tom Bierma of Illinois State University will be making a presentation on Industrial Hygiene Management, with an emphasis on material that might appear on the CIH exam. Please join us in welcoming Tom to our meeting.

At our meeting on October 28th, 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.



OTHER NEWS

We are pleased to announce that on September 21, 2004 the ASSE will be holding a cookout for occupational health nurses, industrial hygienists and safety professionals at State Farm Park in Bloomington. An informational flier is included with this newsletter, but please notice that the deadline for making a reservation is September 16th.

And lastly, our congratulations go to Mr. John Tackett, CIH of Caterpillar for recently passing the CIH exam.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Bassett