



Your Essential Connection

Sacramento Valley Section

Established in 1980

March 4, 2003

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Message from "Acting President"

The last board meeting was held on February 24, 2003. We covered a number of issues. Among them were budget, leadership of the Section, the leadership conference, upcoming seminars or training programs.

SECTION MAY FOLD

The most important is the decision by two of the active board members, Mark Cameron and myself, that we will not serve another term. Our current terms end on June 1, 2003 (actually mine ended in June of 2000). Maurice Oberg will continue on the Board if other members step up and assume leadership positions. If not, dues money that has been paid for 2003 will be returned to the members who paid and the Section will likely end. Mark and I felt we have served long enough and other members should be involved. In addition, we have noted that we are probably violating our bylaws by continuing to serve. We do hope that someone will come in and assist Maurice. Mark and I will certainly assist in the transition. We must have, at the minimum, a volunteer for President, Treasurer and one more Board member.

TRAINING

On March 20, 2003 a seminar on Noise will be given at the Buggy Whip restaurant in Sacramento from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The seminar will cover occupational hearing loss, current California regulations, management of hearing loss data, information on audiometric test records, workers' compensation for hearing impairment, hearing protection and education of workers and management. The program will be conducted by Pablo Daroux of Wilson, Ihrig & Associates, Inc. and should be very informative.

We have applied for CM points and that information will be available at the time of the seminar.

We are anticipating that there will a training program on direct reading instruments in April and a training session in public communications at the Past President's Luncheon in May. .

Joanne Myers is representing Sacramento Valley Section at the Leadership conference. Thanks Joanne.

TO PAY DUES FOR 2003. SEE WEB SITE OR CONTACT MARK CAMERON FOR DETAILS.

A large number of members have not paid their dues for 2003.

BUDGET

Currently we have \$4296.00 in the bank. However, we will be required to pay CIHC in June or July, assuming we still exist as a Section so any gains are short term.

Certification Maintenance Points

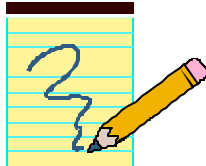
AIHA Certification Points are included here in response to recent questions 2001-2002.

Date	Meeting	Points - CM#
3/14/01	HP Field Tour	0.5 - #02-705
7/13/01	Practical and Legal Aspects of IAQ	0.5 - #16034
1/29/02	Recent Advances in Air Monitoring	1.0 - #02-674
2/21/02	IH Field laboratory	0.5 - #021199
3/21/02	Bloodborne Pathogens	0.5 - #02-1200
4/18/02	Sampling and Analytical Error	0.5 - #02-1201



Please send any address and e-mail updates to:
rockyone@pacbell.net

NOTE: We are going to an all electronic-newsletter distribution. Please provide us with your current e-mail address so we can keep you informed. There are a large number of Ex-members and would be members who are missing out because their information is not current.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DEGREE PROGRAM

California State University, Sacramento's Occupational Health and Safety program has been revised and expanded, effective Fall of 2002. In addition to offering a Bachelor of Science degree, the program will offer interested student the opportunity to obtain a minor in Occupational Health and Safety. The minor was developed for students interested in expanding their knowledge in the field of OH&S while completing an undergraduate degree in a related science or management related program.

Please contact Michael E. Nave at menave@csus.edu or (916) 278-6306 if your organization is interested in obtaining additional information on:

- The Bachelor of Science or minor degree programs,
- Providing student internship opportunities within your organization, (there are about 7 or 8 possible individuals as of March 1, 2002) or
- Providing a student the opportunity to observe industrial hygiene personnel at work.

HAPPENINGS FROM THE HILL

BY Aaron Trippler
Government Affairs - AIHA

IT'S CLOSE TO CRUNCH TIME ON THE BUDGET

With the days continuing to go by, Congress has still not adopted the 2003 fiscal year budget, but it looks like they are getting close.

House and Senate negotiators are pushing for a February 10 meeting on a bill that would combine all remain appropriations bills into one big spending package. The most interesting aspect of this is that no one seems to have any idea what the final proposal might look like. The Senate version includes an across the board cut of 2.9 percent from the original proposal. The House wants to reduce this cut to around 1 percent. Regardless, when, or if, a 2003 budget is finally adopted, most agencies and departments other than those dealing with defense and homeland security will take a hit.

This brings us to the 2004 budget. On February 3, the President released his proposed FY 04 budget, which included funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. --agencies of vital importance to the mission of AIHA and its members.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

2002 Spending	\$444 million
2003 Spending (est.)	\$437 million
2004 Proposal	\$450 million

This represents a 3% increase over last year's budget request of \$437 million. Under the President's budget, OSHA will receive an additional \$7.2 million for compliance assistance and outreach--which will encompass its new multilingual initiative. Other areas of compliance assistance will include special outreach to the small business community and expansion of OSHA's voluntary protection programs. Enforcement activities were also afforded a high priority, receiving an increase of \$4.2 million. Additional funds will also be used to support state plan partners; \$2 million for evaluation projects and \$750,000 each for expanded health targeting and emergency preparedness programs.

Mine Safety and Health Administration

2002 Spending	\$253 million
2003 Spending (est.)	\$254 million
2004 Proposal	\$267 million

This represents a 5% increase over last year's budget request of \$254 million. Much of the increase will go to MSHA's new Office of Small mines, which will develop and distribute educational materials to help small mines comply with federal regulations, offer training, and review existing regulations on small mines.

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

2002 Spending	\$276 million
2003 Spending (est.)	\$247 million
2004 Proposal	\$246 million

This represents another small decrease in the NIOSH budget, but nearly as devastating as the 10-plus percent hit taken by NIOSH in this year's budget. The budget summary states that research will continue to address solutions to occupational disease and workplace safety concerns in those fields where the dangers are the greatest. Because details of the spending within NIOSH have not yet been made available, we have no idea what the breakdown of spending entails.

Environmental Protection Agency

2002 Spending	\$8.08 billion
2003 Spending (est.)	\$7.617 billion
2004 Proposal	\$7.627 billion

No details were yet available from EPA.

In conclusion, most believe that Congress will finally adopt the 2003 fiscal year budget sometime in the next week to 10 days, and then the debate will start all over again on the 2004 budget.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL RULEMAKING ON THE HORIZON

In what could have a huge impact on the future of rules and regulations addressing occupational health and safety, the Bush administration is proposing changes in how rule writers weigh the costs, benefits and risks involved in issuing new regulations.

The proposal would insist that agencies do more cost-benefit analysis of rules, use different calculations to arrive at their estimates, and offer regulatory alternatives. The proposal urges agencies to do analysis that compares different regulatory alternatives according to their cost and effectiveness. The Office of Management and Budget is also rethinking how agencies view risk, whether they are too cautious in balancing risk against other interests, such as economic growth or technological innovation.

While not exactly sure of the impact this might have on future rules and regulations from OSHA, MSHA or EPA, it is logical to assume that the

time spent to adopt a rule (sometimes stretching to 15 years) will increase with more oversight required.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

With the 108th Session of Congress underway, don't forget to visit the AIHA Federal Legislative Action Center to stay abreast of issues important to occupational health and safety. The center can be found within the members-only section of the AIHA web page.

Members are able to monitor all federal legislation of interest to AIHA. This includes access to legislation by subject matter, legislative text, current status of the legislation, and AIHA position on the legislation. Members also have access to a directory of all elected officials and senior agency personnel, including the opportunity to send e-mail messages to their elected officials indicating support or opposition to any piece of legislation or simply find the address and telephone number of specific offices – all with a few clicks on your computer.