

## Pittsburgh AIHA News – Spring 2026



### President's Message

Hi all!

Spring has sprung. I would like to start off by thanking the thirty-eight individuals who attended the March 5<sup>th</sup> President's Luncheon. Bradley King provided an AIHA National update and reviewed several interesting NIOSH case studies. It was very encouraging to see that eight (8) students from our local universities (Duquesne, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Slippery Rock) took time away from their studies to attend the event. They are our future!!! Many thanks to our student sponsors and to U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc. (beverage sponsor). In February, Dr. George Gruetzmacher, PhD, CIH, CSP, PE, FAIHA, from AIHA's Distinguished Lecturer Program, conducted a virtual presentation titled "Understanding IH Exposure Assessments." Twenty individuals "attended" Dr. Gruetzmacher's presentation.

Results of our 2026-2027 Executive Committee Election are in and congratulations are extended to: Josh Maskrey, CIH (President-Elect); Matt Zock, CIH (Director); and Frank Pokrywka, CIH, FAIHA (Treasurer). We are looking forward to your valuable contributions to our organization.

Lastly, you probably have heard by now that one of our local section members has been named vice-president of AIHA National. Bryan Seal, PhD, CIH, CSP, CHMM, REHS who is the Assistant Chair/Associate Professor in the Department of Safety Sciences and Environmental Engineering at IUP won the recent election. After serving as vice-president for one year, Bryan will progress to the offices of president-elect, president, and past president.

I was able to sit down with Bryan to pick his brain on some of his thoughts regarding what he would like to accomplish during his term in office. Bryan indicated:

- Better integration between national and local sections.
- Graduate students should participate in AIHA committees.
- Local section members should "adopt" and "mentor" students – especially Freshmen and Sophomores to increase their interest in Industrial Hygiene.
- Local sections should work with National AIHA on getting the word out to allied science majors (Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, Pre-Med, etc.) that meet IH core requirements to make students aware of our profession.

Congratulations Bryan! He also brews up a wicked batch of eggnog.

Looking forward to seeing you all at an upcoming meeting.

***Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS - President, AIHA – Pittsburgh Local Section***

## REGISTER NOW! May 21, 2026 - Tour of the Butler County Public and Industrial Safety Training Academy-Facility



Thursday, May 21, 2026 - 11:00 AM-2:30 PM – Register ONLINE by May 17, 2026

**Description:** [The Butler County Community College \(BC3\) Public Safety and Industrial Safety Training Academy](#) serve as a major regional resource for emergency responders and industrial personnel across Western Pennsylvania. Its 13-acre training facility includes confined-space environments, training tower, burn buildings and industrial simulators that support realistic, hands-on instruction. In partnership with the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, these programs provide state-aligned training to more than 10,000 individuals each year, offering courses ranging from entry-level firefighter preparation and hazardous materials response to fire dynamics, strategy, and technical rescue. In addition, its comprehensive Industrial Safety Training program is designed to support regulatory compliance and workforce protection for businesses and industry. Course offerings include OSHA, DOT, and EPA compliance programs, hazardous materials response for industry, emergency response training, and industrial fire brigade instruction. With its realistic training environment, and integration of fire, hazmat, and industrial safety disciplines, BC3 offers a robust and practical training platform that supports both public safety agencies and industrial organizations throughout the region. The tour agenda will encompass meeting with the coordinators of these respective programs and viewing their training facilities.

### **Tour Agenda**

- **11:00 – 11:30 AM** - Arrival and Sign In
- **11:30 AM – 12:00 PM** - Opening remarks by Kevin Smith and Maria Chvala regarding the Mission of the Fire, Hazmat and Industrial Safety Training Programs provided by BC3
- **12:00 – 12:45 PM** - Lunch
- **12:45 – 2:00 PM** - Tour of the Educational and Hands-On Training Facilities provided by the Fire, Hazmat and Industrial Safety Programs
- **2:00 – 2:30 PM** - Wrap up and Departure

**Location:** Butler County Community College- [107 College Drive, Butler, PA 16002](#)

**Cost (Includes LUNCH):** Pittsburgh AIHA Member \$30, Non-Member \$35, Student Free

**Register and Pay online by May 17, 2026!** <https://www.pittsburghaiha.org/2026-05-21-fire-academy-visit.html>

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## Election Results - Pittsburgh AIHA Executive Committee Updates

Following the recent Local Section Election, we would like to congratulate the following Pittsburgh AIHA members who will begin their term of office this summer!



- President-Elect: Josh Maskrey, CIH
- Director: Matt Zock, CIH
- Treasurer: [Frank Porkrywka, Ed.D, CIH](#)

Thank you to our current Committee members for their service and continued commitment to the Pittsburgh AIHA. **Darrick Bertig, CIH, CSP, CUSA, MS**, will conclude his term as President and will be succeeded by current President-Elect **Zane Frund, PhD, MPH, CIH, MBA**, who will serve as President through July 2027. **Morgan Ryan** ends her term as Director. **Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST** will remain Secretary, and **MaryAnn Hoff, MS, MPM, CIH**, will continue serving as Director, each through July 2027.

We also extend our thanks to [Andrew Wright, CIH, CSP](#), who volunteered as a candidate for Director during this year's election.

We appreciate and thank all who participate and volunteer for the Pittsburgh AIHA—your involvement strengthens our local section and supports our mission.

## Welcome NEW Pittsburgh AIHA Corporate Sponsor

The Pittsburgh AIHA is pleased to welcome [Audemus EHS](#) as our newest Corporate Sponsor, along with members [Adam Butler, CIH, CSP](#), and [Dylan Fediaczko, GSP](#).



Audemus EHS provides environmental, health, and safety consulting services for military contracts and general industry, with a strong specialty focus on health and safety. The company operates from offices in Pittsburgh, PA; St. Louis, MO; Salt Lake City, UT; and Huntsville, AL, supporting customers across 37 states and 9 countries.

Audemus EHS sets itself apart by delivering solutions that are more efficient, more accurate, simpler, and easier to understand—all while maintaining competitive pricing. Their commitment to clarity and quality aligns closely with the mission and values of the Pittsburgh AIHA.

**Support the Pittsburgh AIHA as a Corporate Sponsor!** The benefits of a Corporate Sponsorship contribution of \$250 include:

- 2 free individual Pittsburgh AIHA annual memberships,
- Pittsburgh AIHA Homepage sidebar logo link,
- 1-year listing on the [Pittsburgh AIHA Corporate Sponsors](#) page,
- 1-year listing on the [Pittsburgh AIHA Consultants List](#) page,
- Recognition in Pittsburgh AIHA local section [newsletter](#).

Corporate Sponsorship is renewable on an annual basis. Visit the [Corporate Sponsors Page](#) for current sponsors and application information - You can sign up online or print the form to complete and mail.

## Welcome New Members - Indiana University of PA



The Pittsburgh AIHA would like to welcome the following students from [Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Safety Sciences and Environmental Engineering](#).

- [Tagg Walker](#)
- [MacKenzie Keiper](#)
- [Mason Steed](#)
- [Elizabeth Fordham](#)
- Nathan Wood
- [Elijah Sorchilla](#)

The IUP AIHA Student Chapter, advised by [Dr. Bryan Seal in the Department of Safety Sciences and Environmental Engineering](#), is an active and growing group sponsored by the Pittsburgh AIHA. The chapter connects students with OEHS professionals through meetings, guest speakers, and local section engagement.

Many participants come from the SAFETY 215 Communications course, where they strengthen their technical communication skills. With an evolving leadership team and a strong focus on professional development, the chapter provides a valuable pathway for students to bridge their academic studies with future roles in industrial hygiene. Students can get involved through the IUP Safety Sciences Department, contact Dr. Seal directly, or follow the chapter on Instagram at @iupaiha.



Conference & Expo for  
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Live & Virtual Conference

## AIHA Connect 2026 – Key Dates at a Glance

**New Orleans, LA**  
**June 1–3, 2026**

**Pop-Up Education  
Proposals Due:**

*Jan. 14, 2026 – Got a fresh idea? Submit your session!*

**Exhibitor Registration:**

*Early 2026 – Booth selection opens soon!*

**Early Bird Registration  
Ends:**

[Spring 2026 – Save on conference fees](#)

**Final Program Release:**

*May 2026 – Full schedule and speaker lineup*

**Conference Dates:**

*June 1–3, 2026 – Live at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center*

**[Stay updated at  
aihaconnect.org](#)**

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## 2026 Pittsburgh AIHA Scholarship Recipient Announced



Congratulations to [Naydelin Hernandez](#), a student at Slippery Rock University (SRU) and President of the SRU AIHA Student Section, who has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section Scholarship.

Naydelin will graduate from Slippery Rock University in 2026 with multiple degrees: a BS in Kinesiology and Exercise Science, a BS in Safety Management, and a BA in Professional Spanish. She brings a strong record of academic achievement and leadership. As a native Spanish and English speaker, Naydelin has demonstrated her skills across clinical settings, active construction sites, and community-based programs, providing clear and reliable translation support in each environment. She recently worked as an Intern at DPR Construction, where she assisted in overseeing the safety of approximately 650 workers.

Naydelin will be recognized at this year's AIHA Connect Conference in New Orleans, along with all AIHF scholarship recipients, during the AIHA / AIHF Recognition Reception on Sunday, May 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

See all current and past Pittsburgh AIHA Scholarship recipients here: <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/aih-foundation/aih-foundation-scholarships/pittsburgh-local-section-scholarship>

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## Thank you! Pittsburgh AIHA President's Luncheon at the LeMont

*Provided by Pittsburgh AIHA Secretary, Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST*



The Pittsburgh Local Section would like to thank the National AIHA President, [Bradley S. King, PhD, MPH, CIH](#), for visiting Pittsburgh and addressing our local section on the current and future direction of the AIHA. Dr. King works as a Senior Industrial Hygienist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Denver, Colorado. All the local section members in attendance had an opportunity to chat with Dr. King about the AIHA and the profession in general.

During the presentation, Dr. King highlighted some of the great work being done by members of our local section on the national level. Following the National AIHA update, Dr. King presented some interesting case studies from his work at NIOSH, which included a discussion of the impacts of heat stress on the upstream oil and gas industry as well as a health hazard evaluation of lead, noise, and heat exposures at an automotive battery recycling facility. All three topics were appreciated by the audience and provided a great learning opportunity for the student membership as well as the professional members in attendance.

Local Section President-Elect Zane N. Frund, Ph.D., MPH, MBA, CIH did a fantastic job welcoming the attendees and introducing Dr. King. Dr. Frund, Past-President Barry Momyer, CIH, and members Matt Zock, CIH, and Aaron Fonner sponsored students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Slippery Rock University (SRU), and Duquesne University to attend the event. Student attendance at events like these is critical to the future success of the local section. Therefore, sponsorship of these students was greatly appreciated by the current membership of the local section. Further, we would like to thank everyone else who volunteered to sponsor a student to attend the event. Hopefully, word will spread about the event at our local universities, and more students will be in attendance next year.

The Pittsburgh Local Section would also like to thank Matt Zock, CIH and Christy Kirsch for coordinating the event at the LeMont Restaurant on March 5, 2026 as their efforts resulted in everyone in attendance being treated to a wonderful presentation and a delicious lunch. In addition, we would like to say a special thank you to Kelly Faulisi and [U.S. Micro-Solutions, Inc.](#) for being the event's drink sponsor.



Thirty-eight (38) members, including eight students from Slippery Rock, Indiana University of PA, and Duquesne University attended the luncheon.

- Lucinette Alvarado, Covestro LLC
- Daniel Baldauff, SKC, Inc.
- Janice Baldwin, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Julianne Baron, Science and Safety Consulting, LLC
- Emanuele Cauda, A Piece of the Puzzle, LLC
- Jarred Chase, AM Health & Safety
- Marcus Chavis, Slippery Rock University
- Dennis Collins, SKC, Inc.
- Renee Cowell, Tormod
- Barbara Cummings, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Zoe Cutillo, Duquesne University
- Dan Davis, DLZ
- Zane Frund, MSA Safety
- Elizabeth Fordham, Slippery Rock University
- Naydelin Hernandez, Slippery Rock University
- MaryAnn Hoff, AM Health & Safety
- Jennifer Kapp, PPG Industries, Inc.
- Bradley King, SR. Industrial Hygienist-NIOSH
- Christy Kirsch, Pittsburgh AIHA
- Terrence Laster, Slippery Rock University
- Ezra Maize, Slippery Rock University
- Matt Manna, Ascensus
- Dane Mitcheson, FedEx
- Barry Momyer, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Brian Neill, Matrix New World Engineering
- Michael Oyler, FireTech Supplies
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA-Tator, Inc.
- Andrew Radomski, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Parinita Sah, AM Health and Safety, Inc.
- Rona Smeak, Slippery Rock University
- Jillian Stahl, Slippery Rock University
- Meghan Swanson, Consultant
- Leah Tipton, Mine Safety and Health Administration
- Michele Twilley, AIHA
- Jan Wachter, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Ryan Wayner, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Dietrich Weyel,
- Andy Wright, ProTect-All Solutions, LLC
- Matt Zock, Amazon



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## Meeting Summary: February 18 Technical Session "Understanding Industrial Hygiene Exposure Assessments"

Thank you to all who attended our February 18, 2026 virtual technical session featuring [Dr. George Gruetzmacher](#), a highly respected industrial hygienist with more than 40 years of experience in exposure assessment, engineering controls, and risk communication. The session provided members with a clear, practical walkthrough of AIHA's exposure assessment strategy and the statistical tools that support more accurate decision-making in the field.



Dr. Gruetzmacher began by outlining the challenges industrial hygienists face when evaluating exposure data—particularly the tendency to underestimate exposures when relying solely on professional judgment. He emphasized how heuristics, structured strategies, and statistical methods help reduce bias and improve the reliability of exposure assessments.

Participants were introduced to AIHA's iterative exposure assessment strategy, which begins with qualitative evaluations and progresses to quantitative sampling and analysis as needed. Dr. Gruetzmacher highlighted how qualitative tools can be applied through observation, while quantitative tools become essential once sampling data is available.

The session also included an overview of AIHA's free online analytical tools and training resources, which support statistical evaluation of sampling data. Attendees learned how to locate, select, and apply these tools to determine exposure categories, identify elevated risks, and guide appropriate control measures.

By the end of the presentation, participants gained a clearer understanding of how a structured, statistically informed approach leads to more accurate exposure assessments, better targeting of controls, and ultimately a reduction in occupational illness and disease.

About the Speaker: [Dr. George Gruetzmacher](#) is a Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional, and AIHA Fellow with more than four decades of experience in occupational health and safety. He works in the OSHA On-Site Consultation Program, teaches at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and serves as a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His extensive background in industrial hygiene, safety management systems, and emergency management made him an exceptional resource for this session.

Special thanks to both Zane Frund, MSA Safety (Pittsburgh AIHA President-Elect / Program Committee Chair), and Joseph Hill (Member Networks Coordinator & LS Liaison, AIHA) for organizing this event! We would also like to acknowledge the following members / guests who participated in the event:

- Marie Bourgeois, Univ. of South Florida College of Public Health
- Morgan Campbell, Clark Testing
- Zane Frund, MSA Safety
- Renee Hartsook, Takmos LLC
- Robert Haushalter, Duquesne University
- Jade Heckman, Integral Consulting Inc.
- MaryAnn Hoff, AM Health & Safety
- Sam Huggins, Comprehensive Safety Compliance
- Del Kubeldis, OnPoint Industrial Services
- Ashleigh L'Orange, ION Clean Energy
- Josh Maskrey, Insight Exposure & Risk Sciences Group
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA Tator
- Andrew Radomski, AM Health & Safety
- Bailey Reggetz, Kokosing Inc.
- Parinita Sah, AM Health & Safety
- Stacey Sears, Johnson Matthey Plc
- Josh Shaffer, Comprehensive Safety Compliance
- Sarmed Shareef, Community College of Allegheny County
- Leah Tipton, MSHA
- Chris Wesley, Colden Corporation

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## Meeting Review – January 21 Ethics for Health & Safety Professionals: Making the Right Choices

Provided by Pittsburgh AIHA Secretary, Dane Mitcheson, CIH, CSP, CHST



The Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section held a virtual technical meeting for the month of January entitled **“Ethics for Health & Safety Professionals: Making the Right Choices”** on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. [Mark Katchen, MS, MBA, CIH, FAIHA](#) presented the interactive session as he provided a practical, real-world look at ethical challenges faced by occupational and environmental health and safety professionals.

He reviewed key ethical principles, examined how professional codes of conduct apply in practice, and worked through case studies involving conflicts of interest, reporting integrity, confidentiality, and emerging issues such as AI. Mr. Katchen is a Managing Principal of The Phylmar Group, Inc., where he leads several national and global roundtables for OEHS professionals. He has more than 35 years of experience in occupational and environmental health, regulatory strategy, and organizational ethics.

The virtual event was coordinated and moderated by Pittsburgh AIHA Local Section President-Elect Zane N. Frund, Ph.D., MPH, MBA, CIH and AIHA Member Networks Coordinator & LS Liaison Joseph Hill. Following the event, Mr. Hill sent an email to all attendees containing the agenda, the attendee log, and their certificate of completion.

All of the attendees left with actionable strategies to strengthen ethical decision-making and navigate complex workplace dilemmas with confidence. The Pittsburgh AIHA would like to extend a big thanks to Mr. Katchen for his presentation. We would also like to thank Mr. Frund and Mr. Hill for coordinating and moderating the event.

Finally, we would like to thank the following members and guests that attended the event:

- John Bell, Watco Companies, LLC
- Darrick Bertig, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Renee Cowell, Tormod
- Carol Delfino, Delfino Health & Safety
- Helen Farnham
- Zane Frund, MSA Safety
- MaryAnn Hoff, AM Health & Safety
- Ashlyn Hornberger, FedEx
- Dylan Kopnitsky, Apex Companies, LLC
- Delwyn Kubeldis, OnPoint Industrial Services
- Alexis Malovich, FedEx
- Dane Mitcheson, FedEx
- Bob Nocco, Douglas Products
- Frank Pokrywka, KTA-Tator, Inc.
- Rob Rinto, FedEx Ground
- Sarmed Shareef, Community College of Allegheny County
- Paula Sweitzer, Duquesne University
- Keith Rickabaugh, RJ Lee Group
- Anthony Veltri, RHI Magnesita
- Matt Zock, Amazon

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## National AIHA eLearning Update – April 2026



The National AIHA sent an eLearning notice to subscribers on 4/15/26. Please check your email for the calendar links or log into your online classroom to access the program. If you have any questions or need assistance, you can reach the National team at [DLAssistant@aiha.org](mailto:DLAssistant@aiha.org).

**This benefit is available only to ACTIVE Pittsburgh AIHA members who have renewed their membership for 2026. If you did not receive the eLearning email, please confirm that your membership is current.**

- **Log in and access the online classroom:** <https://learning.aiha.org>
- **Review the information posted on the** [2026 eLearning Subscribers page](#)

Members are encouraged to log in, confirm that the eLearning tab is visible, and review the **2026 eLearning Subscribers page**, which includes details on upcoming live webinars, OnDemand recordings, transcript access, and FAQs. If login issues occur, users should use the “forgot password” link or contact the support team. See Program Handout for details.

The update also highlights a robust lineup of **live webinars**—all automatically registered for subscribers—including topics such as data analytics, mental health as a workplace value, PPE risk assessments, silica exposure, climate and sustainability, noise dosimetry, chemical protective clothing, and OEHS ethics. Several webinar recordings are already available.

New **OnDemand sessions** from AIHA Connect 2025 have also been added, covering topics such as occupational exposure banding, respiratory toxicology, roof hazard management, welding fume exposure, and black lung disease insights.

### **Reminder: Make the Most of Your 2026 eLearning Subscription**

Don't forget to take advantage of your **2026 Pittsburgh AIHA eLearning Subscription**. Log in regularly to explore new webinars, watch OnDemand sessions, and track your continuing education credits. This is a valuable member benefit—be sure to use it throughout the year to stay current, earn CM points, and strengthen your OEHS expertise.

### **Upcoming Webinars**

You are automatically registered for these webinars, and can access them by clicking in My Live Events in the online classroom. Note: Webinars are scheduled in Eastern Time. Please ensure your calendar reminder is set to the correct local time zone, as it may not adjust automatically based on your settings. Click here for list of AIHA Webinars.

- **Hazard Recognition and Control for the Emerging North American Cannabis Industry**- Recording now Available!
- **Psychosocial Hazards 101: What Every OEHS Professional Should Know** - Recording now Available!
- **Engaging the Workforce to Control SIF Risk: Applying AI, Safeguard Conversations, and the NSC SIF Prevention Model Using SafeWorkPlanAI** - Recording Coming Soon!
- **Making Practical Sense of Enormous Data Logs** (Wednesday, April 22, 1:00-2:00 pm ET)
- **The New Safety Standard: Mental Health as a Core Workplace Value** (Wednesday, May 6, 1:00-2:00 pm ET)
- **How to Conduct a PPE Risk Assessment - Practical Considerations for Industrial Hygiene Exposures** (Wednesday, May 13, 1:00-2:00 pm ET)
- **Controlling Silica Exposure in Stone Countertop Fabrication & Installation** (Wednesday, June 24, 1:00-2:00 pm ET)
- **Climate, Health, and Sustainability 101** (Wednesday, July 22, 1:00-2:30 pm ET) - coming soon!
- **Modern Noise Dosimetry: Limits, Misreads, and Better Solutions** (Wednesday, August 5, 1:00-3:00 pm ET) - coming soon!
- **OEHS Ethics in the Age of AI and Skeptical Stakeholders** (Wednesday, September 16, 1:00-3:00pm ET) counts toward 2-hour ethics requirement\* - coming soon!
- **Chemical Protective Clothing- title TBD** (Wednesday, September 30, 1:00-2:00 pm ET) - coming soon!

### **OnDemand Session Recordings**

Please note the following AIHA OnDemand sessions have been added to your subscription group. Click to view archives.

- ToxShorts Occupational Exposure Banding Basics & ToxShorts Respiratory Anatomy, Physiology, and Toxicology (AIHA Connect 2025 OnDemand)
- Managing Roof Hazards on a Multi-Campus Healthcare Organization (AIHA Connect 2025 OnDemand)
- Objective Quality Evidence and Robust Records (AIHA Connect 2025 OnDemand)
- Welding Fume Exposure Factors (AIHA Connect 2025 OnDemand)
- Upton Sinclair Lecture Protecting Miners Insights Into Black Lung Disease and Regulatory Challenges (AIHA Connect 2025 OnDemand)

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## 2026 Pittsburgh AIHA Membership Renewal – Past Due

**Membership dues for 2026 was due December 31, 2025.** We have 40+ members who have not paid their Pittsburgh AIHA dues. An email was sent on 2/15/26 requesting payment. There are two ways to pay –

1. **National AIHA members** should check the box for Pittsburgh Local Section to include your LS annual **dues of \$35** for your Pittsburgh AIHA membership, or
2. NON-National AIHA members can pay dues directly to the Pittsburgh AIHA via the link: [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=42WTZ9VE56U8A](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=42WTZ9VE56U8A).

Information is also posted on the homepage. Any questions, please contact Christy at [ckirsch@pittsburghaiha.org](mailto:ckirsch@pittsburghaiha.org).

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## National AIHA News and Updates

### **National AIHA Open Calls:**

Interested in serving as a leader within the Association, or do you know someone who would? AIHA has open calls for members to serve in various volunteer leadership capacities throughout the year.



Check out the latest AIHA open calls for volunteer opportunities, updated regularly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [infonet@aiha.org](mailto:infonet@aiha.org).

<https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/open-calls>

National AIHA currently has several open volunteer opportunities for both members and non-members, offering flexible ways to contribute to the OEHS profession. Opportunities range from advisory groups to technical panels and short-term micro-volunteering roles. A few current examples include:

- [Open Call: Improving Exposure Judgments Advisory Group](#) (April 30, 2026 – Members Only)
- [Open Call: Standards Advisory Panel \(SAP\)](#) (May 15, 2026- Members Only)
- [AIHA Emerging Economy Microgrant Advisory Group](#) (No Expiration Date – Members Only)
- [Open Call: AIHA Emergency Response Planning Guideline Working Group](#) (May 26, 2026 - Members / Non-Members)
- [AIHA Seeks Volunteers to Serve on New TSCA Advisory Group](#) (No Expiration Date, Members / Non-Members)
- [AIHA Seeks Volunteers to Serve on New AIHA-ASHRAE IAQ Advisory Group](#) (No Expiration Date – Members / Non-Members)

If you're interested in expanding your network, sharing your expertise, or supporting national initiatives, explore the full list of opportunities here: <https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/open-calls>

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### **Toward Educational and Career Enrichment**

AIHA's recent SynergistNOW blog post, "Toward Educational and Career Enrichment," written by AIHA CEO **Larry Sloan**, highlights the organization's progress at the midpoint of its strategic plan and outlines how AIHA is strengthening educational and career-development resources for OEHS professionals.

The article focuses on the **Pursuit of Knowledge** strategic domain, emphasizing AIHA's work to better understand the evolving educational needs of the profession. This includes the release of the updated *Core Competencies for the Practice of Industrial/Occupational Hygiene*, which now guides the development of AIHA Connect sessions, webinars, PDCs, and

other learning offerings. AIHA also plans to launch a new feedback mechanism in 2026 to gather member input on the effectiveness of its educational framework.

The post introduces AIHA's new **Learning Pathways**, designed to support adult learning styles and provide structured development at the technician, practitioner, and professional levels. The first pathway—focused on **fatigue management**—includes a range of learning formats such as articles, research papers, interactive content, and recorded lectures.

AIHA has also enhanced the **AIHA Marketplace**, adding improved search filters and a streamlined interface to help members more easily find publications and resources.

Together, these initiatives reflect AIHA's ongoing commitment to delivering **high-quality educational and career enrichment opportunities** that support OEHS professionals at every stage of their careers.

*This summary is based on the National AIHA SynergistNOW blog post "Toward Educational and Career Enrichment," authored by Larry Sloan.*

Read the full article: <https://www.aiha.org/blog/toward-educational-and-career-enrichment>

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### Support the Future of Industrial Hygiene – TES Robertson Scholarship



At AIHA Connect 2026, **TES is hosting a raffle for a fully restored 1980 CJ-7 Jeep** to benefit the new [Robertson Scholarship](#), supporting students pursuing careers in industrial hygiene or EHS. 100% of ticket proceeds fund this scholarship that is administered by AIHF and open to U.S. residents.

Members can support the cause and the next generation of IH professionals by purchasing a raffle ticket [online](#) right now or at Booth 1109 during the conference.

**SKC is proud to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of this initiative**, which will fund a new scholarship through the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation (AIHF) and help support the next generation of IH professionals.



## 2026 Respirable Crystalline Silica and Other Minerals and Metals Symposium – May 30-31, 2026

Join the Silica Symposium Silica exposure continues to be a major concern for OEHS professionals, especially with the rise of engineered stone products and increasing cases of silicosis among countertop workers. On May 30-31, the Respirable Crystalline Silica and Other Minerals and Metals Symposium will bring together researchers and practitioners from around the world to share the latest findings and practical solutions.

[https://aihaconnect.org/agenda/2026-respirable-crystalline-silica-and-other-minerals-and-metals-symposium?utm\\_campaign=connect26&utm\\_content=connection6-symposium&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=aiha](https://aihaconnect.org/agenda/2026-respirable-crystalline-silica-and-other-minerals-and-metals-symposium?utm_campaign=connect26&utm_content=connection6-symposium&utm_medium=email&utm_source=aiha)

### AIHA Launches New Merchandise Store

The new **AIHA Merchandise Store** is now live, offering members a curated selection of apparel, drinkware, tech accessories, and sustainable gear. Shop trusted brands like **Champion®**, **OGIO®**, and more — all featuring fresh AIHA designs. The TOP PICKS are listed below:

- 32 oz. recycled stainless steel bottle
- Anywhere RPET laptop backpack
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### Free AIHA Guidance Document:

#### How to Improve the Safety Climate on Your Construction Site

This guide focuses on improving the safety climate on construction sites through methods like worker participation, supervisor leadership, and measuring climate. These concepts relate to organizational culture, leadership, and communication, which are critical Functional Core Competencies. The methods also represent key elements of continuous IH/OH Program Management. Click here: [How to Improve the Safety Climate on Your Construction Site](#)

### Synergist Blog: The Importance of Everyday Networking

Many OEHS professionals are confident with data and technical work but less comfortable with networking. In a recent [SynergistNOW article](#), [Alex Cardone, CIH, CSP, and Felix Boachie, MS, CIH, CSP](#), explain why intentional relationship-building is essential for career growth. They highlight how networking expands opportunities, builds trusted communities of expertise, and strengthens the interpersonal skills that often matter more than technical ability when advancing in a career. Their upcoming AIHA Connect 2026 session, **“Networking for Scientists: Making Connections That Matter,”** will offer practical strategies OEHS professionals can use immediately, including how to engage with AIHA local sections, leverage social media, and connect with OSHA Voluntary Protection Program Star sites.



Cardone and Boachie encourage anyone building or advancing a career in OEHS to attend. As Boachie notes, even one actionable insight can help unlock new opportunities. **Session Details: Networking for Scientists: Making Connections That Matter Monday, June 1 | 2–3 p.m.** AIHA Connect 2026 • June 1–3 • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans  
Agenda and registration: [aihaconnect.org](https://aihaconnect.org)



## **National AIHA Connect – Advance Program Now Available**

<https://info.aiha.org/connect26-advance-program/>

AIHA Connect 2026, held in New Orleans, is designed to help OEHS professionals meet their goals through immersive learning, hands-on experiences, and meaningful networking. The conference offers practical education to earn CM contact hours, a dynamic Expo featuring innovative products and technologies, and opportunities to strengthen your professional network and advance your career. Attendees can also enjoy wellness activities and experiential events that balance learning with personal well-being. Both in-person and virtual participants receive access to authorized OnDemand content through December 2026, with the flexibility to switch formats before May 13.

## **Providing Armor for America: The 12,000-Ton Press at Homestead Works**

One of the most impressive surviving artifacts of Pittsburgh’s steelmaking era still stands at The Waterfront in Homestead: a 12,000-ton hydraulic forging press built around 1903 for the Homestead Works of Bethlehem Steel. The photo featured in this newsletter shows the massive structure as it appears today—weathered, towering, and unmistakably tied to the region’s industrial past.

When first installed, the press immediately doubled Homestead’s armor-plate production capacity. For the next fifty years, it helped make the mill one of the U.S. Navy’s most important suppliers of heavy steel. Armor plate forged on this machine protected generations of American



battleships, including the USS Missouri—the ship on which Japan signed the articles of surrender that ended World War II.

Believed to be **the only surviving heavy steel forging press of its kind from the early 20th century**, it remains a rare physical link to the era when Pittsburgh’s steel industry shaped national defense and global history. Though now surrounded by retail development, the press stands as a powerful reminder of the innovation, labor, and industrial might that once defined Homestead.

*For readers interested in exploring more of the Homestead Works site, including detailed images of remaining structures and equipment, an excellent photo collection is available at Towns and Nature: <https://towns-and-nature.blogspot.com/2022/05/homestead-pa-detail-photos-in-uss.html>*

*The photo featured in this newsletter was originally shared in a post within the [“Old Historic Photos” Facebook group](#).*

*Thanks to Pgh. AIHA Treasurer, Frank Pokrywka, for this story!*

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