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MIHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH

The vital component to any professional organization such as MIHS is the membership. Obviously, without a membership there would not be an organization, but more importantly without an active membership the organization would simply be an acronym that persons could place on a resume. It is through the efforts of MIHS members that MIHS continues to provide tangible, quality benefits to its membership at large. Quality professional development courses available locally with approved ABIH CM points and a website to register for courses, renew your membership, and track ABIH CM points are just two of these benefits. It is through the hard work of the MIHS officers and board, and the newly elected candidates, that MIHS will continue to be a strong organization.

While the ballot has been completed for the upcoming year, I encourage members to get involved with MIHS within the next year at any level that can accommodate the constraints of their professional and personal lives. Assisting with the various committees is a great way to start. For example, the programs committee often needs assistance in making phone calls to arrange for speakers and meeting facilities. If you could spare a half an hour to make a few phone calls on behalf of this committee, your contributions would be invaluable. If you have a knack for writing, the communications/newsletter committee is always looking for articles to publish in the quarterly newsletter. The awards committee always needs assistance in reviewing journal articles for determining the recipient of the MIHS Best Paper Award. The community outreach committee is always looking for ways to get the word out about the industrial hygiene profession and would entertain any new ideas you may have. These are just a few ways you could be involved at the committee level. If you are interested, please contact me or any other MIHS board member.

If you would like to go a step further and be in charge of one of the various committees, then becoming a candidate to serve as an MIHS officer or board member next year (2005-2006) would be the direction to take. Board members and officers typically serve as the

chairpersons of the various committees and have influence in determining the overall direction MIHS should be pursuing. Additionally, as an MIHS officer you can earn ABIH CM points! Again, if you are at all interested in being involved with MIHS at the board and officer level, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other MIHS board member. We would be happy to discuss the various positions and what may be best suited for you.

As many of our membership are experiencing "downsizing", "reorganization", or as I have recently heard "optimization", the time to commit to volunteer in MIHS is very limited. Along with limited time for MIHS, members may also have limited opportunities for pursuing ABIH CM points due to budgetary constraints. These are even more reason to become involved in some capacity with MIHS! I envision that if we could simply double the number of MIHS members involved in everything from program planning to community outreach there would be at least two major effects. First the amount of time a person would have to commit to MIHS would be much less, and secondly, the quality and number of CM point opportunities locally would be even greater.

Please consider becoming more involved in the local connection to your industrial hygiene peers in Michigan. Your efforts will not only benefit you professionally, but also benefit the entire MIHS membership.

It has been a pleasure serving you as MIHS President over the past year and look forward to fulfilling my duties as Past-President over the next year.

Regards,

Gerald Plattenberg, CIH
MIHS President

MIHS Best Student Awards Night - March 2, 2004

By Laura Randall, CIH, MIHS Board

The MIHS Student Night meeting was held on March 2, 2004 at the Italian Epicure in Novi, Michigan. One of MIHS's objectives is to support a Best Student Award annually for students enrolled in local university industrial hygiene programs. A faculty member from each respective university recognized the following students at the dinner meeting (in alphabetical order):

- Elizabeth Habel, Oakland University
- Aaron Jones, University of Michigan
- Melissa May, Wayne State University

MIHS presented each award recipient with a plaque and a \$100 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. Students were selected from their respective universities for this recognition. Please join MIHS in congratulating these students!

Thank you to Rich McLonis, CIH, MIHS Board, for taking the pictures at this event.



WSU Best Student.
Jerry Plattenberg, MIHS President, Dr. Bonita Taffe, WSU, and Melissa May, WSU Best Student.



OU Best Student.
Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President, Charles McGlothlin, OU, and Elizabeth Habel OU Best Student.



Some of the Oakland University attendees.



Some of the Wayne State attendees.



U of M Best Student.
Lisa Quiggle, MIHS President-Elect, Richard Garrison UM, Gerry Plattenberg, MIHS President, and Aaron Jones UM Best Student.

WHAT'S IN THE SYNERGIST/DIPLOMATE?

by Laura Randall, M.S., CIH, MIHS Board

I am sure that all of you, in one way or another, have been adversely affected by someone in the IH/EHS field who had questionable credentials. With so many "certifications" and "diploma mills", people outside of the IH/EHS field may have difficulty determining which professional credentials are reputable and which are not. This can be especially concerning when hiring for an IH/EHS job position or when contracting IH/EHS services. There is hope. The following article discusses a plan in which ISO/IEC are initiating a standardized operating certification system that will be administered by ANSI in the U.S.

(This article was reprinted with permission from The Diplomat.)

Bogus Credentials

By Jim Thornton, CIH, CSP

There are approximately 300 certifications available to EHS professionals; many of them are available through purchase without demonstrating knowledge and proficiency in the area of certification. What was formerly a fairly limited and well-defined system of credentialing is now so muddled and confusing that it is difficult to determine what is real.

Further adding to the confusion is the term "accreditation." Accrediting agencies for EHS certification include the National Skill Standards Board, the Council of Engineering Specialty Boards and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

Now, Washington is getting concerned about misleading credentials, evidenced by the U.S. General Accounting Office's 2003 report Purchases of Degrees From Diploma Mills. In the report, the GAO describes the ability of a noted U.S. senator to obtain a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in medical technology for \$1,500 from a diploma mill.

These diploma mills now pose a threat to national

security. Several of the 9/11 terrorists were able to enter the United States on student visas obtained from diploma mills. The Patriot Act and other antiterrorism laws require employers to develop and implement vulnerability assessments. Indeed, possession of a valid degree is usually an essential component of professional credentialing.

ISO/IEC 17024

However, there is an effort to clear up this confusion among the many certification programs throughout the world. The International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission have initiated a new global standard designed to standardize operating certification systems. It is ISO/IEC 17024-2003, General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification Systems of Persons. ANSI will administer the standard in the United States. BCSP announced in August 2003 that it was among the first five certification bodies in any field to have met the standard within the United States.

The potential impact of ISO/IEC 17024 will be significant. It will likely become the universally accepted standard for professional competency and certification. Given this backdrop, the many EHS certifications must have their certifications accredited by ISO/IEC/ANSI-those that do not will likely experience significant dilution of their marketability and value.

Thornton is director of health, safety and environment for Northrup Grumman Newport News, Newport News, Va. He can be reached at jimt5@cox.net.

Upcoming Events

ABIH Question Writing Session Earn a CIH CM Point!
April 27, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Safety Council for Southeast in Southfield

CIH participants should bring their favorite textbooks and plan lunch on their own. A continental breakfast will be provided. You must be a CIH to attend.

To register, go to the www.MIHSweb.org, and click on Event Registration. For more information, contact Nancy McClellan 248-828-8103 mmc1431@wideopenwest.com

Michigan Safety Conference - April 20-21, 2004
Lansing Center - Lansing, Michigan
To register, go to: www.michsafetyconf.org or contact: dmemcginn@aol.com or call 517-333-3628

Past-President's Breakfast Meeting
May 5, 2004 - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Holiday Inn/Laurel Park Place, Livonia, Michigan
Cost: \$20/person for non Past-Presidents
To register, go to the www.MIHSweb.org, and click on Event Registration.

A Reminder to All Members...

Please be aware that you have the ability to update your member profile information by logging into the "Members Area" at www.mihsweb.org. After logging into the "Members Area", select "Update your Profile" located under the members only area links. Simply click on "Edit Profile" and you will be able to change your password, name, address, phone, etc. Once you have made the necessary changes, you must click on "Save Changes" to update the database.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Berryman, at (248) 649-3075.

MIHS 2004-2005 Election Results

Officers:

Lisa Quiggle, President-Elect
Tim Kearney, Treasurer
Bill Cleary, Secretary

Board Members:

Sharkey Mingela
Tracy Parsons
Pier-George Zanoni
Carrie Ziehl-Brown

Thank you to outgoing Board Members Andrew Berryman, Scott Hoag and Suzanne Monahan, and outgoing Officers, Deb Moilanen and John Rioux. Thank you for all of your hard work!



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MIHS Organizational Members

Each year the activities of the MIHS have been supported by our Organizational Members. The MIHS appreciates the support and generosity of our Organizational Members.

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