



# AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION



## Pittsburgh Local Section Newsletter March 2015

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## Register Now!



Health and Safety in the Oil and Gas Industry: Construction to Production.  
Please join the Pittsburgh AIHA on Wednesday, March 18

Presenter: Pat Carfagna, CIH Consol Energy

The event will include a presentation titled *Health And Safety in the Oil and Gas Industry: Construction to Production.*

The phases of natural gas well development and the health and safety hazards associated with each phase. Particular attention will be given to the completions (commonly called "fracking") portion of the operation, and the technology that has been deployed to reduce silica exposure.

**Date:** March 18, 2015

**Time:** 12:00 –2:30 PM

**Location:** [Bella Sera, Canonsburg PA](#)

**Cost:** \$25 member/non-member.

Students are free.

**Cost includes:** Lunch Buffet

[Bistro at Bella Sera](#)



**Register online before  
March 16, 2015**



### Welcome to new Pittsburgh AIHA Members:

- Nathan Shaffer, Northeast Energy Management
- Jeremy Slagely, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- William Stewart, W&A Analytical

**Congratulations to Pittsburgh AIHA Member Del Kubeldis, CIH, CSP, ARM** who is now working at Amerisafe Consulting and Safety Services (ACSS) as Director of Field Operations. Del previously worked for Willis and is a long-time member of the Pittsburgh AIHA.

## Oil and Gas Industry Information Available on OSHA.gov

The oil and gas industry employs hundreds of thousands of people and is a vital component of the national economy. Worker safety and health are important to this industry. OSHA has a great deal of information related to the Oil and Gas Industry on [their website](#) including individual webpages identifying:

- Safety and Health Hazards Associated with Oil and Gas Extraction Activities
- Standards and Enforcement
- Additional Resources

Additional highlights found on the website include:

- [Oil and Gas Well Servicing eTool](#)
- OSHA [frequently asked questions about silica and hydraulic fracturing](#).
- [Industry Profile: Oil and Gas Well Drilling and Servicing \(PDF\)](#).
- OSHA Worker InfoSheet on [Silica Exposure during Hydraulic Fracturing \(PDF\)](#)
- [Keeping Workers Safe During Oil Spill Response](#).

Additional information: [OSHA's Oil & Gas Extraction Webpage](#).

## Meeting Review: January 21 Building Science and IEQ Investigations

Submitted by Stan Liang, CIH, CSP—Director Pgh. AIHA

The January 21, 2015 AIHA Pittsburgh chapter meeting was held at the AM Health & Safety training facility in Robinson, PA. Mr. Joe Hughes, President of the Indoor Air Quality Training Institute and co host of Indoor Air Quality radio, was the presenter. The presentation "Building Science and IEQ Investigations" was a two hour overview of the field of building science and its role in the indoor air quality investigations. Joe provided examples of the many factors that determine whether a building will provide an acceptable indoor environment for its occupants such as the building envelope, ventilation systems, and climate. Joe drew on his indoor air quality investigation experience to provide examples of how failure to follow good building design practice caused indoor air quality complaints such as mold. Thank you to AM Health & Safety for hosting the event, and thank you to the following members who attended the meeting:

John Bell, Kinder Morgan  
George Bender, GHB Consulting Svs., LLC  
Darrick Bertig, FirstEnergy  
Dave Brogan, Bristol Environmental  
Barbara Cummings, PPG Industries, Inc.  
Carol Delfino, SE Technologies, Inc.  
Irwin Dobrushin, IJD Env. Health & Safety  
Sharon Fanchalsky, US Micro-Solutions  
Dan Flanagan, Port Authority of Alleg. Cty.

David Hanshew, Instrumentation Sys., Inc.  
Robert Haushalter, Duquesne University  
Allison Insley, Cardno ChemRisk  
Dennis Kelly, Sunoco Logistics Partners LP  
Herb Layman, US Micro-Solutions  
Stan Liang, AM Health & Safety  
Evelyn Majoris, Bayer MaterialScience  
Matt Manna, PPG Industries  
Barry Momyer, AM Health & Safety

Julie Panko, Cardno ChemRisk  
Frank Pokrywka, University of Pgh.  
Keith Rickabaugh, RJ Lee Group  
Maureen Sammons, EMSL Analytical, Inc.  
Steve Stockton  
Jennifer Ungvarsky, LANXESS Corp.  
Matt Zock, FedEx Ground

## AIHA Pittsburgh Local Section on LinkedIn and Facebook

Submitted by Stan Liang, CIH,  
CSP—Director Pgh. AIHA



The AIHA Pittsburgh Chapter has entered the social media age with accounts on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#). These accounts provide new ways for us to communicate with our membership. This includes the opportunity to respond to our posts (such as "liking" them on Facebook) and another way to share news about our chapter with colleagues and friends. Social media is also a way for information on our jobsite, such as job postings, to reach a wider audience. For example, some of the followers of our social media accounts are industrial hygiene professionals who are not currently in the Pittsburgh area but want to maintain or establish a connection with fellow industrial hygienists in the Pittsburgh area. For now, we are starting small by posting entries as we update our website. In the future, we hope to provide additional opportunities for our members to interact with each other such as discussion forums. We are always on the look out for new ways to use social media to serve our membership, grow the number of followers on our social media accounts, and increase our reach in the social media space. Please contact Christy Kirsch at [kirsch211@comcast.net](mailto:kirsch211@comcast.net) with your suggestions.

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## February 2015 President's Luncheon "AIHA's Strategic Direction: Pulling It All Together"

The Pittsburgh AIHA held its annual "President's Luncheon" on Wednesday, February 18 at the LeMont Restaurant on Mt. Washington. The views were hindered by bursts of snowfall outside, but we all enjoyed the social interaction among old friends and colleagues along with a delicious lunch. Following lunch, our returning guest speaker, Dan Anna, Senior Industrial Hygienist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, and current President-Elect of the National AIHA gave a presentation on the status of the National AIHA's process of updating their strategic direction. Dan's presentation provided an overview of the current activities, the Envisioned Future Project, and content focus areas. Attendees were asked to provide input to the strategy development process through facilitated discussions centered on the six identified prioritized focus areas:

The six areas are:

- **Organization-driven content strategy**
  - What activities could drive AIHA's content focus and dissemination?

- **Create personalized premium member benefits**
  - What might be some value-added benefits for different member segments?
- **Science collaborations to produce new content**
  - How could AIHA build/lead a coalition to advance IH science?
  - How could AIHA engage in partnerships to facilitate member access to broader content while increasing revenue?
- **Align resources to support career stages**
  - What can AIHA do to support career development of members and students?
- **Local Section support system**
  - In what ways could AIHA strengthen partnerships with local sections to increase value and community?
- **Convene scientific summit**
  - How can this be used to increase value to members? How can it be used to enhance the professional knowledge base?

Dan's presentation is available for those who were unable to attend. [Click Here to open the presentation.](#)

Thank you to the following members/guests in attendance:

George Bender, GHB Consulting Services LLC  
 Dan Davis, Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
 Sharon Fanchalsky, U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.  
 Joni Ferrara, Kop-Coat, Inc.  
 Dan Flanagan, Port Authority of Allegheny County  
 Caitlin Fobes, Colden Corporation  
 Dave Hanshaw, Instrumentation Systems Inc.  
 Sean James, Skelly and Loy, Inc.  
 Jonathan Kang, WVU Industrial Hygiene Student  
 Dennis Kelly, Sunoco Logistics Partners LP  
 Christy Kirsch, Pittsburgh AIHA  
 Herb Layman, US Micro-Solutions, Inc.  
 Stan Liang, AM Health & Safety, Inc.  
 Michael McElhinny, Colden Corporation  
 Keenan Monaghan, WVU Industrial Hygiene Student  
 Tad Pajak, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company  
 Frank Pokrywka, University of Pittsburgh  
 Bernie Quinn, AM Health & Safety, Inc.  
 Keith Rickabaugh, RJ Lee Group, Inc.  
 Maureen Sammons, EMSL Analytical, Inc.  
 Raffie Sessa, RCS Health & Safety Consulting, LLC  
 Rick Slinkard, CIH Services, Inc.  
 Michele Slinkard, CIH Services, Inc.  
 Steve Stockton  
 Paula Sweitzer, Duquesne University  
 Arthur Thurdekoos, WVU Industrial Hygiene Student  
 John Valentine, WVU Industrial Hygiene Student  
 Dietrich Weyel, Occupational Health Consultants, Inc.  
 Matt Zock, FedEx Ground

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## Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section Election Results

The votes have been tallied as we conclude our 2015-2016 Election. A total of 61 votes were counted. Thank you to all members who participated in the election and took the time to vote!

Congratulations to **Dennis Kelly** who was selected as **President-Elect** and **Matt Zock, CIH** who was selected as **Director**. Both will begin their terms this summer. Also continued thanks to **Frank Pokrywka, CIH** who remains the Secretary for another two years. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Pittsburgh AIHA!

## AIHA Pittsburgh Sponsors The 76th Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair



In 2015, the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) will celebrate its 76th year of open competition of research projects in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering on March 27(competition day) and March 28 (awards ceremony) at Heinz Field.

In 2014, nearly 1,100 students from over 100 schools competed for \$1M in cash prizes, scholarships and trips. The 2014 Science Fair was co-sponsored by Chevron, FedEx Ground, United States Steel Corporation and various foundations, universities, colleges, industries, corporations, and professional societies.

This competition is open to all students in grades 6-12 from 23 counties in Western Pennsylvania, three counties in West Virginia and Garrett County in Maryland.

Once again the Pittsburgh AIHA is participating in this event in two ways – we are a proud sponsor, and four of our members will serve as judges and award two cash prizes to student projects related to the Industrial Hygiene industry. Special thanks to Pittsburgh AIHA Members: Tad Pajak (Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty), Michael Slinkard (CIH Services, Inc.), Frank Pokrywka, CIH (Univ. of Pgh.), and Dietrich Weyel, CIH (Occupational Health Consultants, Inc. ) for participating as judges this year.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.scitechfestival.org/mainsf.asp>

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## Pittsburgh AIHA Unpaid Dues 2015

*by Christy Kirsch, Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Coordinator*

There are still a number of members who have not paid their 2015 dues, these people have been notified via email. Reminder—The Natl. AIHA collects local section dues and automatically deposits payments to Pgh. AIHA, which is an easy / efficient method, also reducing the amount of paperwork through this process. Pgh. AIHA members are encouraged to take advantage of this payment method:

- **Local Section Dues Renewal for non-AIHA members:**  
<http://webportal.aiha.org/LogIn/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fcustom%2fOnlineLocalSection.aspx>. Please note, each non-AIHA member will need to have an AIHA profile. If he/she does not have a profile, please click "Sign Up as a New Individual".
- **Local Section Dues Renewal for National AIHA Members:**  
<https://webportal.aiha.org/LogIn/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/MemberDR/MembershipApplicationType.aspx>

To pay by mail, or for questions contact Christy Kirsch at [kirsch211@comcast.net](mailto:kirsch211@comcast.net) or 724-941-5084.





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## National AIHA Quick Takes

Below is information provided by Dan Flinta, CIH, CSP of the National AIHA regarding upcoming events and ways that you can get involved.



### • Global Access Program

In an effort to strengthen the global IH/OH profession and increase international collaboration, AIHA has partnered with the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) and the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) to extend electronic benefits, products, and services to each other's memberships, enabling all members to access a wider sphere of global knowledge.

Currently, over 1,200 AIHA members have signed up for the BOHS Global Access Program for 2015 and roughly 1,100 for the AIOH GAP. We won't have stats on usage until much further in the year.

### • Volunteer Groups Seek Nominations for 2015 Awards

**Golden Seed Award.** The Student and Early Career Professionals Committee seek nominations for its 2015 Golden Seed Award through **March 28**. Nominees must be AIHA members who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting the IH profession among students and early career professionals. For more information, or to submit nominations, contact [Thursa La](#).

### • AIHA Student Sponsorships for AIHce

AIHA will sponsor at least five students to attend AIHce. Sponsorships will be awarded to qualified students and will cover, conference registration fees, hotel accommodations during the conference, round-trip coach airfare.

For more [information](#) on student activities at AIHce, please contact [Thursa La](#).

### • Ignite at AIHce 2015

Enlighten me, but make it quick! AIHce is once again offering its own version of Ignite and we want you to be a part of it! In a five-minute presentation, speakers share their professional and personal passions using only 20 slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds.

The submission deadline is **March 30**. Don't delay—based on the past success of this format, we expect a lot of entries! For more information, and to apply to present, [click here](#). *Need ideas?* [View past AIHce Ignite sessions on YouTube](#).

### • **NEW** at AIHce 2015

Please be our guest at the **AIHce 2015 Welcome Reception**, May 31 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. What a perfect way to meet up with old friends and connect with new ones while eating, drinking, and enjoying live music under the stars in beautiful downtown Salt Lake City (conveniently located on the public plaza outside the Salt Palace Convention Center).

The AIHce 2015 Welcome Reception is an added benefit of your conference registration. If you have not yet [registered](#), please do so today!

Honor excellence in industrial hygiene at the **Mark of Excellence Breakfast** on June 3, at 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. This event is a celebration of the extraordinary contributions made by members and the volunteer community to the industry and the profession. This signature event will feature entertainment, awards, networking, and a delicious breakfast buffet.

- Connect with leading and emerging industry trailblazers.
- Pay tribute to those whose exemplary dedication to the industry and the profession has made a positive and lasting impact.
- Capitalize on engaging your professional peers—exchange ideas, insights, and solutions.
- Renew your excitement about industrial hygiene!

Please note... this event is taking place in lieu of the Wednesday morning General Session and is **included** in your registration, but [pre-registration](#) is required.

## National AIHA Revised Structure of Local Sections Representatives and Contact Information

Below is a letter sent on behalf of Chris Lorenzo, AIHA President, and Cheri Marcham, AIHA Local Sections Council Chair explaining the changes to the structure of Local Sections Representatives and interaction with Local Section Council and the AIHA Board.

Dear Local Section Officers:

Historically local section regions have had an AIHA Board member assigned to serve as the Board Coordinator. Several years ago, in an effort to have a dedicated resource at the local level, Local Section Regional Representatives (LSRRs) were also assigned to each local section region. With the advent of the LSRR structure, it has become apparent that the roles of the LSRRs and Board Coordinators can be redundant.

To ensure that we are making the best use of the LSRRs, and to provide for greater consistency, we are no longer assigning a Board Coordinator to each local section region. Going forward, we will have two AIHA Board members, serving as liaisons to the Local Sections Council (LSC). This new approach will still provide a direct line of communication to the AIHA Board, and at the same time, utilizes the full potential of the LSC and the great work of our LSRRs.

We are pleased to announce that Michael Amster and Michael Rosenow will serve as the AIHA Board Liaisons to the LSC. We are confident this revised structure will continue to serve the needs of the LSC, local sections, and the LSRRs.

The AIHA Board Liaisons will participate on LSC and LSRR quarterly conference calls and will attend the LSC Business Meeting at AIHce. They are also accessible to your local section should the need arise. The local section regions are assigned to each Board Liaison as listed below.

You should continue to contact your LSRR with any issues or concerns regarding your local section. You can also always contact the Chair of the LSC who will work with you, your LSRR, and the AIHA Board Liaisons to ensure that local sections issues are brought before the AIHA Board.

**Michael Amster, CIH, CSP, CHMM, PE** (term ends June 2015)

**Phone:** (978) 371-1857

**Email:** [michael@mbamster.com](mailto:michael@mbamster.com)

Central Region – Stephen H. Gutmann, CIH, CPE (LSRR)

Northwest Region - Jeff V. Throckmorton, Sr., MPH, CIH (LSRR)

Pacific Region - Steve W. Hemperly, MS, CIH, CSP, CLSO (LSRR)

South-Central Region – Scott “Nick” Nicholson, CIH, CHP (LSRR)

**Michael Rosenow, CIH, CSP, MPH** (term ends June 2016)

**Phone:** (630) 252-1213

**Email:** [mr@anl.gov](mailto:mr@anl.gov)

Mid-Atlantic Region - Thomas E. Case, CIH, CSP (LSRR)

Mid-West Region - C. Dan Flinta, CIH, CSP (LSRR)

**Northeast Region - David G. Duford, Ed.D., CIH, CHMM (LSRR)**

South Region - John R. Moore, CIH, CSP (LSRR)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Laurie Mutdosch ([lmutdosch@aiha.org](mailto:lmutdosch@aiha.org)) or Thursa La ([tla@aiha.org](mailto:tla@aiha.org)). Thank you for your continued leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Christine A.D. Lorenzo, CIH  
AIHA President



## Ruling in Black Mold Case—PA Supreme Court Rules Favorably for Plaintiff in Bruno v. Erie Insurance

Submitted by: Joseph A. Hughes, Jr., CIEC, President, IAQ Training Institute, LLC & Co-host IAQ Radio

In *Bruno v. Erie Insurance*, the plaintiffs discovered black mold in their home and submitted a claim under their homeowners' insurance policy with Erie Insurance for mold remediation coverage. An Erie claims adjuster inspected the home with the assistance of a forensic engineer retained by Erie. They allegedly represented to the homeowners that the dangers of black mold were overstated in popular media and that the mold in plaintiffs' home was "harmless." The plaintiffs continued to live in the home in reliance of these representations before developing serious medical complications allegedly attributable to the mold.

After a lengthy appeals process, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ultimately determined that the homeowners could sue Erie in tort for negligence committed by the adjuster during the claims investigation process. In so holding, the court distinguished duties created by contract from those existing independently as a social duty. Further, the Supreme Court held that the homeowners could sue the engineering consultant retained by the insurance company to evaluate the mold even though the homeowners did not have a direct contractual relationship with the engineering firm. Finally, the court determined that the homeowners did not need a certificate of merit to support a professional negligence claim against the engineer.

Courts have traditionally jumped at the opportunity to dismiss cases/claims where actions in tort arise from a relationship created/governed by a written agreement. The *Bruno* decision sets a new and decidedly pro-plaintiff course by making it clear that tort and contract claims may now coexist in a way that they may not have existed before. Contracting parties should be aware that their actions and conduct in the performance of an agreement may be subjected to heightened scrutiny in the future, and may expose them to additional damages other than those set forth in the agreement. This decision may have widespread implications for insurance companies, lenders, construction contractors, engineers, real estate agents and design professionals, among others. [Click here for link to article on Mondaq.com](#)



## The Groups That Are Part of the AIHA Family

From volunteers to related organizations, there are a lot of people that help make up the AIHA family. These smaller, more focused groups are often the oil that keeps the AIHA machinery running.

[AIHA has the following organizations under its umbrella:](#)

**Volunteer Groups** - Industrial hygienists and other occupational health, safety and environmental professionals volunteer their time, energy, and expertise through AIHA's volunteer groups.

**Local Sections** - Membership in a local section does more than just keep you informed—it provides you with a total spectrum of activities that enhance your professional growth, while promoting the occupational health and safety field.

**Students and Young Professionals** - AIHA is committed to reaching out to students and young professionals pursuing careers in industrial hygiene and other occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professions.

**Future Leaders Institute** - The Future Leaders focuses on strengthening the leadership skills of young IH professionals and is designed for young professionals with less than 15 years of work experience.

**Special Interest Groups (SIG)** - AIHA members can serve on a number of special interest groups that help to disseminate

the AIHA mission statement to AIHA members, the OEHS community, and the general public.

**Outreach** - AIHA's outreach efforts include various awards and honors for professional members, outreach to students who are pursuing degrees in IH who could be members of AIHA, and opportunities to be a mentor or to be mentored.

**AIHA Guideline Foundation** - the AIHA Guideline Foundation is dedicated to developing and disseminating occupational and community exposure guidelines for chemical and physical agents and stressors.

**The Academy** - The Academy of Industrial Hygiene is designed to advance the professional practice of IH by defining and raising the competency of the professional practice of IH, building wide recognition of the need for and value of high-quality IH practice, and building a sense of community among worldwide professional IHS.

**AIHA Standards Activities** - The goals for AIHA standards development are to ensure that AIHA obtains and maintains an appropriate level of involvement or leadership in industrial/occupational hygiene-related standards globally and to encourage broader participation by AIHA in the development of international IH/OH standards while supporting and strengthening the existing domestic standards development efforts.

**AIHA Foundation** - The mission of the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation is to advance the profession by awarding scholarships for students in industrial hygiene and related disciplines.





## MASHA, INC.

MID-ATLANTIC SAFETY AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

### MASHA 2015 Conference—Tuesday, April 30 2015

Regional Learning Alliance Center, Cranberry Township, PA

The [Mid-Atlantic Safety and Health Alliance, Inc. \(MASHA\)](#) is pleased to

announce their 2015 Safety and Health Conference which will feature the following educational tracks:

- General Industry
- Construction
- Oil and Gas Extraction

CEU's will be available for conference participants.

For more information and to register online, visit

[www.pittsburghsafetyconference.com](http://www.pittsburghsafetyconference.com)

#### Conference Highlights:

- Keynote Address - Don Wilson, SafeStart® - Complacency: The Silent Killer
- Safety experts in Construction, General Industry and Oil and Gas Extraction
- General Session - Stacey Lucas, ERM
- Closing Session - Panel Discussion Featuring OSHA Pittsburgh Area Office, Jeff Dierdorf (USS), Tim Sirofchuck (FDR Safety) and Stacey Lucas (ERM)

## AIHce2015

+SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce) is considered the most important event of the year among occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. Mark your calendar to join thousands of your colleagues at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, May 30 – June 4, 2015, for six days of world-class education and networking opportunities.



May 30 – June 4, 2015 + [AIHce2015.org](http://AIHce2015.org)



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