



### **Greetings Pittsburgh Local Section of AIHA!**

As we approach the end of the winter season, I begin looking forward to spring and contemplating on the theme of GROWTH. In that vein, I would like to share some growth that the Pittsburgh section has seen, just in 2023:

**New Local Section Members** – Since the beginning of 2023, we have added nine new members and one new corporate sponsor. We welcome these new faces and hope to connect at future events.

**A New Director** – Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS has been added as Director of the Pittsburgh Local Section. He fills our previously vacant position, serving the remainder of a 2-year term through the 2024 term. Darrick joins us from FirstEnergy Corporation, where he is an Industrial Hygiene Representative. He has been active most recently on our Program Committee lining up presenters to fill our busy 2023 calendar.

**New Student Sections** – We started 2023 with one active student chapter, Slippery Rock University. Late last year, we were approached by students from West Virginia University who were seeking to revive their dormant student chapter. As you may have read on our website, following the efforts of student, Ryan Titus, and faculty advisor, Dr. Sergio Caporali-Filho, PhD, CSP, CIH, the WVU chapter has been fully recognized by both WVU Student Engagement and National AIHA. At about the same time, students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania inquired about their own student chapter, which had also been abandoned for several years. This student chapter's bylaws have been approved by the Pittsburgh AIHA Executive Committee and awaits a decision by the National AIHA Board of Directors. They should have a good chance of success, considering that Dr. Bryan Seal, PhD, CIH, CSP, CHMM, REHS currently serves as a National Director of AIHA. We look forward to welcoming these students to our activities and supporting their academic and professional development.

**New Knowledge and Personal Growth** – Through the efforts of President-elect and Program Chair, Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST, the Pittsburgh section has a nearly full program agenda for the rest of 2023. Future topics will include heat stress research, learning about the 1948 Donora Smog event, and hands-on instruction about industrial ventilation. Also be on the look-out for an announcement from AIHA on the 2023 e-Learning subscription topics. The selected topics are sure to improve our understanding and effectiveness as IH professionals.

**New Service Opportunities** – I want to highlight leadership opportunities within the local section. While nominations for the 2023 election of several Executive Committee positions close on February 28, there are a number of committees that could benefit from your involvement. Please thoughtfully consider contributing to assist with lining up our corporate sponsors, planning our future program, or coordinating our website and newsletters. As a volunteer-led and -run organization, your service is vital to the growth of our community. Finally, I hope you consider joining us at our upcoming AIHA President's luncheon in March, where we will host current AIHA President, Donna Heidel, MS, CIH, FAIHA. Let's hope for great weather so that we can enjoy the views of our beautiful city together!

*LT Tim Beck, MPH*

## [Register NOW - 3/9/2023 Pittsburgh AIHA President's Luncheon!!](#)



We are excited to announce that our Annual President's Luncheon is scheduled for March 9, 2023! You won't want to miss this event that has always been a favorite of our members!!

We welcome National AIHA President [Donna Heidel, MS, CIH, FAIHA \(\(Global Principal Industrial Hygienist - Amazon\)\)](#) to speak at this event. Donna will provide an update of National AIHA priorities and major initiatives.

As in the past -- we are looking for members to sponsor student attendance at this event. If you are interested, please note that when registering. You can also email [ckirsch@pittsburghaiha.org](mailto:ckirsch@pittsburghaiha.org) for more information.

A special THANK YOU to [U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc / Deanna Kiska, Ph.D, President](#) for being the drink sponsor again this year! We appreciate their continued support! Also, thanks to Matt Zock, CIH, Past President of Pgh. AIHA and Amazon Worldwide Sr. Industrial Hygienist, Program Manager for coordinating this event!

**See the details on the meeting page: [2023-03-09 President's Lunch](#)**

## [Indiana University of Pennsylvania AIHA Student Chapter](#)



Indiana University of Pennsylvania is in the process of forming an AIHA student chapter thanks to Assistant Professor Dr. Bryan Seal, PhD., CIH, CSP, CHMM, REHS and the students in the Safety, Health, and Environmental Applied Science program.

The Pittsburgh AIHA Executive Committee is proud to support the IUP Student Chapter and have reviewed / approved their bylaws which have been submitted to the National AIHA Board of Directors for final approval.

See the LinkedIn post by Bryan Seal on the formation of the AIHA Student Chapter at Indiana University of PA --Congratulations!!



**Bryan Seal, PhD, CIH, CSP, CHMM, REHS · 1st**  
I LOVE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE!  
4d

Hello my fellow IH enthusiasts (junkies). I am proud to announce, the students in the IUP Safety, Health, and Environmental Applied Science program are forming an AIHA Student Chapter. Please congratulate the three founding students: Left-Brooke Endress (Sophomore); Center-Chloe Croft (Junior); Right- Gabriella Green (Junior) [#industrialhygiene](#) [#AIHA](#)





## February Meeting Summary - Slippery Rock Student Section

On February 21, 2023, the AIHA Pittsburgh Section and the Slippery Rock University AIHA Student Section co-hosted the February AIHA Pittsburgh Section meeting with guest speaker Mr. Tom Blank at the Strain Safety Building.

The Meeting was opened by AIHA Pittsburgh Section President-Elect Mr. Dane Micheson, CIH CSP, CHST, who welcomed the attendees and updated the group on upcoming AIHA Pittsburgh Section events.

Mr. Tom Blank, CIH, CSP, FAIHA and EHS Consultant, gave the group excellent advice and guidance pertaining to successful job searches, resume writing and interviewing skills. This meeting also allowed the IH professionals in attendance to give the students great suggestions for success in their chosen career.

The meeting also gave each group a chance to network before and after the presentation. The students got a chance to talk directly with Industrial Hygiene professionals in the field.

After the session, Dr. Angela Bernardo and Dr. Rona Smeak, SRU AIHA Student Section Faculty Advisor gave the professionals a tour of the Strain Safety Building. Lunch was provided by the SRU Safety Department Chairperson Dr. Joseph Cali.

**Thank you to all participants below who helped to make this event a great success!**

- Laura Allen, Stantec
- Angela Bernardo, Slippery Rock University
- Darrick Bertig, FirstEnergy Corporation
- Tom Blank, BWXT
- Jacob Brand, Slippery Rock University
- Ashley Collura, Slippery Rock University
- Barb Cummings, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Annalyse Hoover, Slippery Rock University
- Thomas Koraido, Slippery Rock University
- Reece Leotta, Slippery Rock University
- Antonio Mitchell, Slippery Rock University
- Dane Mitcheson, FedEx Ground
- Barry Momyer, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Sophia Naugle, Slippery Rock University
- Colton Nist, Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT)
- Julie Panko, ToxStrategies, Inc.
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA-Tator, Inc.
- Mason Reed, Slippery Rock University
- Steve Rihel, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Hannah Roberts, Slippery Rock University
- Rona Smeak, Slippery Rock University
- Taylor Tomko, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Paige Wells, Stantec
- Brandon Woods, Slippery Rock University



*Thanks to all attendees of the SRU/Pgh. AIHA Meeting!*



*SRU AIHA Student Section President Jacob Brand and Vice-President Hannah Roberts with the guest speaker, Mr. Tom Blank.*



*SRU Safety Management students with Mr. Tom Blank.*

## Pittsburgh AIHA Executive Committee Election - Nominations Due Now



Our local section depends on its members to volunteer for positions on the executive committee. Serving on the committee is a great way to become more involved in the local section, and you can claim certification maintenance (CM) credit toward your CIH. We are currently asking for nominations for next year's committee (serving July 2023 -June 2025):

- President-elect, 2-year term followed by President (must also be a member of National AIHA)
- Secretary, 2-year term (must also be a member of National AIHA)
- Director, 2-year term (need not be a member of National AIHA)

*NOTE: The American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) allows you to claim certification maintenance (CM) credit annually for local section office: local section President – 1 point; local section Officer or Director – 0.5 points.*

**If you would like to volunteer for elections or nominate someone, please contact [Laura Allen](#) or [Christy Kirsch](#) ASAP. A short bio and statement of intent along with a photo are **due by February 28, 2023**.**



## West Virginia University AIHA Student Chapter is BACK!!



After a few years hiatus, the WVU section of AIHA is active again! The organization is officially recognized by both AIHA and WVU Student Engagement, allowing the student group to connect students with local OEHS professionals. In addition to industrial hygiene students, the club has seen interest from industrial engineering students and hopes to host networking and educational socials for students and community members from a variety of disciplines. The organization is led by Ryan Titus (President), Emily Smith (Vice President), Sada Wright (Secretary), Cole Cantor (Treasurer), and Dr. Sergio Caporali (Faculty Advisor). WVU AIHA hopes to see some of you at one of their events sometime soon!

***Thank you! Ryan Titus, Chapter President***

## New Pgh. AIHA Director Named - Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS

During the 2022 Pittsburgh AIHA Election, Kate Crott was selected as Director for a 2-year term. Due to a job change and relocation, Kate was unable to fulfill her duties, leaving a vacant Director position. The Executive Committee is happy to announce that [Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS](#), Industrial Hygiene Representative for FirstEnergy, will fill the vacant Director position on the Executive Committee through June 30, 2024. Darrick has been a long-standing member of the Pittsburgh AHA and currently serving on the Program Committee.

## Science Fair Judges Needed -- Pittsburgh AIHA Awards

The Pittsburgh AIHA is proud to once again sponsor student awards at the **84th Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF)** which will celebrate another year of open competition of research projects in the fields of science, mathematics, and engineering in March. This competition is open to all students in grades 6-12 from the 21 counties within Western Pennsylvania and Garrett County, Maryland.

The Fair will be held at the Carnegie Science Center this year. The Fair will be held over two days this year to allow for all student participation.



*Each year, the Pgh. AIHA sponsors two \$500 awards - we need members to participate as judges. As a judge, you will help to choose the recipients of our LS Awards. To register to be a **SPONSOR JUDGE**, please go to [www.STEMisphere.org/PRSEF](http://www.STEMisphere.org/PRSEF).*

The Science Fair has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940. It is also the third oldest science fair in the United States under the affiliation of Society for Science, which runs the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the Broadcom MASTERS middle school competition.

For more information, please visit [pittsburghsciencefair.org](http://pittsburghsciencefair.org) or email [PRSEF@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:PRSEF@CarnegieScienceCenter.org).

Christie Orlosky, M.S.Ed.

Carnegie Science Center, STEM Competitions Coordinator

(412) 237-1534, [PRSEF@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:PRSEF@CarnegieScienceCenter.org)

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## Welcome NEW Corporate Sponsor - Atlas Technical Consultants



**The Pittsburgh AIHA is pleased to welcome new 2023 Corporate Sponsor, Atlas Technical Consultants!** Atlas provides professional testing, inspection, engineering, environmental and consulting services from more than 100 locations nationwide. We deliver solutions to both public and private sector clients in the transportation, commercial, water, government, education and industrial markets. With over 500 industrial hygienists, 22 Certified Industrial Hygienists and 12 Certified Safety Professionals, we are able to provide EHS solutions throughout the United States.

Welcome to the following employees of Atlas - also **NEW members to the Pittsburgh AIHA:**

**Jarred Chase, CIH, CSP** attended Gannon University in Erie, PA where he graduated with a BS in General Science in 2014 and a MS in Environmental Health and Engineering in 2016. After switching his major multiple times, he took an Environmental Toxicology class during his junior year that peaked his interest and helped propel him towards a career in EHS. He has attained both the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) designations and hopes to continue to grow his knowledge in the field of Industrial Hygiene & Safety.

**Chuck Kisamore, CSP** attended Slippery Rock University where he graduated in 2015 with a BS in Safety Management. Since graduation Chuck has worked in different remediation, demolition, and manufacturing settings giving him a wide range of experience and knowledge in the fields of safety and industrial hygiene. Currently he holds the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation and is working towards his Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH).





[Meeting Review: January 13, 2023 – MSA Corporate Headquarters Visit Performance of APR Cartridge/Canisters Against Airborne Contaminants with Tour of MSA](#)

Eighteen members of the AIHA Pittsburgh Local Section attended the "Performance of APR Cartridge/Canisters Against Airborne Contaminants" Presentation with a tour of MSA. The technical presentation was given by Zane N. Frund, Ph.D., CIH, MBA who is the Executive Director & Global Leader of Materials/Chemical Research & Sensor Development at MSA. Dr. Frund provided the attendees with insight only he could give. His knowledge of the OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard, NIOSH Respirator Approval Process, and Respirators in general was on display for everyone to witness. Whether you were a seasoned CIH or a current student, you walked away from Dr. Frund's presentation with something you did not know before it.

Following the presentation, Marc Stempka who is the Public Relations Manager for MSA Americas gave a tour of the gas detection manufacturing area. Attendees got to see the entire manufacturing process for these instruments as well as the different types of product lines currently being made by MSA. These product lines ranged from fixed gas detection systems to handheld direct-reading instruments and everything in between. The tour concluded in a museum area where current safety products and historical ones were being displayed.

Overall, the AIHA Pittsburgh Local Section would like to thank Dr. Frund, Mr. Stempka, and the entire MSA Team for hosting such a phenomenal event. We would also like to thank the following members for attending:

- Timothy Beck (NIOSH/CDC)
- John Bell (Watco Companies, LLC)
- Darrick Bertig (FirstEnergy Corporation)
- Thomas Blank (BWXT)
- Barbara Cummings (AM Health and Safety, Inc.)
- Raj Dharmarajan (AM Health and Safety, Inc.)
- Robert Haushalter (Duquesne University)
- Warren Houseman (ENTACT, LLC)
- Courtney Malloy (Kennametal / PSU Grad Student)
- Rick Mason (RL Mason EHS Consulting, LLC)
- Dane Mitcheson (FedEx Ground)
- Barry Momyer (AM Health and Safety, Inc.)
- Jan Oleszewski (U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA)
- Frank Pokrywka (KTA-Tator, Inc.)
- Bailey Reggetz (WVU Student)
- Oliva Roberts (University of Pittsburgh)
- Sarmed Shareef (University of Pittsburgh)
- Rona Smeak (Slippery Rock University)



[DUE NOW](#)  
[2023 Pgh. AIHA](#)  
[Membership Dues](#)

**Membership dues for 2023 WAS due January 1, 2023. If you are a National AIHA member**, remember to check the box for Pittsburgh Local Section to include your LS dues of \$25 for your Pittsburgh AIHA membership. All NON-National AIHA members should pay dues directly to the Pittsburgh AIHA. See the highlighted sidebar link on this homepage to process payment through PayPal -- Note you do not need a PayPal account to pay this way. Any questions, please contact Christy at [ckirsch@pittsburghiaha.org](mailto:ckirsch@pittsburghiaha.org).


## Pittsburgh AIHA Upcoming Events Calendar:




The Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh AIHA is working on the 2023 program calendar - details will be updated below and on the website as new events are scheduled.

- [March 9, 2023 - President's Lunch - Donna S. Heidel, M.S., CIH -REGISTER NOW!](#)
- April 18, 2023 - Heat Stress Research, W. Jon Williams, Ph.D. - details TBA
- May 22-24, 2023 - [AIHce, Phoenix, AZ](#) (Will try to coordinate a Pittsburgh AIHA dinner for those in attendance from Pittsburgh!)
- June 14, 2023 - [Donora Historical Society, Smog Museum Tour and Presentation](#), details TBA
- July 2023 - Summer Business Meeting - Date TBA
- August 2023 - OPEN
- September 2023 - OPEN
- [October 26, 2023 - MASHA Safety Conference](#)
- November 9th or 30th, 2023 - Ventilation Presentation & Lab, Sergio Caporali-Filho, PhD, CSP, CIH - West Virginia University / Student Section
- December 2023 - Winter Business Meeting

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**Steel From Start to Finish:** As a follow up to our recent site visit to the former US Steel blast furnaces at Carrie Furnace, I thought it would be helpful to provide some background information on the steel making process "Start to Finish". While the steel industry is not what it once was in Pittsburgh, there are still plenty of mining, metal production, fabrication and finishing operations in by the area and around the country. Hopefully, during your EH&S careers you will have opportunities to visit work in and resolve health and safety issues in similar industries. In that spirit, I hope you enjoy this US Steel video! Frank Pokrywka, PhD., CIH, Pgh. AIHA Treasurer (*Credit US Steel YouTube Channel 2020*)



## Welcome New Members:

- Carson Aiken, Indiana University of PA
- Tyler Broge, Slippery Rock University
- Cole Cantor, West Virginia University
- Sergio Caporali Fihlo, West Virginia University
- Jarred Chase, Atlas Technical Consultants
- Jay Elder, SKC Inc.
- Gabriella Green, Indiana University of PA
- Chuck Kisamore, Atlas Technical Consultants
- Courtney Malloy, Kennametal / Penn State
- Andy Marsh, Chesley Brown International
- Tuan Charles Nguyen, Shell USA, Inc.
- Bailey Reggetz, West Virginia University
- Parinita Sah, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Charles Sethman
- Emily Smith, West Virginia University
- Paige Wells, Stantec



## Call for Volunteers for AIHA Pittsburgh Committees

The AIHA Pittsburgh Local Section has six committees that are chaired by a volunteer appointed by the chapter's president or, in the case of the Program and Nominating committees, designated to an Executive Committee member:

- Audit
- Program
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Newsletter
- Nominating
- Historical

Currently, most of our committees are unfortunately committees of one. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to consider volunteering to lead or participate in a committee of interest.

### ***Benefits of Committee Participation***

- Provides an opportunity to become more involved with the LS and increase connections with your peers
- Limited time obligation with high impact on the success and future directions of the LS
- Enhanced understanding of LS operations and an 'inside look' into what serving in an executive committee position entail
- Allows individuals that are not National AIHA members a chance to serve in leadership roles outside of the Executive Committee

Our LS chapter and affiliated student chapters survive and thrive by the involvement of our members, so please do your best to stay active and contribute to the success of AIHA Pittsburgh. If you are interested in leading or participating in any of our committees, please reach out to the Executive Committee via email to [info@pittsburghaiha.org](mailto:info@pittsburghaiha.org).

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## 2022-2023 Executive Committee

### PRESIDENT

**Lt. Timothy Beck, MPH**  
CDC/NIOSH

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST**  
FedEx Ground

### DIRECTORS

**Tom Blank, CIH, CSP, FAIHA**  
BWXT Technologies, Inc.

**Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS**  
FirstEnergy

### SECRETARY

**Renee Cowell, CSP**  
Hitachi Energy

### TREASURER

**Frank Pokrywka, EdD, CIH**  
KTA Tator, Inc.

### PAST PRESIDENT

**Laura Hallett Allen, MS, CIH**  
Stantec

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND WEB COORDINATOR

**Christy Kirsch**  
Pittsburgh AIHA  
412-789-4254

### Local Section Committee Chairpersons

#### **Audit Committee**

- **Paula Sweitzer, CHMM, Duquesne University**

#### **Program Committee**

- **Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST FedEx Ground (Chair)**
- **Rona Smeak, PhD, CSP, Slippery Rock University**
- **Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS, FirstEnergy**

#### **Corporate Sponsorship Committee**

- **Laura Hallett Allen, MS, CIH, Stantec**

#### **Newsletter Committee**

- **Christy Kirsch, Pgh AIHA**

#### **Nominating Committee**

- **Laura Hallett Allen, MS, CIH, Stantec**

#### 2023 Sponsors:

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- Colden Corporation
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- FirstEnergy
- Intertek PSI
- MSA Safety
- Premier Safety & Service, Inc.
- Risk Assessment Services, LLC
- SKC, Inc.
- Stantec, Inc.
- U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.

*Thank You  
To Our Sponsors*

The Pittsburgh AIHA is seeking 2023 Corporate Sponsors - For \$200 your company receives two Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section Memberships, a listing on the [Corporate Sponsors page](#), a listing on the [Consultants List page](#) (if applicable), homepage weblink, and recognition in the Local Section newsletter.



*Please consider supporting the Pittsburgh AIHA as a Corporate Sponsor!*