

California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC)

May 2010 Update

CIHC is busy on many fronts! First, we are in the planning stages of our 20th Annual Conference. This year's Conference will be December 6- 8, 2010 in lovely San Diego, CA at the Westgate Hotel, the same hotel in which we held our 2008 Conference.

Those who attended our 2009 conference in San Francisco gave the conference excellent ratings and, overall, we too thought the Conference was a huge success. Our attendees have certainly suggested that the CIHC Annual Conference is becoming the preeminent pacific coast regional conference for safety and health professionals. We are attempting to make this year's conference even better and have made a serious review of your evaluations, planning to use many of your suggestions in terms of topics, speakers and conference room amenities. Look for the "Save the Date" notice which should be going out in the next month or so. If there is a particular topic you are specifically interested in or have heard a first rate presentation others could also benefit from, please let us know so we can make it part of this year's Conference.

In March 2010, CIHC held a Board meeting at the offices of our lobbyist Sacramento Advocacy to review current bills submitted to the California Legislature. A total of 66 environmental, health & safety bills were selected this year for follow-up tracking and action. Most will remain in a 'watch' mode as we monitor the bills' activity in committee. The CIHC remains in close communication with the national AIHA governmental affairs office to ensure alignment at both the Federal and State governmental regulatory/legislative levels.

This March Board meeting also welcomed a couple new CIHC Board members after others moved off the Board following years of service. The Board continues to be replenished with new perspectives.

From a more affirmative standpoint, CIHC is moving forward with a bill initiated by us which would amend the Injury and Illness Prevention Plan by requiring employers to monitor their workplace for airborne contaminants under the supervision of a CIH and to require analysis by an AIHA-accredited laboratory. It is our belief that a trained and experienced Industrial Hygienist can ensure greater degree of hazard analysis accuracy and precision so that appropriate precautions can be adopted by the employer to minimize the companion risks.

CIHC is exploring the possibility of forming alliances with other groups that have similar legislative/regulatory interests. At this point, no formal action has been taken, but we have begun to dialogue with parties aligned with our overall mission. This effort (and the ability to leverage resources) will take on more momentum this year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 15 at the Oakland Airport. Local section members are invited to attend any of our meetings. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can make the proper accommodations. Our minutes will always be available on our website at www.cihconline.com. Feel free to contact us for we value your input!

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