Greetings!

Your AIHA National and St. Louis Local Section have been quite active since I wrote to you in the March Newsletter!

Take a few minutes to peruse this month’s articles about AIHA National’s involvement in Silica hearings, investment in resources needed for IH’s to meet the evolving workplace needs in the 21st Century and support for maintaining adequate funding for NIOSH. Your Board added our local section support to the Friends of NIOSH and closer to home, was involved in the St. Louis Science Fair and Mid America Safety Health and Environment Conference.

But wait… There is More.

Planning is underway for some great opportunities during September ’14 - June’15 to learn and network with your fellow health and safety professionals and … just ahead … for some good old fashioned fun at our June social gathering.

Read on and make plans for how you will join in on the activities of your AIHA!

See you soon.

Wes

Wes Norton – President, AIHA, St. Louis Section

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**Summer Social**

Sunday June 22, 2014
1 PM - ??

Don’t miss this opportunity-A ‘lake party’ cookout, yard games and more is just around the corner and promises to be a fantastic opportunity to share some food, fellowship and fun! Don Ridenhower is graciously and magnanimously hosting this get together at his beautiful lakeside place. Check out the google earth shots of the scenic venue on page 5!

We will enjoy the view, a chance for relaxed conversation, a variety of games and lake opportunities including fishing, boating, and swimming. Spouses and family members are encouraged to attend.

A cookout featuring traditional St. Louis Brats, burgers and dogs will be shared at about 4 pm. If you’d like to bring something, finger food snack/appetizers and side dishes will be shared. Soft drinks will be provided. If you want adult beverages please bring your own.

Location:
**Don Ridenhower’s Place**
5603 Meadow View Rd.
Imperial MO 63052

For planning purposes for supplies, please RSVP for yourself and guests by contacting Rick Myers at: r.myers@wisesafetyenv.com or calling 314-587-4107.
Coming Events

- **May 31- June 6** – Annual AIHC&E in San Antonio, TX  
- **June 22** – Summer Solstice Lake Party at Don Ridenhower’s Place

Happenings On the Hill from Aaron Trippler – Director, AIHA Government Affairs Department

*Silica Hearings Bring Out Both Sides of the Issue*

If you ever wanted to see just how the regulatory process works, all you had to do was attend the three weeks of public hearings on the OSHA proposed silica rule. The system used by OSHA involves not only direct testimony but allows the public and other witnesses to cross-examine. While the hearings sometimes dragged on and on and brought out witnesses on both sides of the issue, OSHA should be commended for completing a hearing process that was very inclusive.

**OSHA Proposal and Cost** –  
- OSHA is proposing to lower the exposure limit to silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, a 50 percent reduction in general industry and an 80 percent reduction for construction and shipyards.  
- The proposal also includes protective measures, including exposure monitoring and medical surveillance.  
- OSHA estimates the proposed rule would cost $637 million in each of the first ten years. The annual price is about $1250 per workplace, with companies having fewer than 20 employees about $550 per year.

**Labor Input** –  
- Labor says the estimated cost projected by OSHA is “overestimated”, claiming the agency oversimplified several issues.  
- Because labor believes the cost projections are too high, labor would like to see several requirements added to the rule such as confidentiality for medical evaluations, additional training and education and a written exposure control plan.

**Industry Input** –  
- Industry says the estimated cost projections are too low, estimating the cost is more like $1.5 billion to $6 billion annually.  
- Industry also says that lowering the exposure level is not needed and it would be difficult to even test at such a low level. Some in industry stated that lowering the exposure limit will not likely see any improvement in the number of individuals harmed by exposure.

There you have it in a nutshell. So what was learned through the hearings? There are opinions all over the place and OSHA has its work cut out to review all the comments and either make changes to the proposed rule or leave it as is. OSHA has stated it will likely take the rest of 2014 to review the comments and that any final proposal is not likely to be finalized before 2016. And that may be optimistic; but I do think we will see a final rule.

And yes, AIHA was involved in the hearings, actually providing testimony on three separate issues. AIHA presented testimony on behalf of the association, on behalf of the AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Program and on behalf of the AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Program.
Academy of Science St. Louis Science Fair:
Special thanks to Mike McCormick, Juliette Travous and Don Ridenhower who represented our Local Section and served as judges at the Science Fair April 30 at Queeny Park. Six projects were selected for recognition with AIHA awards and $50 gift certificates presented to the winners. The title of winning projects were:

-Which Material Absorbs More Sound?
-Gas – How to Manipulate and Control It
-Put Down the Phone and Drive
-I Can’t Hear You
-The Use of Cellular Phones When Driving
-Super Skyscrapers on Shaky Ground

This is a great opportunity to support our community and increase awareness of our profession! It is also fun to be a part of, so consider volunteering to be a judge April 2015! (Pictures of some of the projects are attached below)

Friends of NIOSH Support
We received notification from AIHA asking our local section’s consideration to co-sign a letter from the Friends of NIOSH to Senate and House subcommittees considering funding priorities for FY 15. The letter expresses support for NIOSH funding and asking that they “include at least the Fiscal Year 2014 level of funding for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the Fiscal Year 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.” Our Board voted unanimously to sign the letter and it was sent May 5, 2014.

A copy of the letter is attached to this email.

Mid America Safety Health and Environment Conference
Over 400 including several of our members attended the MASHE Conference in Branson, Mo May 5-9. Our Local Section members Bonnie Lockhart, Mike Siegel and Wes Norton gave presentations at conference workshops.

AIHA Content Strategy
The AIHA Board of Directors plans to invest in new research, education programming and resources in areas where AIHA can help better equip our members in protecting worker health. All members are invited to provide input. More information and a power point presentation with explanatory speaker notes are available through the following AIHA link.

http://portal.criticalimpact.com/go.cfm?a=1&eid=0e4809b4ae95c83f&c=24360&jid=6d98319c08abb5f8&d=5212128ac3677a62

“The strategy will keep us focused on what is important and serve to help us bridge the gap from where we are to where we need to be so that we make sure we are equipping IHs to work effectively into the future.”

Job Openings
There are no recent announcements of Job openings. Contact Wes Norton or Troy Hart if you are aware of an opening that may be of interest to our membership.
Thank you for Your Input for Meeting Topics

The Board of Directors is continuing advance planning for 2014-2015 meetings and have received many good suggestions meeting topics that are relevant to our members. We will complete the candidate list of topics and presenters following the AIHCE and ideas/suggestions from PDC’s / presentations there. Our goal is to finalize plans for the coming year in July. Stay tuned.

One of our Science Fair Winners
Location for our June 22 Social

Hope to see you June 22! Happy Summer Solstice  !!!