

Minority SIG Journal

Volume 13, Issue 1

Winter 2013-2014

"Addressing issues within the industrial and environmental health profession that uniquely affect minorities... as well as those concerns that affect disadvantaged and low income workers and other members of the community."



A Message from the Leadership

Pamela Kerr, MS, CEA

Commitment is the ignitor of momentum. – Peg Wood

Greetings:

As your 2013-2014 Minority SIG Chair, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve you. Last year Dr. James Lucas stated that our message was overall commitment to change. To build upon that foundation, this year's quote is meant to encourage us to maintain the momentum by committing to become engaged in the goals that the Minority SIG has established for the 2013-2014 year.

Our Executive Committee members are as follows:

Past Chair	James H. Lucas, Jr., Ph.D., CHMM, CIH, CSP, REM, CESCO, CSEE
Chair	Pamela Kerr
Vice-Chair	Valerie Murray
Secretary	Courtney Tinner
Secretary-Elect	LaToya McKelvey
Director, Continuing Education & Program Committee	Kevin Slates, MPA, EdD, CSP
Director, Membership Committee	LaTasha Goodridge
Director, Communications	Lucinette Alvarado

Minority SIG members reach out to your Executive Committee members and share with them your commitment

to assist in the continued development and implementation of goals and initiatives that will continue to promote the industrial hygiene profession.

The Executive Committee met in September to devise a strategy for our 2013-2014 projects in our 2014 Business Plan. On behalf of our committee members, I am delighted to report that we have established the following goals for this year:

- 1) Continue to provide our quarterly newsletter due to the efforts and leadership of Ms. Lucinette Alvarado, Director of Communication. I am encouraging any member(s) interested in participating on that Committee, to contact Lucinette directly. I know she will welcome your participation and support.
- 2) Commitment to expand our Mentoring Program that with renewed commitment that Ms. Valerie Murray has brought to the program. Ms. Trina Redford transitioned the leadership to her last year and we want to support the forward momentum she has brought to the program. We are encouraging you to volunteer. Those of you who are interested in collaborating with Valerie to drive our Mentoring Program please reach out to her to let her know that you are willing to mentor students and early career professionals.
- 3) Continue to collaborate with ASSE's BISE (Blacks in Safety Engineering) to heighten the awareness of our industrial hygiene profession. We want to encourage those of you who are members in Minority SIG to reach out to ASSE's BISE and become co-laboring members for the Environment, Health & Safety profession.
- 4) Continue to support alignment with AIHA's business objectives to drive innovative process excellence that result in Minority SIG members joining and participating on other Technical Committees and Volunteer Groups.
- 5) Continue to explore outreach opportunity with minority publications (e.g. Black Enterprise Magazine) to foster and promote minority youths pursuit of careers in the sciences, specifically EH&S profession. This will allow us to reach a wider audience.

As indicated by our goals above, this year we are continuing the aggressive actions taken by the Minority SIG last year to continue to assure that MSIG reaches its fullest operating potential and continue to be recognized by AIHA as an

outstanding contributor. Under the leadership of Dr. James Lucas, Minority SIG was recognized as a “Rising Star” last year and we want to continue that recognition for our contribution to the industrial hygiene profession.

In addition, we are most excited that under the leadership of Dr. Slates and our Executive Committee, the Minority SIG has submitted another Roundtable Proposal for 2014’s AIHce in San Antonio titled: ‘Worker Training Outreach and Response to Hurricane Sandy: An Ongoing Effort’. We want to thank Ms. Sharon Beard, NIEHS for putting together the Roundtable and submitting it on behalf of the Minority SIG. If approved, our roundtable will feature the following speakers:

- J. Caravanos, PhD, CIH, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (EOHS), CUNY School of Public Health, New York City, New York, (AIHA Member)
- F. Condell, Tony Mazzocchi Center for Worker Health, Safety and Environmental Education (TMC), United Steelworkers (USW), Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- J.D. Rosen, MS CIH, AJ Rosen & Associates LLC, The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training, Schenectady, New York (AIHA Member)
- S.D. Beard, MS, Worker Education and Training Program, DERT, The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina Sharon Beard (ACGIH member)
- J.S. Morawetz, MS, Center for Worker Health & Safety Education, The International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC), Cincinnati, Ohio (ACGIH Member)

This will mark the fourth consecutive year that the Minority SIG has had the opportunity to host a roundtable at AIHce. By hosting these roundtable sessions, Minority SIG’s leadership continues to be recognized by AIHA, more importantly, our members’ expertise contributes to our industrial hygiene profession.

Last year our Past Chair, Mr. Aaron Jones undertook efforts to assure we establish sustainable outreach efforts that promote industrial hygiene, leading the development of a formal outreach awareness program. For those of you that are interested, reach out to Mr. Jones to assist in this initiative, which includes the development of a charter to better facilitate the process, define goals and objectives that increase Historic Black Colleges and Universities’ (HBCUs) student awareness in Industrial Hygiene/Environmental, Health & Safety as career choices.

To achieve this year’s aspirations, we need all Minority SIG members’ engagement and participation.

Let us continue to demonstrate to AIHA our value as Diversity Leaders!

I look forward to reaching out to you again to update you on the progress of our 2014 goals in our 2013-2014 Winter Newsletter.



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Happenings On The Hill

American Industrial Hygiene Association Government Affairs Department

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Access the following link for the January 2013 Happenings on the Hill:

<http://www.aiha.org/news-pubs/govtaffairs/Documents/Happenings-1-15-14.pdf>

For information on any of the items in this report, please contact Aaron Trippler.

Congress Back in Town

Congress returned to Washington earlier this month to begin the second session of the 113th Congress, a session that will culminate in the much anticipated mid-year election in November. While most do not expect 2014 to produce any legislation that will directly impact occupational safety and health there are still several issues that need to be monitored and discussed.

The Budget

Let’s start with the FY2014 budget – you know, the one that was supposed to begin last October 1, then resulted in a government shutdown, then resulted in a continuing resolution and a “peace treaty” so everyone could go home for the holidays, then resulted in the need for another 3-day continuing resolution today (January 15) so that Congress would have time prior to Saturday to come up with the remainder of the FY14 federal budget without shutting down the government again. Well, if all goes according to plan the Senate and the House will have agreed on this budget by the time you read this, or soon thereafter. Let’s take a look at what we know, or think we know about this budget:

OSHA

Fiscal Year 13 Budget \$569 million

Sequester Budget \$535.2 million

Final FY 14 Budget \$552.2 million

MSHA

Sequester Budget \$353.8 million

Final FY14 Budget \$375.9 million

NIOSH

Sequester Budget \$277 million

Final FY14 Budget \$292.3 million

Most notable in this budget is the fact that the Education Research Centers and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program remain funded through this year. If you recall, the White House recommended this funding be cut.

EPA

FY 14 Proposed \$8.153 billion

Final FY14 Budget \$8.196 billion

What's Next? In February the President will begin looking at requests for the FY15 budget. Word is he has requested agencies to submit budgets that reflect a 5 percent decrease.

Federal Contracting

Another issue receiving discussion on the Hill is one that has been debated for years – “Should federal contractors be required to meet all safety and health regulations prior to receiving federal contracts?” Both sides make a good argument on this one. There are those who say that no federal contract should ever be awarded to a contractor who has violated any occupational safety and health regulation or law. Makes sense – and a point that AIHA made many years ago. On the other hand, there are those who say there are simply too many contracts that must be awarded to require such a law and/or regulation; and how do you determine which regulations or laws are more serious than others? Another argument is what do you do about a contractor who has many contracts yet only one contract has a violation?

Interesting discussion and likely one that will continue.

One of Last OH&S Champions to Leave Congress

If it wasn't bad enough that many of the Members of Congress who strongly supported occupational safety and health are no longer serving, now one of the final remaining champions has decided to retire. Rep. George Miller (CA) is calling it quits after this session of Congress, having served in Congress since the early years of OSHA. Rep. Miller was for many years chairman of the subcommittee overseeing OSHA and was responsible for introducing many of the legislative bills to amend the OSH Act. Whether one agreed with the views of Rep. Miller or not, his retirement will leave a void in the number of supporters for OSHA and NIOSH.

Agency Activity Still High

The new year continued to bring a flurry of activity at agencies overseeing occupational safety and health. If the rest of 2014 is anywhere near the way it began we are in for a lot of activity and an increasing number of issues. Let's take a look at the latest news on the hottest issues:

OSHA

OSHA Proposed Silica Rule

It looks as if this issue has become the “number one” issue of the agency in 2014. OSHA has been moving quickly to propose the rule and the next couple of months will determine if the proposal has any chance of being implemented.

The first deadline will take place January 27 when comments on the proposed rule are due at OSHA. Following that will be the onset of public hearings that begin on March 18.

This issue is causing a lot of debate both within and outside the beltway. While much of the debate revolves around the proposed exposure level in the rule there are other areas that will cause concern for opponents of this rule; i.e., projected costs, scientific rationale used, even a voluntary request for commenters to provide financial disclosures.

Outlook – While probably the number one issue in 2014, the issue will be difficult to finalize.

Process Safety Management (PSM)

OSHA is considering making changes to the PSM standard, a standard that protects workers inside chemical plants. OSHA published a Request for Information (RFI) asking for information on specific rulemaking and policy options. Comments are due March 10.

Proposed Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses OSHA's proposed rule would require large employers to file their injury and illness data on a quarterly basis and smaller employers would be required to file on an annual basis. While OSHA says the proposed rule would not require employers to record any additional data from what is now required, the filing of the data is a huge change. OSHA believes the reporting requirement will improve worker health and safety. Opponent's question the reasons behind this new requirement and are very concerned about “privacy” issues. Comments on the proposed rule are due March 8.

Outlook – Another issue that will receive considerable debate. Don't look for the final rule to be implemented any time soon.

Beryllium

An issue still on the table at the agency. OSHA says it is still on track to publish a proposed rule in April of this year. Some say the agency has a draft standard ready to go, others say the agency is not that far along. Either way, the effort to lower the permissible exposure level for beryllium will be controversial. Insiders say the proposal would likely reduce the PEL from 2.0 micrograms of beryllium per cubic meter of air to 0.1 micrograms.

Outlook – Will be interesting to see if the agency can propose a rule in the midst of all of the other activity. Of course, the first step is to send a proposed draft to the White

House for review – and we all know how long that can take (see two and half year review of the silica proposed rule).

Safe patient Handling

While legislation in Congress to require OSHA to enact a safe patient handling standard stands little chance of passage, the agency has decided on its own to move forward in addressing the issue, at least partly. OSHA announced today its plans to unveil new resources to protect hospital workers. The new efforts will include educational web resources with materials to help hospitals prevent worker injuries, assess workplace safety needs, enhance safe patient handling programs and implement safety and health management systems. Not a law or a standard – but a start.

Combustible Dust

OSHA issued a memorandum on December 31 with an interpretation on how agency inspectors will decide whether or not products are classified properly for combustible dust hazards under the new hazard communication standard.

Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)

There continues to be much discussion about the VPP. After several years of supporters of the program defending the program to OSHA, the Administration and Congress (succeeding in maintaining funding for the program) the program has now come under some fire from the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General.

A report issued in December finds that more than 10 percent of VPP employers had injury and illness rates above industry averages or have been cited for violations. Bottom line on the report – the Inspector General recommends OSHA improve its oversight of the VPP and re-evaluate its policy of allowing worksites with high injury and illness rates to remain in the program.

Future Concern for OSHA?

A recent decision by the Supreme Court justices may have future repercussions for OSHA. The justices in a conference decided to turn down review of a case of “OSHA preemption of local safety codes, thereby upholding a lower court ruling.

The case goes back a few years to when there were several crane accidents in New York City. The City of New York then implemented regulations that were much stricter than those set by OSHA. Several in industry filed a lawsuit against the City stating that City regulations could not preempt federal regulations. The lower court ruled that the City had the right to impose stricter regulations.

NIOSH Draft Carcinogen Policy

NIOSH is seeking comments (due February 13) on its draft carcinogen bulletin that updates the policy for classifying chemical carcinogens. The Institute hopes to evaluate whether or not the proposed carcinogen policies are

consistent with the current scientific knowledge of toxicology, risk assessment, industrial hygiene and occupational cancer.

Nanotechnology Strategy

NIOSH published (December 26) the latest strategic plan for nanotechnology research. The first strategic plan on this issue was issued in 2005 and the latest plan will guide the Institute through 2016. NIOSH states that much has been learned since 2005 and there is more knowledge of the risks to workers. The latest plan focuses on identifying new hazards, clarifying initial hazard findings, developing updated guidance, conduct a study of workers exposed and assessing whether the guidance is being followed. (There isn't any doubt that NIOSH is, and remains, the lead on the issue of nanotechnology and its potential hazards.)

And Finally...

Most of the State Legislatures have started their 2014 legislative sessions with introduction of numerous bills. AIHA government affairs has been kept plenty busy scanning these bills (approximately 250 per day) for any issues that might impact the profession occupational safety and health. Look for a summary in the next issue.

Featured Article

Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter- Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC)

Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

Many people prefer to remain indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

- Winterize your home.
 - Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
 - Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.
- Check your heating systems.
 - Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
 - Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
 - Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly.
 - Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.
 - Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries regularly.

- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea, and disorientation.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.
- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.
- Follow these safety rules if you become stranded in your car.
 - Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away, but continue to move arms and legs.
 - Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.
 - Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour.
 - Keep a downwind window open.
 - Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked.

Above all, be prepared to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink. No one can stop the onset of winter. However, if you follow these suggestions, you will be ready for it when it comes.

For more information-

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/>

Upcoming Events & Items of Interest

❖ 2013 AIHce-Montreal, QC

Round Table 245 “New Pathways to Achieve Safety Performance: Worker Training & Human Factors” was held in the Montreal Convention Center in Palais 511a on Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM.

The featured Round Table speaker was Samuel A. Oyewole, Ph.D., U.S. Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board along with other distinguished speakers, including the following:

- Sharon Beard, Industrial Hygienist/Program Administrator, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH, DHHS Division Extramural Research & Training Program Worker Education & Training Branch
- Nancy Lawrence, Ph.D., Associate Professor Applied Aviation Safety Sciences
- Bruce Lippy, Ph.D., CIH, CSP, The Lippy Group, LLC
- Buck Cameron, CIH, Center to Protect Workers’ Rights Strategic Solutions



MSIG Networking Dinner

The networking dinner was held that evening (May 21, 2013) at Mango Bay restaurant. **We had a great time!**

❖ Embracing MSIG’s Future – Accomplishments!!

- ★ Outstanding Volunteer Group/Red Carpet Club
- ★ 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Group
- ★ 2013 Rising Star Award
- ★ MSIG’s Board Coordinator and Executive Committee must enhance communications and goals setting alignment with AIHA
- ★ Michael Amster & MSIG’s Executive Committee
- ★ Pro-active participation and leadership on Indigo Council
- ★ Collaboration with Training & Communication Methods, Law & Management Committees
- ★ Develop, drive and deploy sustainable strategy to increase membership partnering with Director, Membership Committee



Way to go MSIG!!

❖ Embracing MSIG’s Future

- ★ *Enhance Mentoring Program – Valerie Murray*
 - EC to revitalize partnership and support of Mentoring Program Administrator to drive better membership engagement and participation
 - Mentor-Mentee Pair
- ★ *Increase awareness of Industrial Hygiene profession*
 - EC to brainstorm a strategic approach
 - EC to leverage better collaboration and partnership with ASSE’s BISE
 - Teleconferences with ASSE’s-BISE Chair
 - MSIG Chair wrote an article for BISE’s Newsletter
- ★ *Initial targeted educational institutions/ Career Workshops at HBCU’s [Future project]*
- ★ *Collegian organizations [e.g. NSBE – Future project]*

❖ **2014 AIHce roundtable application was sent!**

Round Table “*New Pathways to Achieve Safety Performance: Worker Training and Human Factors.*”

- **Abstract-** On October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy, one of the largest and fiercest storms to threaten the East Coast, made landfall in New Jersey. Homes, buildings, and utilities were destroyed by wind and flood, and mold also prevailed. As homeowners, business owners, and cleanup workers return to their homes and properties and attempt to recover, they are faced with various hazards caused by the disaster. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) were actively involved in preparing and training cleanup workers, homeowners, and volunteers about the hazards that can be found in impacted areas. Day laborers, homeowners, and volunteers play a huge role in the cleanup of the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Courses taught include, mold awareness and remediation, gutting and mucking, and disaster safety awareness, OSHA 10 and they were offered in both English and Spanish. During this session, NIEHS will share best practices in developing and adapting training curricula to meet the need of a diverse training population, recruitment and outreach disaster response zone and evaluations to better assess the quality of the training.

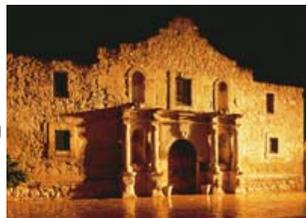
➤ **Roundtable Participants:**

- ★ Sharon Beard
- ★ Jonathan Rosen
- ★ John Morawetz
- ★ Frank Condell
- ★ Jack Caravanos



Our Roundtable has been approved!

❖ **2014 AIHce- San Antonio, TX**



Mark Your Calendars...
May 31-June 5th, 2014 YEEHAA!!!!!!

❖ **Mentoring Program**

Mentoring Program Update

MSIG members are encouraged to participate in the Mentoring Program for 2014-2015. The program is open for those that are interested in either mentoring a junior IH professional or learning from an experienced IH professional. The Program is about developing a relationship that allows for sharing information, discussing technical and emerging issues, collaborating, and enhancing your leadership skills. Additionally, you build your professional network by meeting and working with others internal to the IH profession.

If you are interested in participating as either a mentor or mentee, please contact Valerie Murray, Mentoring Committee Chair, at Valerie.Murray@bp.com or [281-366-6352](tel:281-366-6352).

There is an application to complete to assist with the mentor/mentee pairing relationship. Please submit your application no later than March 31, 2014.

❖ **Job Postings**

✓ ***Sr. Health & Safety Specialist Opportunity in North Carolina***

BurkeHR has a newly announced opportunity for a Sr. Health & Safety Specialist working for a Fortune 100 company at its NC facility. You'll be responsible for all aspects of environmental & plant health & safety including: design & implementation of safety policies & procedures, OSHA compliance, work site safety practices training, incident tracking & analysis, random drug screening process, and facility inspection & screening for potential safety & health hazards. You'll administer plant security including interfacing with contract security vendor, card access system administration, and plant evacuation procedures. The company is ISO 14001 certified and OHSAS 18000. The facility is non-union, has ~800 associates and is located in the Raleigh/Durham area. The compensation for this position is 70-85K plus generous bonus and benefits. A very comprehensive relocation package.

This is a take charge, empowered position requiring acute business acumen, solid technical skills and functional expertise. The ability to build cohesive teams across all levels of staff & management and form solid partnerships in support of company goals are personal attributes you'll need.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree
- 5 years minimum environmental health & safety experience in a manufacturing environment

- Strong knowledge of OSHA
- Familiarity with DuPont STOP program
- Computer proficiencies
- Excellent oral & written communication skills

If this position sounds interesting to you, please send your resume to:

Please reference job# NC9792 in the subject line. Feel free to forward this information to anyone you think might be interested. If you have any questions regarding this position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We have a variety of other interesting job postings you might be interested in learning about. Join our network! We will share future opportunities with you.

Burke HR is a professional recruiting firm specializing in placement of Environmental, Health & Safety & Human Resources Professionals nationwide since 1995.

Burke HR guarantees your privacy. Your resume and personal information will be kept strictly confidential unless you instruct us to submit it to a potential employer. Call us or send your resume to:

Have a safe day!

Tom Burke
BurkeHR.com
[\(815\) 758-6903](tel:8157586903)

✓ **Johnson & Johnson- Global Lead Safety Data Sheet Program & GHS Manager GHS-0000JT0**

Basic purpose of the role- Provide leadership for the J&J Global Safety Data Sheet (SDS) program and lead compliance with the GHS regulations worldwide.

For more information
<https://njc.taleo.net/careersection/1/jobdetail.ft>

✓ **Health and Safety Associates: AM Health & Safety, Inc.**, a professional safety and health consulting company based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is seeking two industrial hygienists with 0 to 2 years of experience in industrial hygiene. Persons in this position will conduct industrial hygiene services for clients requiring application of engineering principles and technology to analyze and control conditions contributing to occupational hazards and diseases. Duties include, but are not limited to:

Position Description & Responsibilities:

- Conducting plant or area surveys to determine exposures to materials or

conditions such as temperatures, noise, dusts, fumes, vapors, mists, gases, solvents and radiation, which are known or suspected of being real or potential health hazards.

- Implementing or recommending control measures for exposure to hazardous materials or conditions.
- Participates in the presentation of safety and health training.
- Prepares professional survey reports on services provided.
- Establishes and develops client relationships.
- Assists in prompt and accurate preparation of project invoices.

Candidates must have:

- Good problem-solving skills,
- Proficiency in computer use including Microsoft Excel and Word applications,
- Good oral and written communication skills,
- Good organizational and time management skills.

Job requires approximately 50% travel, however most travel usually does not involve overnight stays.

This job provides an excellent opportunity to apply a science-based academic background through the diverse practice of industrial hygiene varied industrial settings.

Educational Background and Experience:

- A B.S or M.S. degree in industrial hygiene, or equivalent degrees in related sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, life sciences, etc.) and a willingness to learn and apply industrial hygiene principles at client facilities.

AM H&S Provides Full Benefits; Health, Dental, AD&D, Life, LTD, STD, Company matched 401 (k). Competitive starting salary.

Salary is commensurate upon education and experience.

To Apply - Please send resume and qualifications to:

Mr. Barry Momyer
AM Health and Safety, Inc.
email to: bmomyer@amehealthandsafety.com
5177 Campbells Run Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205.
Phone: 412-429-0560
Fax 412-429-5188

AM Health and Safety, Inc. is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

- ❖ **Communications Committee-** The Communications Committee is still looking for volunteers to help in the preparation of the newsletters. Thanks to Ms. Nycole Garcia for joining the group as an editor.

If you are interested in helping with the newsletter and communicating our news etc. please let Mrs. Lucinette Alvarado
lalvarado@amhealthandsafety.com.

Members please get involved in the AIHA through membership in other SIGs and subcommittees.
Thank you for your support!



Be Safe during the winter!!!!

Communications Committee Members

Lucinette Alvarado
Nycole Garcia
Azita Cuevas

For story ideas and comments, please contact us at
lalvarado@amhealthandsafety.com



"Addressing issues within the industrial and environmental health profession that uniquely affect minorities... as well as those concerns that affect disadvantaged and low income workers and other members of the community."