

California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) August 2011 Update

CIHC Conference, December 5 - 7, 2011, San Francisco, the Hotel Nikko —The 21st Annual CIHC Conference planning is nearing completion and will be open for registration soon! Confirmed topics include the following, among others:

- * Emerging Issues in Sustainability and Nanotechnology
- * Environmental Drivers and Global Energy Issues
- * Non-Traditional IH Practice
- * Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Two of the featured speakers include the new chief of Cal/OSHA, Ellen Widess, and Dr. John Howard, Director NIOSH. It will be a conference you won't want to miss. So, keep an eye on <http://www.cihconline.com> for the complete conference agenda, vendor opportunities and online registration.

CIHC Board Activity –

- The CIHC Board met in Southern California on July 7. The focus of the meeting was to review and discuss the legislative update for the current session and various board activities and business. Two bills (SB 432 and AB 1136 -- both ergonomic bills) are of particular interest and CIHC's Ed Klinenberg and Cathy Barankin of Sacramento Advocacy are tracking both closely. The Board is also working towards providing interim briefings to legislative committees on a few critical items that would strengthen legislative members' appreciation for industrial hygiene practice and principles.
- CIHC has proposed two bills to introduce in the next legislative session—one on codifying the Cal-OSHA PEL process; the second on CIH's supervising exposure sampling. CIHC met with several Sacramento lobbyists and other interested stakeholders to ensure we secure their feedback before its introduction. Cathy Barankin will discuss potential sponsorship of these bills with Senator Calderon. Cathy and Howard Spielman will assume lead roles in this effort going forward.
- CIHC submitted and personally met with the legislative aide responsible for Assembly Member Monning's proposed bill AB 553 regarding the rights of workers to be protected from exposure to hazardous substances and toxic materials in the workplace. The national AIHA, in parallel, also submitted formal comments on AB 553 (CIHC helped coordinate their input) after having its Risk Assessment Committee review the proposed Bill's provisions. Of greatest concern was the proposed provision to use the most conservative risk assessment when developing exposure guidelines. As of 5/27/11, AB 553 is being held under submission in the Assembly Appropriations Committee after a second hearing. Typically, this means the bill is dead but is expected to revive next year. Lead stewards included Cathy Barankin, Howard Spielman, Ron Hutton and Chris Laszcz-Davis.

- CIHC and local sections are involved in Cal-OSHA's PEL process (Howard Spielman, Steve Derman and Jim Unmack in the HEAC process; Ron Hutton in the FAC process).
- CIHC also has representation at Cal-OSHA Standards Advisory Committee meetings (Leo Vortouni primary rep, with Joel Cohen as alternate). This representation ensures that "Occupational and Environmental Health" has a voice at the table.
- CIHC recently submitted comments to the Honorable Daniel Inouye in support of continued NIOSH funding for ERCs across the country, as well as comments to the Governor about the discussion surrounding elimination of Cal-OSHA's Standards Board. Both sets of comments are posted to the CIHC website.
- CIHC continues to follow and affirmatively engage in the state Green Chemistry Initiative discussions. Chris Laszcz-Davis has been particularly busy on this front since the last update. The National AIHA Board had requested that CIHC weigh in on a Green Chemistry position paper which had been submitted to it for broader professional consideration. Additionally, Chris was invited to participate in a small group meeting on Green Chemistry in Sacramento, attended also by Debbie Raphael, the new Cal-EPA DTSC Chief. The primary topic was how to strengthen seasoned stakeholder input to the Initiative and its key features (namely life cycle analysis, alternative analysis, etc.). Chris was also asked to present a talk on California's experience with the Green Chemistry Initiative and its potential impact at the recent AIHce in Portland, OR.
- And finally, CIHC board members met with both Ellen Widess and Deborah Gold to discuss CIHC's desire to work with them in supporting good science on EH&S issues moving forward.

CIHC Board Members Representing NCS—Going into 2011, the CIHC Board representation from NCS is as follows: CIHC President, Chris Laszcz-Davis, MS, CIH, REA and Patty Beach, MS, CIH, REA are now in the new NCS primary representative roles; Joel Cohen, CIH, CSP, although still quite active, is now in the NCS Alternate role.

The CIHC also has non-Board scientific advisors it relies upon to steward the CIHC efforts/awareness of issues critical to California Industrial Hygienists. They include—Larry Gibbs, Stanford University (nanomaterials) and Jackie Luca, formerly of Northrup Grumman (green chemistry). As future issues arise, we hope to reach out and draw upon our local section experts and bring them into the dialogue.

CIHC's next meeting is scheduled for September, 2011 (specific date TBD) at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. Local section members are invited to attend. Minutes from all meetings are available on our website at www.cihconline.com. Feel free to contact us—we need your input and insights!

Jeff King, CIH
 Jim Messelbeck, CIH
 Ann Graham, CIH (alternate)
 SD-AIHA Representatives to CIHC