

The Leader



SUMMER 2010 >> VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

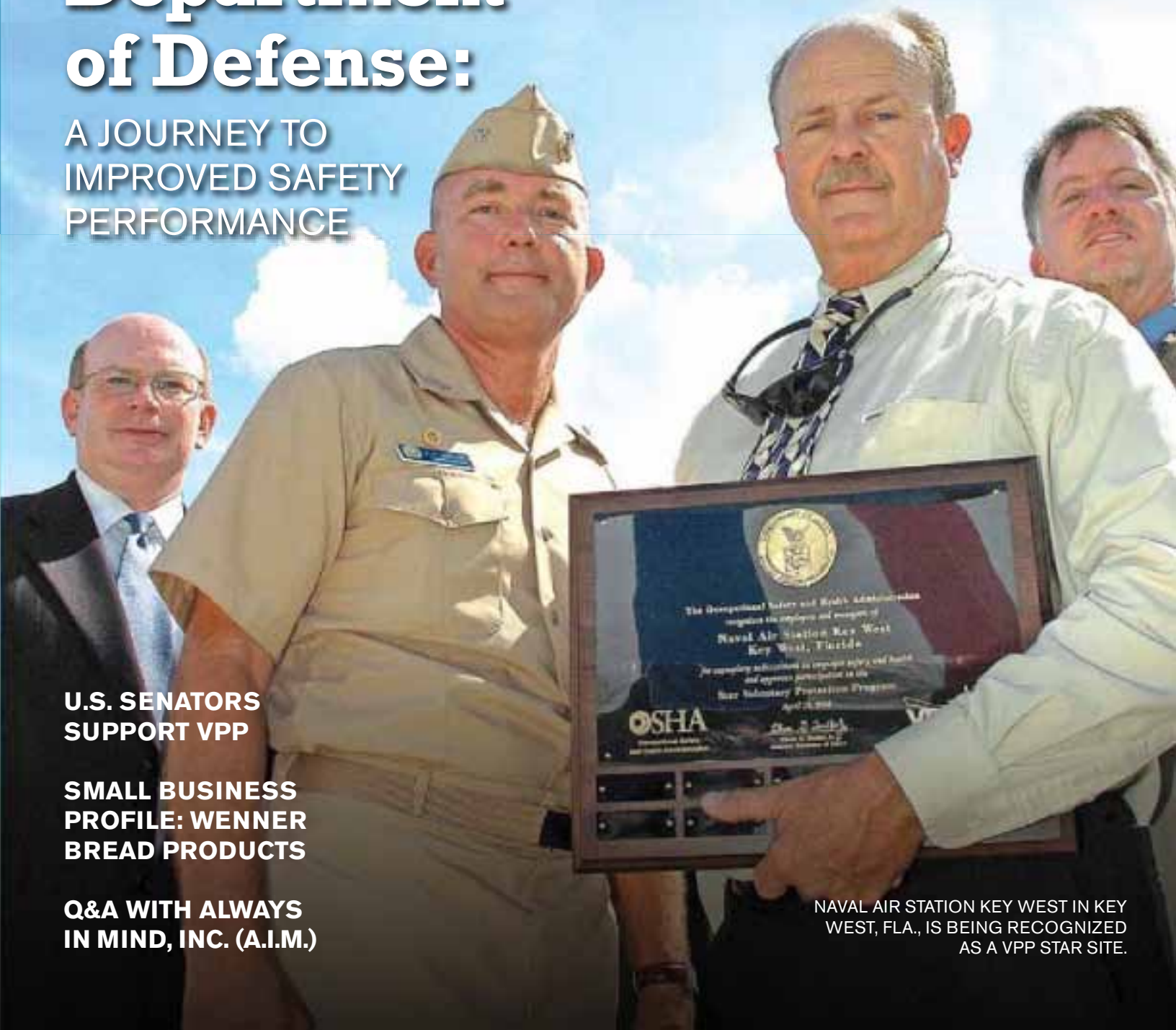
Department of Defense:

A JOURNEY TO IMPROVED SAFETY PERFORMANCE

U.S. SENATORS SUPPORT VPP

SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE: WENNER BREAD PRODUCTS

Q&A WITH ALWAYS IN MIND, INC. (A.I.M.)



NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST IN KEY WEST, FLA., IS BEING RECOGNIZED AS A VPP STAR SITE.



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13TH ANNUAL SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 6-8, 2010 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

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The 13th Annual Safety & Health Congress, sponsored by the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants Association Inc. (VPPPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Puerto Rico OSHA and the Puerto Rico Federal Safety & Health Council, will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 6-8, 2010.

This is a combined effort to serve the needs of VPP Cem', Merit and Guan'n Star sites in Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico OSHA Office, the public and private sector and any occupational safety and health professional in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Although Puerto Rico is an OSHA state-plan state, it falls under the jurisdiction of Region II federal OSHA, which includes New Jersey, New York and the Virgin Islands.

The conference will offer a broad range of learning opportunities. Participants will be able to choose from several workshop topics and tracks including: numerous OSHA training courses and training tracks on VPP, general industry and construction.

CONFERENCE DATES: December 6-8, 2010
CONFERENCE HOTEL: Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza
ADDRESS: 999 Ashford
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HOTEL GROUP RATE: \$145 plus resort fees and local taxes
RESERVATION DEADLINE: November 12, 2010
GROUP RATE CODE: VPPPA
RESERVATIONS TELEPHONE: (888) 722-1278

Register and find out more about this event at
www.vpppa.org/PuertoRico/index.cfm.



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The Leader (ISSN 1081-261X) is published quarterly for VPPPA members. *The Leader* delivers articles from members for members, safety and health best practices, developments in the field of occupational safety and health, association activities, educational and networking opportunities and the latest VPP approvals. Subscriptions are available for members as part of the membership benefits and at a 50 percent discount beyond the complimentary allotment. Nonmember subscription rate is \$25 a year.

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VPPPA, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, promotes advances in worker safety and health excellence through best practices and cooperative efforts among workers, employers, the government and communities.



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Dear Volunteers for Total Quality Protection:



I have thought long and hard as to what I would say in my letter to the membership in this issue of *The Leader*. Having traveled across the country to the VPPPA regional conferences and provided attendees with a national update, it's hard to think of something “fresh” to say. But reflecting upon my experiences at these conferences, I am further reminded that VPPPA members are unlike any other group. As my thoughts wandered in brainstorm, so did my glance. What it landed on is the association's logo and the phrase, which was hidden in plain sight, “Volunteers for Total Quality Protection.”

This tagline has been in existence since VPPPA was founded, yet it rings as true today as the day of its creation. The spirit of VPP, and that of VPPPA members, is to go beyond – not merely attaining “satisfactory,” but striving for “excellent.”

I strongly believe that it is our members' dedication to excellence and passion for VPP that has helped keep the association strong. Over the past few years, a turbulent economy has lead many companies to impose budget cuts and travel restrictions and suspend dues payments, affecting many member-based associations in numbers, membership dollars and conference attendance figures. Despite this trend, VPPPA has managed to strive and thrive. During a time when maintaining is advancing, our membership has continued to stand by the association, making VPPPA stronger now than ever before.

In my last letter, I reflected upon the successes of the VPPPA regional conferences. As I look toward the national conference, our pre-registration numbers indicate a strong turnout and our sponsorship commitments have exceeded any previous year. Onsite, countless volunteers will help stuff bags, move boxes, direct traffic, coordinate events and answer questions about membership; without this support the conference could not occur.

Previously, I also discussed the impact of the “Write Now, Right Now” initiative. Individuals have sent letters to Congress in support of funding for OSHA VPP, resulting in over 40,000 letters hitting the desks of Capitol Hill and countless meetings with congressional representatives.

As you read through this issue of *The Leader*, you will see many examples of this spirit of “volunteerism,” with articles submitted from various member sites; including several from small businesses such as Access Health Systems (pg. 38), Always In Mind, Inc. (pg. 30), Certified Environmental Management (pg. 33) and Wenner Bread (pg. 32). These articles touch upon the importance of a safety and health management system that goes beyond compliance for small businesses. Additionally, Senators Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.) address the significance of VPP for small businesses and discuss why they co-sponsored a bill (S. 3257) to the U.S. Senate (pg. 9) in an effort to codify VPP. To show the true diversity of VPP, the Department of Defense, the antithesis of a small business, also contributed a wonderful article highlighting the improvements in safety performance and the significant reduction in civilian employee workplace injuries after “volunteering” for VPP (pg. 27).

“Volunteers” could mean a lot of different things to different people, but for VPPPA it means our continued success. As an association created by VPP sites, for VPP sites and those pursuing VPP, we are here because of you! I want to thank all of our valuable volunteers for your efforts and encourage each of you to continue to stay active. Whether through contacting your local representatives on the importance of federal funding for VPP; attending and helping out at the VPPPA national conference; becoming an active mentor through the VPPPA Mentoring Program; contributing articles and pictures for the association's publications; serving on a national or regional committee or board of directors; or reaching out to fellow worksites that have attained VPP status, your efforts help make this association who and what we are, “Volunteers for Total Quality Protection.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Davis Layne". The signature is fluid and cursive.

R. DAVIS LAYNE
VPPPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Capitol Watch

COMPILED BY KOREY BELANGER >> GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, VPPPA, INC.

AIHA and ASSE Support S. 3257

In a June 5, 2010, letter to Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) expressed its complete support of Senate Bill 3257, the Voluntary Protection Program Act, which would restore \$3.125 million for VPP to the budget. “Employers, employees and other stakeholders recognize this program as a success that not only should be continued but expanded,” AIHA President Michaels T. Brandt told Sen. Enzi, the bill’s co-sponsor.

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) also showed its support for the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) in a letter to Sen. Enzi on May 20, 2010, stating it strongly opposed a “fee-based” system, which was proposed by Congressman Miller (D-Calif.) back in March. ASSE stated a fee-based program

would destroy the credibility and integrity of VPP participation for employees.

On April 22, 2010, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee Senator Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), included S. 3257 as an amendment to the fiscal year 2011 budget, which was unanimously approved by the committee.

OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels told the Construction Business Forum on June 16 he supports VPP, but would like it to continue without OSHA resources. “These are the employers who get it,” stated Dr. Michaels.

Aware of the agency’s budget constraints, Brandt suggested that OSHA consider additional ways to utilize its professionals, such as a third party review program. The third party program, which was created by AIHA, ASSE and other groups, was

introduced by Sen. Enzi in the SAFE Act legislation. “Perhaps this time has come to revisit this approach and determine whether such a program might be viable,” said Brandt.

House Passes Reporting Bill

On June 16, 2010, the House of Representatives passed a bill (H.R. 2142) that would improve the overall performance of the government by increasing the reporting responsibilities of federal departments and agencies. Under the legislation, federal agencies would be required to provide reports four times a year and make these performance reports available to Congress and the public.

“The unprecedented legislation will save taxpayer dollars by shining light on how federal agencies perform,” said Representative Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), the bill’s sponsor. “With this bill, Congress can make more informed decisions as we fund federal agencies and their programs. Better information yields better results, and these reports will help us invest in what works and fix what doesn’t.”

Byrd – Strong Supporter of Mine Safety and Health – Passes Away at 92

Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia, the longest-serving senator and oldest member of the 111th Congress, died Monday, June 28, 2010.

Senator Byrd was a public advocate of mine health and safety. He fought for stricter safety standards and supported amendments to make it easier for disabled miners to get black lung benefits.

Following the West Virginia mining tragedy of April 2010, Senator Byrd responded, “Once we learn the cause of this disaster and investigations are completed whether it is wrongdoing by Massey, lack of enforcement by MSHA, or inadequacies with the mine health and safety laws, including the MINER Act of 2006, action will need to be taken.”

Carol Goodwin was appointed by West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin in the interim until the November elections. ★



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In Brief

COMPILED BY KOREY BELANGER >> GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, VPPPA, INC.

OSHA Top Priority – Prevention Program Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels spoke to the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) on June 14, 2010, during their annual conference and stated that completing work on a final rule establishing an injury and illness prevention program is OSHA's overarching priority.

The prevention program rule would put the responsibility on employers to develop their own processes to find and fix workplace safety and health hazards at their workplaces. OSHA will develop materials based on industry type to help employers examine the risks in their facilities. This rule "has the potential to change the culture of workplaces across America," stated Dr. Michaels.

OSHA's Directorate of Construction welcomes the prevention program rule. Office of Construction Standards Senior Specialist Michael Buchet told ASSE that the rule would "throw the burden back" into the workforce where a prevention program can be tailor-made to fit the specific worksite.

Outreach Training Program Classes include New Information on Workers' Rights

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced June 11, 2010, its new training component, which will focus on workers' rights as part of its voluntary OSHA Outreach Training Program. The program teaches workers about their rights and how to identify, avoid, reduce and prevent work-related hazards. Training includes topics such as hazard communication and material safety

data sheets (MSDS), the right to request an OSHA inspection, the right to review injury and illness records and chemical exposure monitoring data, the right to file a whistleblower complaint within 30 days of retaliation or discrimination and the right to receive training.

The new component will provide information on a worker's right to refuse work in light of dangerous conditions and provides samples of weekly fatal and catastrophe reports. The new addition will be included in the next revision of the Outreach Training Program Guidelines in October 2010.

"For too long workers have avoided making claims of unsafe work conditions out of fear of losing their jobs," stated OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels in a written statement. "We are confident that this new training will embolden workers to speak up when they find work practices that endanger their lives and the lives of their co-workers."

Musculoskeletal Disorders to be Restored to Tracking Log for 2011

During the American Society of Safety Engineers' annual conference on June 15, 2010, Amanda Edens, the deputy director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Directorate of Standards and Guidance, stated that OSHA is readying its final rule to restore the musculoskeletal disorder column on the OSHA 300 log employers use to track injuries and illnesses.

The rule will define work-related musculoskeletal disorders and add them to a column in the OSHA 300 log. This effort comes as a result of the agency's finding that a large portion of undetermined work-related injuries could be defined as musculoskeletal disorders.

Eden stated that the agency is "on a fast track" to publish the rule no later than August 2010, which gives time to implement the program for 2011. "Otherwise we'll have to wait until next year because you can't put a new system in the middle of a reporting year," said Edens. ★

U.S. SENATORS SUPPORT VPP

The Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) had the opportunity to speak with United States Senators Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana and Michael B. Enzi of Wyoming to give members some in-depth information on their roles as congressional representatives and background on their support of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP). Senator Landrieu is currently the Chair of the Small Business Committee and is also a member of the Appropriations Committee. Senator Enzi is the Ranking Member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and is a member of the Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.



SENATOR LANDRIEU



SENATOR ENZI

Senator Landrieu, can you tell us a little bit about your role as Chair of the Senate Small Business Committee?

SEN. LANDRIEU: In January of 2009, I assumed the Chairmanship of the Senate Small Business Committee. At that time, small businesses were feeling the brunt of the economic crisis. Neighborhood businesses, which had been around for generations, were shutting their doors. With small businesses having the ability to jumpstart the economy, we needed to act immediately to improve capital access, contracting and entrepreneurial development programs. Since taking this Committee over, we have introduced several pieces of legislation that are aimed at spurring small business growth and encouraging job creation. With the help of Ranking Member Olympia Snowe, this Committee prides itself on being a truly bi-partisan support system for small businesses both in my home state of Louisiana and across the country.

Senator Enzi, please share with us a brief history of your role as a ranking member of the Senate HELP Committee.

SEN. ENZI: I began my working career as a small businessman. My wife Diana and I opened a small shoe store the same year that OSHA was created. We had to wear hard hats in the store at times because shoe boxes were stacked up over our heads. It was successful and became a small chain of shoe stores. After that I became an accountant and ran another small business, including supervising a safety program that kept employees safer and saved money. I worked on workplace safety issues in the state legislature and when I got to the Senate, I wanted to continue working on them.

From your experience, what challenges do small businesses face today in terms of worker safety and health?

SEN. LANDRIEU: Small businesses always have to do more with less – by definition. With smaller revenues and

fewer employees than big business, small businesses have to work with fewer resources to implement the workplace safety and health initiatives that every American worker should have. The VPP is one way that OSHA and small businesses can work together to achieve the highest standards of workplace safety.

SEN. ENZI: Small businesses today are facing challenges just to keep the doors open in this difficult economy, but they know that maintaining a safe workplace is just as important as turning a profit. More so in a small business than any other business, employees are like family members and you treat them that way. You can't sell shoes if your sales force is out injured, customers don't feel safe in your store or your workman's comp rates are so high you can't afford them. At the same time, I am concerned that small business people not become overwhelmed with staggering amounts of paperwork and regulatory bureaucracy.

With different initiatives being established that are aimed at boosting the economy by increasing small business export and production, such as the National Export Initiative, does this increase the need for stronger worker safety and health programs?

SEN. LANDRIEU: As we create more export opportunities for our small businesses, we have to also work to provide our small businesses with tools to meet increased productivity challenges. Even though the United States has some of the most stringent workplace safety rules in the world, the VPP encourages participating businesses to exceed even those requirements, and participant reporting evidence shows that businesses that provide employees with programs that promote safety and health in the workplace are more productive.

How do you perceive the role of safety programs in small business?

SEN. LANDRIEU: In most cases, small business employees are the engine of the business, and creating safe and productive worksites for employees is a top priority for small business owners.

SEN. ENZI: At a Committee hearing in April, I was pleased to be able to invite Kelli Heflin, the Regulatory Compliance and Safety manager at a Colorado based small business – Scott’s Liquid Gold, Inc. She explained how important VPP was for the successful safety program she was running. In particular, VPP gave her access to a network of safety experts and resources.

Have you noticed a correlation between small businesses with strong safety programs, such as VPP, and having financial stability in rough economic times?

SEN. LANDRIEU: Absolutely. According to some reports, in 2007, private sector VPP participants saved more than \$300 million due to programs that promoted workplace safety and health initiatives. This means real savings for those businesses who don’t have to hire and train temporary and replacement workers for employees injured on the job, which is particularly important during these tough economic times.

SEN. ENZI: I’ve seen firsthand that small businesses can save money by implementing a safety program, just as many VPP sites have found. In this economy, every little bit helps. And in the larger sense, the survival of small businesses is absolutely critical to any economic recovery. The fact is that 80 percent of all new jobs are created by small businesses. To me, this fact is not just rhetoric but is reality in my home state of Wyoming. In fact, there is not a single business headquartered in Wyoming with more than 500 employees, which is how the Small Business Administration quantifies a small business.

In your opinion, how does a proactive safety and health management system impact the American workforce?

SEN. LANDRIEU: First and foremost, it protects our workers from devastating accidents. VPP worksites consistently report average injury and illness rates that are 50 percent below their industries’ average. In addition, a proactive safety and health program means real costs savings for American businesses, which means more jobs and better wages for American workers.

SEN. ENZI: Every employee deserves to go home safely after their shift. It is in everyone’s best interest to maintain a safe workplace, and that is why I think the VPP emphasis on employee participation and buy-in to the safety program is so important. Additionally, when employees stay safer at work, they also have greater career longevity. This gives employers a greater return on the investment they made in that employee’s training and saves the country money in social security, disability, workers comp and healthcare costs.

What prompted you to introduce S. 3257 to the Senate?

SEN. LANDRIEU: As different proposals to shift funding from the VPP to other OSHA compliance efforts became more and more likely, I was approached by a variety of small businesses to fight to continue the funding of the VPP. In fact, since Feb. 1, 2010, more than 12,000 letters with signatures from employees of VPP worksites, small

businesses and others were delivered to Congress asking for us to continue to fund this program. Frankly, it just doesn’t make sense to me why we should consider cutting the funding for a program that has a proven track record of success.

SEN. ENZI: I have supported making VPP permanent for many years and have included codification language in OSHA reform legislation that covered other workplace safety issues as well. When Sen. Landrieu let me know she felt the same way I did about VPP, we decided to work together to maximize our chances of success. Congress has become increasingly partisan and these days, if you want to pass something you need bipartisan support.

How will S. 3257 affect small business?

SEN. LANDRIEU: One of my goals for this bill – once it is enacted – is for it to continue to encourage more small businesses to participate in the VPP. According to a 2009 Government Accountability Report, the proportion of VPP sites with fewer than 100 employees grew from 28 percent in 2003 to 39 percent in 2008, and I think those reporting numbers have plenty of room to grow.

SEN. ENZI: When S. 3257 becomes law, the Department of Labor will not be able to eliminate this program that has been increasingly useful for small businesses. Additionally, the bill directs the Department to look for new ways to increase small business participation in VPP and Sen. Landrieu and I will certainly follow up to make sure they are doing that.

How do you perceive reactions of worksites in your state to the Administration’s new focus on enforcement and OSHA’s plans to remove direct funding from VPP and shift resources to enforcement instead?

SEN. LANDRIEU: Based on the hundreds and thousands of e-mails and letters members of Congress received this year requesting Congress act to maintain the funding of the VPP, I think it’s safe to say that VPP worksites overwhelmingly

support the continued direct federal funding of VPP.

SEN. ENZI: All I have heard is negative reaction. Companies can't understand why the Administration would want to undercut this very successful program.

What has been the reaction to your proposed bill by other Committee members, Congress in general and people from your home states?

SEN. LANDRIEU: My office has received significant support for this bill from businesses and employees in Louisiana and national organizations including the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association and the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

SEN. ENZI: People appreciate the concept of voluntary steps to create an increase in safety in the workplace and I believe there is broad support for the VPP.

What advice would you give to our members about garnering support for the bill?

SEN. LANDRIEU: Contact your Senators and urge them to co-sponsor S. 3257, and also contact your House members and urge them to introduce a companion bill.

SEN. ENZI: Write and call your congressional representatives. Congratulate them on a tremendous effort so far but tell them the fight is far from over.

Senator Enzi, inquiring minds want to know what the process is now that the bill has been introduced. What is the projected timeline?

SEN. ENZI: That would be up to Chairman Harkin. We are hoping to receive a hearing as soon as possible. ★

VPPPA thanks Senators Landrieu and Enzi for their time and commitment in answering these questions. If you are interested in finding resources on how to contact your congressional representatives to tell them about your experience with VPP, visit VPPPA's website at www.vpppa.org/GovAffairs/VPPSupport.cfm.

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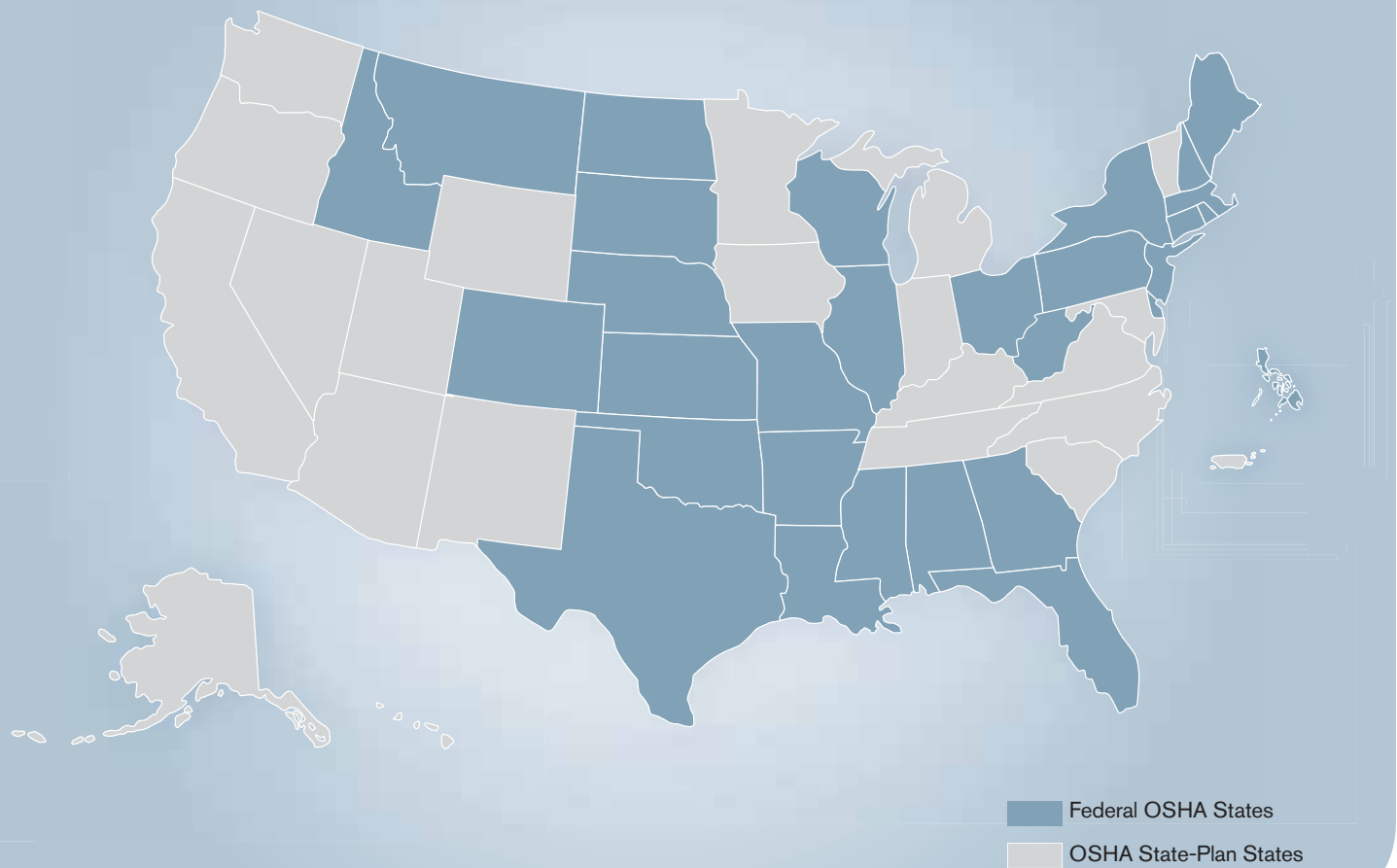
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State-Plan Monitor

COMPILED BY KOREY BELANGER >> GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, VPPPA, INC.

In this issue of the State Plan Monitor, state-plan state contacts were asked to give members insight into how the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) were evolving in their state. See how your state and others are progressing with their VPP programs and gain advice on how to earn and maintain VPP.

ARIZONA

When one thinks of VPP, it conjures up images of safety excellence, commitment, involvement, pride and even accountability. I think for me, it is because of those traits that my role as the VPP coordinator for Arizona is so enjoyable. We are working with organizations whose people really care about the safety and health of each and every person within. I have seen companies that started the process and had much to learn as well as organizations that already had very good safety management systems in place and just wanted to improve. I am always

excited and amazed at what the employers and their employees can accomplish when they pull together toward a common goal.

Over the course of the last five years, VPP in Arizona has seen steady growth, but even more so in the past two years. Interest has grown in smaller companies as well as construction companies. Interest in VPP is extremely high in Arizona, which I think is partly due to effective communication of the benefits of the program and the fact that when the economy demands that we all look at more effective ways to run our businesses, VPP actually makes sense. VPP allows us to get better results, provide safer

workplaces and at the same time be better equipped to deal with an economy that is suffering, which in the end means an impact on our companies' bottom line. I think that employers are starting to see that the effective management of safety and health issues is as important as the management of all the other business elements, such as quality, finance and production. The VPP coordinator and staff in Arizona spend a great deal of time trying to impart that message to all businesses that will listen.

We are seeing a great deal of new companies come to the table in the manufacturing sectors as well as the upcoming construction element. Personally, I think that all of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) talk about more enforcement, greater fines and more penalties may actually be fueling interest

in VPP. The more employers hear that “a new sheriff is in town,” the more effective they want to be at managing their safety and health programs. What better way to achieve that than by becoming familiar with and implementing the elements that exist in the VPP model?

Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) is extremely busy doing outreach and speaking about the benefits of VPP. Seldomly does that discussion touch on the words “exemption program.” We have come to learn that the employers we are dealing with are making this commitment because it makes good business sense. They are doing it because they are committed to the safety and well-being of their employees. Approximately 35-40 presentations are done by the VPP coordinator and his staff on the VPP elements, safety management and other related topics throughout the year. The VPP coordinator personally speaks at many local meetings, conferences, regional conferences and other safety events on effective safety management, utilizing the tools offered in the VPP model. This program is extremely important to ADOSH and we lead the elements of VPP through a variety of outreach efforts, partnerships, the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and other activities involving employers throughout the state.

What advice would I give a site interested in pursuing VPP? In two words – call me! I can explain the program benefits and put you in touch with people who are actually doing it. I can put you in touch with employers, who, at the start of this journey were spending in excess of \$80,000 a year on workers compensation costs and when they finally connect the dots, are spending as little as \$600 a year – all that for a company of less than 50 employees. That’s over \$70,000 dollars back into the operation of the organization at a time when the economy demands better ways to manage all business aspects. In addition, if you’re unsure, let’s sit down and discuss the concerns you have and give me an opportunity to show you what is needed to give your employees the most powerful message of all, the message that “you care.” When teaching the application workshops at both the national and regional VPPPA conferences over the last five years, I am often faced with employer representatives who are just getting their feet wet when

it comes to VPP. They are overwhelmed. Following the workshop, they tell me that it seems so much clearer, considering the information and examples I give them. Based on that feedback, I am sure I can help you and I am looking forward to speaking to you. You can contact me at Norton.mark@dol.gov.

Arizona has started taking General Contractor applications for Construction VPP in July 2010. We are wrapping up the last of the pilot cases. A word of caution for those of you who may read this and think, “I got to get my application in” – do your homework!

There is a great deal of information necessary for the application process and it has become apparent that those who do not understand the VPP program or the elements covered do poorly when submitting applications. If you’re not sure what needs to be in the application, then contact your local representatives and have that dialogue.

In addition, Arizona remains active on the VPP front as evidenced by the activity listed below.

Most recent re-evaluations
(January – June, 2010):

- + First Vehicle Services – Phoenix
- + Central Arizona Project – Phoenix and Tucson
- + Johns Manville – Tucson

Most recent new approvals
(February – May 2010):

- + Yuma Co-Generation – Yuma
- + Print Pack – Prescott Valley
- + Raytheon Missile Systems – Palo Verde Site Tucson

Pending re-approvals:

- + Insulfoam – Phoenix
- + Raytheon Missile Systems – Tucson
- + Honeywell Aerospace – Deer Valley
- + Ducommun – Phoenix
- + US Gypsum – Phoenix

Furthermore, there are currently four applications under review.

CALIFORNIA

There have been some changes in VPP in California in the past few years,

including the expansion of the Special Team Members (STM) program, revision to the Cal/VPP report format requiring new applicants to identify mentors and expanding the scope of the pre-visit. There has also been significant growth in VPP.

Cal/OSHA provides several one-day California VPP workshops annually. We work closely with the Region IX VPPPA Chapter on the pre-conference workshop and session information. Twice a year, we have Best Practices sessions for existing Cal/VPP star sites. Employers interested in VPP also invite us to present and discuss the program to their management and employees monthly.

To those who are looking into participating in VPP, we provide assistance and mentoring to interested sites to help them understand the concept, process, commitment and benefits of the program.

The STM trainings in northern and southern California were completed in February and May. We appreciate Cherry Aerospace in Santa Ana for providing their training facility and Valero – Wilmington, Waste Management, Toyota NAPCC – Ontario and Raytheon – El Segundo for sponsoring the southern California STM event. Thanks to Ron Owens from Hitachi, Kathleen France from Kinder Morgan and Derrick Jarvis from E&J Gallo for moderating the training sessions. We have improved the scope and depth of the pre-visit for new applicant sites in order to provide beneficial information. We hope the improved pre-visit will assist the new sites in being more prepared for the onsite evaluation. The improved pre-visit process was presented at the recent STM trainings.

The 2009 best STMs John Wesley from USG Interior in Stockton and Tamart Antenyistegn from GE Flight Test Operation in Victorville received awards from John Duncan, director of the department of industrial relations. The STMs with outstanding performance in 2009 received recognition letters from Len Welsh, chief of Cal/OSHA.

Thanks to John Messing, the OSHA Training Center and Apprenticeship Programs Chabot-Las Positas Community College District in Dublin will offer free safety trainings for California STMs.

Our newest Star sites are Clean Harbors in Buttonwillow, Waste Management in Irvine and Gonzales Winery in Gozales. Waste Management scheduled their Star ceremony for June 15, 2010. There are five Covanta Star sites in California. Covanta in Mt. Lassen and in Burney had their ceremonies on July 14 and 15. As of June, California has 78 Star sites.

Interest in VPP is stronger now than a few years ago. Two new applications from Raytheon in San Diego and RSC Equipment Rental in Benicia were received in May. The Cal/VPP Star consultants are extremely busy with re-evaluations and evaluations of new applications. The new sites working on 90-day reports are Dairy Farmers of America - Ventura, NRG - Encina, Precision Engines Control - San Diego, Delta Airlines - Ontario and Raytheon - El Segundo. The Raytheon El Segundo site has approximately 7,000 employees and the onsite team, which consisted of three STMs and five Cal/OSHA VPP consultants, performed the evaluation with full cooperation of the site's employees.

The recent re-evaluation at the Valero Benicia Refinery was completed by a team of five Cal/OSHA VPP consultants and two STMs. Carla Fritz from the Cal/OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) initiative in Concord and Mike Oshita from the Cal/OSHA Pressure Vessel (PV) office participated during the first few days of the visit. It was a great experience for the entire team and the Valero employees. The refinery is working on a 90-day report and getting ready for a follow up visit. Don Cook, PV principle engineer, agreed to provide Cal/OSHA pressure vessel expertise for future onsite evaluations and re-evaluations with boiler operations such as Cardinal Cogen GECS in Stanford and Covanta Stanislaus in Craws Landing. Some of the Star facilities working on their re-evaluation reports are: Wheelabrator Shasta Energy - Anderson, Tropicana - City of Industry, Foster Wheeler - Martinez, EMWD - Perris, StandardAero - Los Angeles, Pactiv - Bakersfield and Hamilton SLS facilities in San Diego and Long Beach.

VPPPA Region IX State of California pre-conference workshop in Newport Beach was extremely successful. The next California

VPP workshop will be hosted by Sacramento Safety Center in Sacramento on November 9, 2010. This workshop will be the first Cal/VPP Star workshop in cooperation with the Sacramento Safety Center.

For more information on Cal/VPP Star, visit our website at www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/cal_vpp/cal_vpp_index.html.

MICHIGAN

VPP in Michigan (MVPP) has recently been expanded and is now open to businesses in the construction industry (MVPPC). Also, the triennial re-approval process is changing as the MVPP specialist will no longer be involved with the onsite review. The safety and health consultants in the area where the business is located will now be performing the onsite review. Interest in the program remains fairly consistent. We always seem to have a good amount of interest but it seems to run in streaks - sometimes it's very busy and other times not as much. Now is a very busy time for Michigan.

MVPP is active in the VPP community. Presentations on MVPP were conducted at the Coca-Cola North America facility in Paw Paw and DTE Energy in Detroit. The MVPP specialist, Doug Kimmel, recently gave a presentation on the new Michigan Voluntary Protection Program for Construction MVPPC at the Michigan Safety Conference. The presentation was well received by the approximately 20 attendees, most of whom were from the construction industry. Michigan has received two applications for MVPPC: Holly Construction Company in Detroit, the resident contractor at Marathon Petroleum Detroit; and Walbridge, the construction contractor for University of Michigan's Couzens Hall renovation. In addition, Kimmel annually schedules and participates in two MVPP/MSHARP workshops, gives presentations on MVPP to businesses throughout the state and provides updates on the VPP activities in Michigan at the VPPPA regional and national conferences. Annually, members of the MIOSHA Consultation Division as well as representatives from the Enforcement Division participate in several conferences, industry expos, health fairs, etc., on many safety and health topics, including VPP.

To learn more about VPP in Michigan, contact the MVPP manager or the MVPP

specialist, Doug Kimmel, and discuss with them your interest in the program. Take advantage of the Consultation, Education, and Training (CET) Services to help you prepare for the process, attend an MVPP workshop and contact existing MVPP companies and utilize them as mentors.

Michigan is proud to recognize International Paper, Kalamazoo, for being re-approved as an MVPP Star site. International Paper's Kalamazoo plant was Michigan's first MVPP site, coming into the program in November 1999.

The newest addition to MVPP is the DTE Washington 10 Station/Michcon facility in Washington. They were approved as a Rising Star site on April 6, 2010. The site is a natural gas conditioning, storage, compression and transmission facility located on approximately 30 acres. In addition to the other operations at the site, they maintain approximately 100 miles of natural gas pipeline. The site is 11 years old and consists of three major structures - an administrative/control building and two compressor buildings.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Division (MIOSHA) CET Division is changing the triennial re-approval process. Local CET consultants will now conduct the onsite reviews. MVPP Specialist Doug Kimmel will no longer participate in the re-approval onsite review process but will review the completed reports submitted by the consultants.

The annual spring MVPP mentors' meeting was held in conjunction with the Michigan Safety Conference. The meeting was well attended and afforded attendees the opportunity to get updates on the happenings within MIOSHA and to network with representatives from other MVPP companies. MVPP mentors' meetings are held every spring and fall.

CET Onsite Supervisor Chris Passamani and MVPP Specialist Doug Kimmel recently led an MVPP/MSHARP Informational workshop. The workshop was hosted by MVPP site Huntsman Polyurethanes in Auburn Hills and was attended by 10 representatives from Michigan companies. Pete Panourgias, Huntsman site representative, gave a brief presentation about his experiences with

MVPP and offered a tour of the facility at the end of the presentation.

An MVPP onsite review was conducted at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert. The recommendation for their participation in the program is currently pending approval. This is the only site pending approval at this time.

MIOSHA has accepted applications for the program from: Flint Hills Resources, Marysville; Michigan Packaging Company, Mason; and Potlatch Land and Lumber, Gwinn. Dates for an onsite review have so far been set for the Michigan Packaging Company.

MINNESOTA

VPP in Minnesota has seen steady growth each year. In the past five years, the number of worksites in VPP has grown by nearly 80 percent within Minnesota. This interest has continued with eight applications submitted within the past two years. Minnesota continues to interact and work with more diverse industries.

Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation formally adopted its revised VPP policies and procedures in August 2008. Our program now offers the "Merit" status, which wasn't offered previously.

Minnesota has established an ongoing partnership with the Minnesota Safety Council (MSC) and several health care organizations. OSHA consultants present educational seminars and attend MSC and health care conferences. Minnesota OSHA has maintained ongoing alliances and partnerships with professional and educational institutions to provide education and outreach for employers and employees across the state.

If you are interested in participating in VPP, view the VPP program as a benchmark for safety and health excellence. Use the application process as an opportunity to further identify potential areas for improvement that will enhance your overall safety and health management system. Incorporate the management elements required by VPP to improve the management of worksite hazards and reduce injuries and illnesses.

Know that Minnesota OSHA is committed to the continued growth of the program. We value the sites in the program for their efforts to maintain injury and illness rates below respective industry averages. Minnesota OSHA values the assistance these sites provide to mentor other worksites and our program values the availability of Special Government Employees (SGEs) that offer their expertise to worksites applying for VPP status.

Minnesota currently has 45 Star sites and seven Merit sites within their MNSTAR (VPP) program. Of the 45 Star sites, 27 are classified as general industry sites, 15 are public sector sites and three are construction sites.

Two MNSTAR (VPP) pre-approval evaluations are in progress at two general industry employer worksites.

Three re-approvals were completed with two additional re-approvals scheduled during the summer.

Applications from six general industry worksites and one construction worksite are pending review with onsite evaluations throughout 2010.

NORTH CAROLINA

Since the last issue of *The Leader*, North Carolina has had three new Carolina Stars, three Carolina Star re-approvals, two new Building Stars, one new Rising Star and one new Public Sector Star.

United Chemi-Con, Inc. in Lansing received their new Carolina Star this past May, along with E.J. Pope & Sons, Inc., in Selma and Sonoco Recycling, Inc., in Wiston-Salem. Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Hendersonville gained its Carolina Star re-approval last April and BlueLinx Corporation, Inc., in Charlotte and Eaton Electrical in Arden earned their re-approvals in May.

Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc., in Wilmington received its New Building Star in March and the Haskell Company in Kinston earned its New Building Star in May. Pactive Corporation became a New Rising Star in March and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services received its New Public Sector Star, also in March.

Congratulations to all!

OREGON

Interest in VPP in Oregon is at an all-time high. We have received 15 new applications in the last three fiscal years. I regularly receive requests to discuss VPP with interested Oregon sites. Conferences in Region X continue to have strong attendance and Oregon participants in the VPP Application Workshop® continue to increase.

Oregon VPP has evolved a bit over the years to include better clarification of the expectations of an Industrial Hygiene (IH) program and a Process Safety Management (PSM) program. We have adopted the new report format but have no plans to adopt the Corporate VPP in Oregon. We plan to continue to evaluate each site on its own merits.

In Oregon, VPP is promoted in our Resource newsletter and during our various occupational safety and health conferences. Our consultants and compliance officers also promote the program during routine interactions with Oregon businesses. The Oregon Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Programs (SHARP) Alliance also helps to promote VPP along with SHARP. VPP site representatives currently hold three of 16 elected positions on the SHARP Alliance Board and four more Alliance Board members are assisting their companies through the VPP application process.

For those interested in VPP, my number one piece of advice is to get a mentor. Mentors are existing VPP sites that have gone through what you are about to do and they can help you with their experience. The next most important piece of advice is to attend a VPP Application Workshop®. The VPP applications I receive from sites that have attended the workshop are decidedly better (and require less clarification) than those from sites that did not attend.

PUERTO RICO

Recently, Puerto Rico OSHA (PR OSHA) has adopted the new VPP regulation. We expect that this will help increase the interest of employers in participating in VPP. This is because the new regulation is more flexible when we compare the rates with the Bureau of Labor Statistics; it provides an opportunity for the employer to compare the rates with the last three years instead of the last year.



[TOP] Owens Corning Safety Team and TOSHA representatives.

[BOTTOM] BlueLinx Safety team members.

We deliver different activities, such as open public training sections for construction and general industries, to employees, employers and union representatives. We participate in different activities with the Small Business Association, Manufacturer Association and other nonprofit entities to deliver information about our cooperative programs. Also, we are planning our 11th Safety and Health Conference that will be held in December, 2011. This is a three-day event in which we have the opportunity to share safety and health information with private and public industry.

VPP sites not only get the benefits of injuries and illness rate reduction, lower workers compensations claims costs and a better employee attitude toward safety and health, but they also have guidance from the government (PR OSHA) and other VPP participants on safety and health issues. Being part of VPP is an honor, because sites become part of an elite group of companies that are committed to safety and health for their employees and as a consequence they are contributing to the progress of our nation. Less accidents and illnesses are cost effective for all of us.

VIRGINIA

There has been an increase of interest in VPP in Virginia. Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) is working with a new variety of industries (administrative, distribution and retail), additional sites of existing companies (Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Delta Air Lines and Frito-Lay)

and new VPP companies (ABB, PGI, HillPHOENIX and RAE Wire). VOSH has working relationships with over 50 different sites and hopes to see up to 10 new Star sites approved within the next 18-24 months.

VOSH continues to be active with the VOSH Conference, which just took place in June and regional VOSH/ Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Asbestos, Lead Management and Abatement workshops. VOSH also participated in the ASSE Conference in Baltimore, Md.

For those interested in VPP in Virginia, call or e-mail your VPP coordinator first. Then join VPPPA, get involved and find a mentor. Visit other VPP Star worksites in your area and in your company. Once management is committed to pursuing VPP, have a kick-off event and let everyone at the site know what VPP will mean to them as employees.

TENNESSEE

The Volunteer Star program in Tennessee was originally open only to manufacturers in the state of Tennessee. To the extent that our resources will allow, Tennessee OSHA is trying to expand the industry classifications that can apply to the program.

We have historically approved approximately three Volunteer Star sites per year in Tennessee. Despite a severe economic recession, the program continues to see interest at a constant rate.

The Tennessee Safety and Health Conference is one of the premier conferences in the nation with annual attendance of over 2,000 safety and health professionals. In addition, all Tennessee OSHA consultation and enforcement personnel conduct training and outreach activities.

For those who think VPP might benefit their site, it is never too early to contact the Tennessee OSHA VPP manager. Even if your application submission is a long-term goal that may not occur for several years, it is wise to establish a working

relationship with the VPP manager and ensure that all onsite personnel have a thorough understanding of the VPP requirements.

Tennessee OSHA is pleased to announce the addition of the two newest sites to the state's Volunteer Star Program. The Owens Corning Cleveland plant was presented with their Star flag in March. The 34 employees at this facility produce acoustics barriers for the appliance industry. Hendrickson Trailer Suspension Systems employs 152 associates in the manufacture of trailer suspension systems. Employees at the Hendrickson Clarksville facility received Star approval in March.

In addition, the BlueLinx Corporation located in Erwin recently earned re-approval as a TOSHA Volunteer Star site.

WASHINGTON

Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) VPP has begun focusing time and resources on prospective employers prior to the submittal of their application. We use our field consultation staff and central office staff to monitor, assist and prepare sites for VPP evaluations.

We expect interest in VPP to remain the same as it was in the last few years. We have been adding about five new worksites per year. There has been some attrition due to the economic conditions and employer's ability to manage TCIR and DART rates below industry averages.

Our OSHA state-plan program has an outreach program that includes outreach to Hispanic workers and a website with information and training content. We have a grant program for education, training and outreach projects. We also have an annual multi-day safety and health conference in the fall.

If you are interested in VPP, please contact us as early as possible. Do not wait until you are ready to submit your application. We like to work with each employer in their preparation for VPP approval. ★

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For additional information and up-to-date contacts, please visit www.vpppa.org/chapters/contacts.cfm.

VPPPA Chapter Round-Up

COMPILED BY LAURIE MONTANUS >> COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH COORDINATOR, VPPPA, INC.

REGION I

>> CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

Our geographical diversity in New England offers us many different outdoor experiences, from the Atlantic Ocean and its beaches to our mountain peaks and everything in between. The weather has cooperated for the most part. "The Best of the Northeast" aka the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) Region I Chapter hopes that your summer has been as enjoyable as ours. As summer winds down, Region I looks forward to the much anticipated Annual National VPPPA Conference and reflects back on its quite busy chapter activities.

Our first quarter 2010 Chapter Meeting and Meet'N Greet was graciously hosted on April 1 by Darwin Irish and Brian Burgess at Flexcon Corporation in Spencer, Mass. The chapter continues to urge its members to contact their elected officials and ask for their continued support and funding of the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) to prevent workplace injuries. Much progress has been made through VPP and we all need to ensure we continue the progress going forward. Our next Meet'N Greet will be held in conjunction with our quarterly chapter meeting at our Region I VPPPA Chapter Conference.

A round of congratulations on his much deserved appointment to Region I VPPPA's Chapter Board of Directors' position of vice chair goes to Stephen Gauthier of General Electric Co., in Lynn, Mass., and Local 201 IUE/CWA. Steve has been a very active member of our board, including chairing our Communications Committee, which has made great progress recently.

An SGE training class with 35 participants was successfully held May 11-13, 2010, at Raytheon in Portsmouth, R.I.

Mentoring continues throughout the region and new inquiries about VPP and requests for mentoring are being received at a steady

rate. Congratulations to the new Region I VPP sites this past year:

- + Covanta Field Services, Haverhill, Mass.
- + Covanta, Pittsfield, Mass.
- + Energizer Battery, St. Albans, Vt.
- + Hansom AFB Electronic Systems Center, Mass.
- + L.L. Bean Customer Satisfaction, Lewiston, Maine
- + L.L. Bean Freeport Outlet Store, Maine
- + Milton Roy Americas, Action, Mass.
- + Parsons Amylin Project, Devens, Mass.
- + Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, Andover, Mass.
- + Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems HQ, Tewsbury, Mass.
- + Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems Surveillance, Sudbury, Mass.
- + Rhode Island State Energy Center, Johnston, R.I.
- + Veolia Environmental Services – Tech Solutions LLC, Lynn, Mass.
- + Westbrook Energy Center, Westbrook, Maine

Our chapter's conference and exposition took place June 14-16, 2010, at the beautiful Sugarloaf Resort in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, up in the northeast part of our region. The Region I VPPPA Chapter Conference is annually the "Premier Safety and Health Conference in the New England Region focusing on the Voluntary Protection Program and VPP Excellence." The conference was once again an overall great value experienced by approximately 300 attendees.

Once again, L.L. Bean leads our conference sponsorship as a Platinum Level sponsor. This year, Wheelabrator is a Gold Level sponsor, while Silver Level sponsors include Acushnet/Titleist, Bangor Hydro Electric, Coca-Cola Northampton, Hamilton Sundstrand, Hasbro East Longmeadow, OSHA Training Institute Education Center Region I Keene State College and Verso Paper. Also on board are Bronze Level

sponsors Always in Mind, Inc., Certified Safety & Health, Flexcon Corporation, GE, Newell Rubbermaid - Lenox Saw and Sugarloaf Mountain Resort.

Keynote speakers this year were Mike Perkins, vice president fulfillment and manufacturing operations, L.L. Bean and John W. Drebing, Jr. As always, the exhibit hall was an active place with ongoing activities and with the great support of our vendors. Back by popular demand – social networking, entertainment by Motor Booty Affair, outdoor wellness events led by the L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools and a golf scramble were planned for the conference.

We announced our chapter awardees, Mentor of Year and two scholarship winners at our Conference Awards Dinner the first night of the conference. Also, OSHA Region I presented their Region I Star Amongst Stars Awards and their Regional Administrator Award, which was presented to FLEXcon.

Chapter work continues on preparation for the 2011 regional conference in Massachusetts. Keep an eye on the chapter's website at www.vppregion1.com for additional conference information and announcements.

Enjoy the national VPPPA conference. See you in Orlando!

Contributed by Region I VPPPA Chapter Chair Jack Popp, Hasbro Inc., East Longmeadow, Mass.

REGION II

>> NJ, NY, PR, VI

The 18th Region II Chapter Conference took place for the first time at The Trump Taj Mahal Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., June 7-9, 2010. This year's conference featured a full agenda of three days of learning and networking experiences, an expanded exhibitor area featuring the latest in safety and health products and services and outstanding recreation time.

The conference kicked off with a warm welcome by Region II Chapter Chair Brian Bennett, PhD, CSP, Bassell USA Inc., Edison, N.J.; Regional Administrator Robert Kulick, OSHA Region II, Albany, N.Y.; President of the New Jersey Safety Council Bill Margareta, Cranford, N.J.; VPPPA Executive Director Davis Layne, VPPPA Inc., Falls Church, Va.; and VPP Program Manager Mike Levy, OSHA Region II, Albany, N.Y.

Two networking receptions featured Jim Karol, one of the most unique and amazing individuals of our time. He came a long way from the steel mills of Pennsylvania to become one the most sought after acts in the industry. His memory skills which featured him in over 4,000 TV shows, are outstanding. His most amazing memory feat is that he knows the day of the week of every date all the way back to 1942.

The featured keynote speaker this year was Peter "Charlie Hustle" Rose. He was an amazing ball player that began his career in the 1963 season and was rewarded for his efforts that same season by being named National League rookie of the year. Pete totaled an amazing 4,256 hits before his final career at bat. Additionally, between 1963 and 1986 he won three World Series rings, three batting titles, two Gold Gloves and made 17 all-star appearances at an unequalled five different positions.

Congratulations to our newly elected board members and good luck in this new endeavor: Doc Doherty, Infineum, Linden, N.J., as chapter chair; Joe Whalen, International Paper, Ticonderoga, N.Y., as treasurer; and Mike Roden, Evans Roofing Company, Inc, Elmira, N.Y., as director-at-large. Additionally, the board would like to acknowledge Dale Long, SCA Tissue, South Glens Falls, N.Y., and Robert Brynes, Wheelabrator, Hudson Falls, N.Y., as newly appointed board trustees.

Chapter Chair Brian Bennett was presented with an honorary lifetime membership from the Region II VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors, Emeritus, in appreciation of the 20 years of involvement in VPP and VPPPA and his eight years as the chapter chair for the Region II VPPPA Chapter. Furthermore, the board would like to thank former Treasurer Jim Miner, General Electric, Albany, N.Y.; former Director-at-Large Robert Coble, EHS

Excellence, Sewell, N.J.; former Director-at-Large Ed Mawjeski, Valero, Paulsboro, N.J.; and former Board Trustee Mike Vigezzi, General Electric, Fairfield, Conn., for their hard work and wish them well as they embark on the next phase of their careers.

The Region II VPPPA Chapter also sponsored a VPP Application Workshop® and the newly featured NFPA 70E Workshop.

In addition, the Region II VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors wishes to express their gratitude to all the participating companies, organizations and vendors for their continued support and involvement with OSHA and VPPPA.

The 19th Region II conference will take place again at The Trump Taj Mahal Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. The conference committee is presently working very hard to assemble another exciting educational and networking experience, featuring outstanding keynote speakers within Region II and across the country.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help at the 2011 chapter conference by presenting a workshop, moderating, offering registration support or general volunteer duties can contact Doc Doherty at Garrett.Doherty@Infineum.com or Tom Aurelia at taurelia@tcco.com.

REGION III

>> DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV

The Region III VPPPA Chapter held its 13th Annual VPPPA Chapter Conference April 6-9, 2010, at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel and Conference Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. With 446 bridges that stand on piers entirely within the city limits, Pittsburgh holds the world record for the most number of bridges and has been called "The City of Bridges." With that in mind, the conference theme was "Bridging the Gap to Safety."

Once again, the regional conference proved to be a huge success. Total registration for the conference included 473 attendees, keeping this year's conference on par with the 2009 event. Highlights of the Pittsburgh conference included:

+ Numerous pre-conference workshops attended by over 70 participants. Topics



[TOP] FLEXcon Company's Ray Fredette, Rob Tyler, Bob Garrity, Hector Peterson and Darwin Irish accept the award for Regional Administrator from OSHA Region I VPP Coordinator Bob Sands.

[BOTTOM] Ray Fredette (right) presents the Regional Administrator award to FLEXcon President and CEO Neil McDonough (left) during their Executive Team Meeting.

for the sessions included Ergonomics and the Aging Workforce, NFPA 70E Arc Flash, VPP Application Workshop® and Strengthening Star Quality Workshop.

- + A record number of 56 exhibitors/vendors took advantage of improved breakouts to display their products and services.
- + An EHS networking reception in the Sheraton Hotel featured an Italian buffet dinner and the music of the Fabulous Hubcaps, a nationally known oldies show band.
- + Thirty-five informative breakout sessions for the attendees to choose from.
- + Three keynote speakers including: Odie Espenship who shared with the attendees how to "Achieve Excellence by Pursuing Perfection"; Michael Vigezzi, global manager of VPP and safety programs for GE, who spoke about the true leading safety indicators that

encourage safe behaviors; and James Powers, Jr., Pennsylvania director of homeland security, who shared lessons on leadership with the attendees.

- + Seventy-nine non-member registrations for the conference.
- + Attendees from 28 different states along with attendees from Canada and Germany.
- + Our business partners sponsoring the conference with their donations of time, money and products.
- + Recognition of 17 active Special Government Employees (SGE) for their contributions to the region in 2009.
- + A presentation of awards for the SGE of the Year, Mentor of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.
- + Support for the “Write Now, Right Now” efforts of the VPPPA National Board of Directors. This campaign was aimed at demonstrating the support of Region III members and companies for continued federal funding for VPP.

During the conference, the board recognized former chairman Larry Shaffer for his service to the board and the region. Medical issues forced Larry to step down from his position on the board in 2009. His work with the board over the years played a big part in the continued improvement to the programs that the board offers.

In addition, the board recognized two board members whose term expired this year and who stepped down from their positions in 2010. George Bowser, Croda Atlas Point Plant, New Castle, Del., was an active board member during his tenure and was responsible for the growth of vendor participation over the past two years. Tom Churbock, Appleton Papers, Roaring Springs, Pa., leaves the board as the senior member. He has played a key role in the growth of the region and the improvements that the board has made. Both George and Tom will be missed.

Three new board members were elected at the 2010 conference to fill the vacancies left with the departure of Larry, George and Tom. Elected to the board were: Justin O’Shea of GE Inspection Technologies, Lewiston, Pa., Tom Molanick of the United States Postal Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Dino Avarino of Delta Airlines, Washington, D.C. We all look forward to working with the new board members and continuing the improvements that we have seen over the past few years.

Of course, holding a successful conference requires the full effort of all board members; however, the board alone could not handle all of the logistics of a session of this size. Fortunately, Region III is blessed with members who are willing to lend a hand so that the conference runs smoothly. For the 2010 conference, the board welcomed the services of 10 volunteers. We thank those who gave their time so that

other attendees could have the best learning and networking experience possible.

The Region III Board of Directors is currently planning its activities for the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Orlando, Fla. Those members who will be able to attend the national conference will provide support to the VPPPA National Board of Directors in making this year’s event a success. The Region III board donated \$500 to the national VPPPA scholarship fund to help others who wish to enter the safety profession.

Lastly, the Region III board is beginning the process of planning for the 2011 regional conference. The conference will be held at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center, June 27-30, 2011. The Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center is a stunning new state-of-the-art meetings and convention venue. It is the cornerstone of National Harbor, Md., located on the historic Potomac River.

After an active day of keynote speakers, exhibitors, safety and health breakout sessions and EHS networking, unwind at the Atrium located inside the hotel. Here you will find many fine restaurants and unique shops. On your personal time, be sure to stroll through the National Harbor streets as events are scheduled there year-round. The 2011 regional VPPPA conference will be perfect for sites that are pursuing VPP or for experienced sites that are looking for new ways to refresh their programs and to share their best practices with other companies.

Contributed by Region III VPPPA Chapter Secretary Bob Cook, PPL Electric Utilities, Lancaster, Pa.

[RIGHT] The Region III 2011 conference site, the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md.

[BELOW] The Region III VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors.



REGION IV

>> AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

Conference Information

The Region IV VPPPA Chapter held its annual conference at the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, Miss., June 23-25, 2010. The board organized breakout workshops and two pre-conference workshops: the VPP Application Workshop® and the Strengthening Star Quality Workshop. The flashy atmosphere of Biloxi together with our dynamic kick-off speaker, Jeff Espenship, and dynamic closing speaker, Richard Hawk, projected a feeling of professional accomplishment for the attendees.

SGE Inspections

SGEs provide invaluable support to Region IV VPP. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, 42 SGEs have assisted on pre-approval and pre-approval evaluations throughout the region.

This year, we had two SGE courses at different locations: Kimberly-Clark Corporation in LaGrange, Ga., March 2-4, 2010, and MYR Group/L.E. Myers Company in Chattanooga, Tenn., on May 11-13, 2010. If you want to be considered for SGE training, please send in your application to the national OSHA office in Washington, D.C. They usually require a long lead time for processing any applications so get busy and apply!

Contributed by Region IV VPPPA Chapter Chair Jack Jamba, United Space Alliance, Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

REGION V

>> IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

2010 Region V VPP Conference

On June 1-2, 2010, the Region V VPPPA Chapter hosted its annual conference in Bloomington, Minn. The conference was a huge success and had lots of positive feedback. The conference was kicked off with the local National Guard posting the Colors to the National Anthem. The opening session was led by Region V VPPPA Chapter Chair Frank Avila, Motorola, Inc., Schaumburg, Ill., followed by Ex-Officio Glenn Trout, MSDS Online, Chicago, Ill., addressing sponsorship, Director-at-Large Shawn French, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Ind., addressing VPP outreach, VPPPA Assistant Executive Director Adam Pawlus, VPPPA, Falls Church, Va., covering VPPPA status and Sandy Taylor, OSHA, Chicago, Ill., addressing what's new in OSHA. In addition, a video clip was shown of VPPPA Chairman Dave Jackson explaining the "Write Now, Right Now" campaign. The key note speaker was Charlie Morecraft, who, judging by the many applauds, did an excellent presentation on safety life experience. "Do not take chances when it involves safety," explained Morecraft.

Board member Leslie Peterson, Motorola, Schaumburg, Ill., was recognized at the conference as Region V Mentor of the Year.

On June 3, the final Region V VPP elections were determined: Natasha

Klenke, GE, Cincinnati, Ohio, resigned on June 2, 2010, as vice chair and Tamara Reiter, GE Healthcare Technologies, was voted in to be the new vice chair on June 3. In addition, William Linneweh was voted into the secretary position. Jim Harmon from GE Energy Services was voted into a director-at-large position and Shaun Spainhower from Protec Coating was re-elected to a director-at-large position.

Highlights include:

- + Excellent attendance with 416 participants.
- + Positive responses from attendees at workshops.
- + Thirty-seven different EHS companies exhibited at the conference.
- + Great response and feedback on the raffle gifts, lunches and receptions.
- + Over 50 safety workshops were conducted.
- + Closing keynote speaker Hap Pigsley was a great speaker whom our attendees really enjoyed.
- + A VPP Application Workshop® was held on June 4, 2010, with 33 attendees.

The Region V VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors was extremely pleased with the quality of the conference.

Next year's conference will be at the Hilton Netherlands Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 1-2, 2011. A VPP Application Workshop® will be held on June 3, 2011, at the same location. Mark your calendars NOW.

Contributed by Region V VPPPA Chapter Vice Chair Tamara Reiter, GE Healthcare Systems, Waukesha, Wis.

REGION VI

>> AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Region VI Board Member Update

Region VI has had some board changes since the March conference. Pam Mendiola of Valero, Texas City, Texas, was appointed as vice chair due to Sandy Griffin, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, resigning at the end of the conference. The board backfilled Pam's director-at-large position with Michael "Danny" Barrett of NRG Energy in La Porte, Texas. We created a 5th director-at-large position and appointed William "Buddy" Tucker of Mundy Companies in Pasadena, Texas. Supricia

Franklin of NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, was appointed to secretary/historian.

SGE Training Opportunity

Region VI will be hosting an SGE class in Houston, Texas, at the United Space Alliance site, September 14-17, 2010.

Sponsorship Opportunities at the 2011 Region VI Conference

To get in on sponsorship opportunities to the hottest regional conference in the land, please contact Patti Wilson at Pattilea.Wilson@FHR.com.

Company Articles and Advertisements

If you have a success story or want to share how your company got into the program, please send the story along with a high resolution picture to Gwen Bridges at gwen.d.bridges@usa-spaceops.com. Also, if you would like to place an ad in the *Progress*, contact Gwen Bridges for details.

Exhibitors

If you would like to become an exhibitor at the 2011 Region VI VPPPA Chapter Conference, please see our website for exhibitor contract and contact information or contact Kevin Reed at kevin.reed@regionvivpp.org for more information.

Conference Workshops

We are always looking for new workshops to showcase at our conferences and don't think that you need a perfect program to do this. You can make it interesting and make it fun but please share your sites' successes. If your site is thinking about it, now is the time. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at the 2011 conference, please contact Dee Haney at (281) 212-6433 or via e-mail at dee.haney@usa-spaceops.com.

Conference Volunteers

If you wish to be part of a great team that has fun while they work, please contact Supricia Franklin to volunteer. She can be reached at (281) 483-78174 or Supricia.e.franklin@nasa.gov.

Region VI Conference Update

Region VI also welcomed Kirk Crandall of NRG Energy in Houston, Texas, as a new director-at-large. Congratulations and welcome Kirk! We also re-elected our



[LEFT] The new Region V VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors.

Chapter Chair Elmer “Bubba” Johnson, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and Employee Representative from a Represented Site Sandra Morrison, Evergreen Packaging, Inc., Pine Bluff, Ark.

The 2011 Region VI VPPPA Chapter Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk Hotel as our host. The conference dates are May 17-20, 2011. This is sure to be another great Region VI conference at a great place. Please visit our website at www.regionvivpp.org for upcoming details.

And remember, Region VI Rocks!

Contributed by Region VI VPPPA Chapter Director-at-Large Kirk Crandall, NRG Energy, Houston, Texas

REGION VII

>> IA, KS, MO, NE

Region VII Conference Update

The 17th Annual Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference took place May 24-26, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in the Omaha suburb of La Vista, Neb. What a great place to hold a conference! There were 376 attendees, 42 exhibitors and over \$32,000 in corporate sponsorships were donated. The attendees had the opportunity to attend 30 very informative workshops.

The conference began on Monday with pre-conference workshops, which included a VPP Application Workshop®, Maintaining

Star Quality Workshop and a free OSHA Outreach Recordkeeping seminar.

The third annual Region VII VPPPA Scholarship Golf Tournament was also held on Monday at the Eagle Hills Golf Course located in Papillion, Neb. It was a perfect day for golf and this year we added the chance to win a 2010 Chevy Camaro for anyone getting a hole-in-one on the 15th par three hole. Although no one won the car, we did have several players come close to the pin! Everyone had a great day with the winning team of Mike Peck, Sherwin Williams, Kan., Kody Saathoff, Jeffery Schutte and John Hammer, Marcella Optical, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, scoring a 63 for a nine under par. Special thanks to Air Gas of Omaha and Magic Glove and Safety for being hole sponsors and providing golf towels and balls.

Monday evening provided an excellent opportunity to meet with our exhibitors during our Exhibitor/Networking Reception. The evening was then topped off with live music and dancing provided by a local group, the Persuaders.

Tuesday morning began with Chapter Chair Jon Alexander presiding over our business meeting. Chapter board members gave updates about their respective chapter committee activities and future plans. Ray Magruder, Quaker Oats, Columbia, Mo., was named our first mentor of the year. Ray also announced he would be leaving Region VII and moving to Texas to work for parent company PepsiCo. Ray has helped tremendously with the awards committee and other website requirements and will be missed by

all of us! We wish him the very best! Incumbents running for board positions were as follows:

- + Chairperson: Jon Alexander from Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo.
- + Treasurer: John Izzolenna from Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- + Labor Rep from a Union Site: Robert Shepherd from Clow Valve Co., Oskaloosa, Iowa
- + Contractor/Construction: Cody Patton from Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo.
- + Director-at-Large # 2: Greg Dew from Frito-Lay, Topeka, Kan.
- + Director-at-Large # 4: Randy Bickford from Westar, Topeka, Kan.

All the above ran unopposed and retained their positions.

Congratulations to our newly elected board member Monty Gartin with Cargill in Blair, Neb. He won director-at-large # 6, by acclamation.

Following the business meeting at the opening general session, Jon Alexander welcomed everyone and delivered the opening remarks. Maritta Wilson, a local singer from Omaha, sang the National Anthem.

Opening speakers included Labor Commissioner for the State of Iowa Dave Neil, VPPPA Executive Director R. Davis Layne, former Chairperson for the national VPPPA Mike Maddox and lastly OSHA’s Deputy Regional Administrator Marcia Drumm.

Judy Carter was up next. She is a motivational speaker and comedienne who presented an outstanding message about how to use humor to deal with change and laugh your way out of stress. Judy kept us moving with her “VPP RAP song” to complete the general opening session.

There were many awards and recognitions presented during the conference:

Star of Excellence

- + Koch-Glitch, Wichita, Kan.
- + Monsanto (Flight Ops), Grinnell, Iowa



[TOP LEFT] 2010 Region VII VPPPA Scholarship Golf Tournament prize car with the winning team.

[TOP RIGHT] Caleb Baber is awarded a \$5,000 scholarship at the Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference.

[BOTTOM LEFT] Dave Neil, labor commissioner for the state of Iowa, speaks at the Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference.

[BOTTOM RIGHT] Nucor Steel wins the 2010 Dale Randall Award at the Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference.

- + Monsanto, Matthews, Mo.
- + Monsanto, Clarion, Iowa
- + Ryan & Associates, Monsanto, Muscatine, Iowa
- + Ryan & Associates, Alcoa, Riverdale, Iowa
- + Ryan & Associates, Fab. Shop, Davenport, Iowa
- + URS, Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo.
- + U.S. DOE, NASA, Kansas City, Mo.
- + Westar Energy, Wichita, Kan.

Super Star

- + Eaton Corporation, Kearney, Neb.
- + Frito Lay, Gothenburg, Neb.
- + Ply Gen Variform, Kerney, Mo.

Star

- + 3M, Columbia, Mo.
- + Butterball, LLC., Carthage, Mo.

- + Cargill, Inc., Blair, Mo.
- + Clow Valve Co., Oskaloosa, Iowa
- + CMMS, Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo.
- + Eaton Corporation, Belmont, Iowa
- + Equistar Chemicals, Clinton, Iowa
- + Frito Lay, Topeka, Kan.
- + General Electric, Burlington, Iowa
- + GE Aviation Services, Strother Field, Arkansas City, Kan.
- + GE Aviation Services, Winfield, Kan.
- + GE Mobile Water, St. Peters, Mo.
- + Georgia Pacific, Monticello, Iowa
- + Kraft Foods, Kirksville, Mo.
- + Monsanto, Chesterfield Villag, Chesterfield, Mo.
- + Monsanto, Kearney, Neb.
- + Monsanto, Williamsburg, Iowa
- + Monsanto, World Headquarters, St. Louis, Mo.
- + National Enzyme, Forsyth, Mo.
- + Nucor Steel, Norfolk, Neb.
- + Pfizer, Lee Summit, Mo.
- + Pitney Bowes Management Ser., Monsanto, St. Louis, Mo.
- + Quaker Oats, Columbia, Mo.
- + Rockwell Collins, Decorah, Iowa
- + UCI, Shop & Yard, Wichita, Kan.
- + UCI (Oxy Chem Team) Wichita, Kan.
- + W.W. Wood Products, Inc., Dudley, Mo.

A special thank you to all of our exhibitors who donated prizes. In addition, drawings were held for gift cards (one for \$500, two for \$250, two for \$100 and four for \$50).

Another annual award is the “Dale Randall” award. This award is presented to the company that demonstrates the willingness to promote both VPP and VPPPA and embrace the qualities that guided Dale Randell in raising safety awareness and always challenging others to do the same. Nucor Steel from Norfolk, Neb., is this year’s winning company. Nucor Steel accepted the award on behalf of all its employees.

The closing session featured Dan Hoss and Kerry with Lozier Corporation who shared their principles behind VPP and building a safe workplace.

A true highlight to the closing session was the awarding of a \$5,000 scholarship to Caleb Baber whose father works for Nucor Steel company in Norfolk, Neb. This is the second year for Region VII to offer a scholarship to help Region VII VPP site members and families continue their education.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the conference a success! We encourage you to visit our website at www.regionviiivpp.org for additional information. If you would like to help make 2011 a success, please let us know.

The 18th Annual Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference will be held in St. Louis, Mo., in May of 2011.

Contributed by Region VII VPPPA Chapter Director-at-Large Rod Swager, Clow Valve Company, Oskaloosa, Iowa

REGION VIII

>> CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

What a great conference we had this year! We had record attendance (okay, it was only by two attendees, but we still had more than we’ve ever had). It’s hard to not remember our humble beginnings in 2002 with about 60 attendees.

This is the year we said goodbye to the great staff at the Sheraton Denver West with a standing ovation at lunch. They have been wonderful to us over the last four years and we will miss them. If you ever need to have a meeting that requires hotel space, we

would highly recommend them. Be sure to tell them Region VIII sent you!

The first day of the conference was jam-packed with our exciting keynote speaker former Denver Bronco Karl Mecklenburg (who was gracious enough to spend half the day with us), educational sessions, awards presentations and the first annual BINGORAMA!

[TOP] The Region VIII VPPPA Chapter Board of Directors.

[BOTTOM LEFT] Kelli Heflin, chairperson of the Region VIII VPPPA Chapter, presents the Bervin Hall Memorial Award to John. Balzer, U.S. Army, Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

[BOTTOM RIGHT] Accepting the Mentor of the Year award for their respective companies: Veronica Reilly, Battelle Memorial Institute, Tooele, Utah, and Kathy Aragon, EG&G Inc, Tooele, Utah.

At lunch, Brad Baptiste, VPP manager, recognized the Zeros Heroes, which are companies who did not have any reportable injuries/illnesses during 2009. We also recognized the Region VIII SGE of the Year, Chuck Soderquist, MYR Group.

Region VIII's Zeros Heroes

- + BlueLinx, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- + CF Industries, Grand Forks, N.D.
- + DAL Global Services, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- + Delta Air Lines, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- + Department of the Army, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Commerce City, Colo.
- + Georgia-Pacific Gypsum Plant, Lovell, Wyo.
- + Hellman & Associates, Wheat Ridge, Colo.

- + MillerCoors – Huntley Elevator, Huntley, Mont.
- + MillerCoors – McIntyre Elevator, Golden, Colo.
- + MillerCoors – Worland Elevator, Worland, Wyo.
- + Owens-Corning Trumbull Asphalt Plant, Denver, Colo.
- + PPL Montana – Corette Steam Electric Station, Billings, Mont.
- + PPL Montana – Kerr Dam, Polson, Mont.
- + PPL Montana – Holter Hydro Electric Project, Wolf Creek, Mont.
- + PPL Montana – Madison/Hebgen Hydroelectric Project, Ennis, Mont.
- + Square D Services Group, Denver, Colo.
- + Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Rocky Mountain





[TOP] Region X chapter conference reception attendees had a good time on the dance floor.

[BOTTOM LEFT] Region X Golf Tournament participants at Moose Run Golf Course.

[BOTTOM RIGHT] Region X keynote speaker Bruce Wilkinson.

Contributed by Region VIII VPPPA Chapter Chair Kelli Heflin, Scott's Liquid Gold, Denver, Colo.

REGION IX

>> AZ, CA, HI, NV

Region IX continues to stay busy with new VPP site evaluations. On May 26, 2010, Gonzales Winery in Gonzales, Calif., was recommended for California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star status.

The approval followed a three-year safety effort by Gonzales Winery in Gonzalez, Calif., that was directed by a committee of employees at the 80-acre winery. Gonzales Winery will become the 76th VPP Star site out of 1.25 million worksites in California. This makes it the third winery to be Star approved.

On May 20, 2010, Raytheon Missile Systems Palo Verde plant received the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) VPP Star approval. The site joins 27 other Arizona worksites with this distinction, including the business facility at the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park in Tucson. Raytheon Missile Systems Palo Verde is comprised of six buildings and 1,700 employees who contributed to the VPP Star approval.

Maria Ilomin of Safway Scaffolding in Benicia, Calif., and Carlos Cardosa of Sherwin Williams are now on the Region IX Board of Directors as directors-at-large.

Region IX is scheduling a California Best Practices Workshop on July 22, 2010, at the Valero Benicia Facility.

We are continuing our efforts to gain congressional support for VPP. We would like to thank everyone in the region for signing letters to their representatives

- Arsenal, Commerce City, Colo.
- + URS, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Commerce City, Colo.
- + U.S. Postal Service, Buena Vista, Colo.

This award recognizes those VPP sites in Region VIII who experienced no OSHA recordable injuries in the previous calendar year. Thus, these sites have zeroes across the bottom of their OSHA 300 log.

The Region VIII Mentor of the Year award went to two companies, Battelle Memorial Institute, Tooele, Utah and EG&G, Inc., also of Utah. These two companies mentor as a team and we thought they should also be recognized as a team.

The Bervin Hall Memorial Award was presented to John Balzer, U.S. Army, Rocky Mountain Arsenal. John has been a long-time participant in Region VIII and he personified the legacy of Bervin Hall this year by participating in outreach, education and serving as an SGE on many onsite evaluations.

This year, in connection with our opening reception, we wanted to do something different. We decided on BINGORAMA, which would also serve as our fundraiser for the Sully Sullivan Scholarship. There were about 60 participants competing for 20 prize packages, generously donated and put together by Morton Salt. The prizes ranged from "Movie Night" to a GPS and a signed Karl Mecklenburg football. Instead

of yelling "BINGO," you had to yell "VPP!" We managed to raise \$1,025 for the scholarship and Region VIII will match that out of our conference proceeds for a total of \$2,050. We've already had requests for this event at the 2011 conference and we're more than happy to oblige.

We want to encourage you to submit nominations for our regional awards next year – the Bervin Hall Memorial and the Mentor of the Year award. We don't always know what you've been up to and it would help us greatly to hear about it and maybe recognize your efforts!

Please plan on joining us for the Chapter Welcome Reception on August 22, 2010, in Orlando, Fla., at the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference and make a lot of noise for Region VIII during the Parade of Regions. It was a lot of fun last year and this year will be even better! Be sure to stop by our booth on Regional Row to update your contact information and pick up your flashy blinky pin and other goodies!

Our 2011 regional conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech Center at I-25 and Orchard Road. The logistics at the conference will be a bit different, but we will have a little more room to move.

Have a safe summer and we'll see you in Orlando and/or the 10th Annual Region VIII VPPPA Chapter Conference in 2011.



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To learn more about Concept Seating's 24/7 Intensive Use Chairs, call 1-800-892-5563 or visit www.conceptseating.com

during the conference last April. As a result, a bill to save VPP is being proposed to Congress. Now more than ever we need to contact our representatives and tell them to support S. 3257. Those in Northern California in Congressman Miller's district (Contra Costa and parts of Solano County) and in Congresswoman Woolsey's district (Sonoma and Marin counties) have key representatives that could help support and pass this important legislation. Senator Inouye of Hawaii is also a key representative who could support this legislation. Everyone in the region is encouraged to contact these key representatives and their local representatives to ask for their support of VPP and S. 3257. We thank everyone for getting the word out to save VPP and ask for your continued support.

Contributed by Region IX VPPPA Chapter Vice Chairperson Morgan LeBlanc, Constellation Wine Company, Madera, Calif.

REGION X

>> AK, ID, OR, WA

The 16th Annual Region X VPPPA Chapter Conference was held at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, on May 11-13, 2010. The theme was "VPP – North to Alaska!" This was the first time the regional conference was held in Alaska and it was a great success! Approximately 275 people were in attendance. Many great workshops and sessions were held, as well as pre-conference activities. The 3rd Annual Region X Golf Tournament was held at Moose Run Golf Course. The weather was windy but beautiful and a great time was had by all. Pre-conference sessions included a VPP Application Workshop®. The keynote and general session speaker was Bruce Wilkinson, CSP. Bruce spoke about "Choosing Your Attitude: Taking Personal Responsibility for Success at Work™."

The conference sessions were well attended and were developed along four tracks, including: VPP Basics, Technical Track, Injury Reduction and Emergency Preparedness. There was also a workshop related to safety trained supervisor. The theme for the reception was "North to Alaska" and attendees were encouraged to dress accordingly. Congratulations to all who participated!

Board of Directors elections were held with the following winners:

- + Chapter Chair – Bonnie Anderson of CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- + Labor Representative from a Non-Union Site – Kemmer Sorrell of ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska.
- + Director-at-Large - Jeff Carlson of ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska.
- + Director-at-Large – Chris Thursby of CH2M-HILL Plateau Remediation Company, Richland, Wash.

Federal OSHA

Parsons TSCC III Project was presented with a plaque from Richard Terrill on May 15, 2010. Parsons is a mobile workforce employer operating in Oregon, Washington and Idaho in Region X and is recognized by federal OSHA, Oregon OSHA and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. Bristol Design, a construction company in Fort Lewis, Wash., has completed their onsite evaluation and will shortly be included in VPP as a Merit mobile worksite employer. Bristol's designated geographic area is federal facilities in the state of Washington. Archer Construction, a contractor in Fort Lewis had their application reviewed and is waiting to schedule an onsite evaluation. For information about federal OSHA VPP in Region X, contact Steve Gossman, consultation program manager, OSHA, at (206) 553-5930 or e-mail Gossman.Steve@dol.gov.

For more information about VPP in this region, please visit the Region X VPPPA Chapter website at www.regionxvpppa.org.

Contributed by Region X VPPPA Chapter Director-at-Large Bill Rippon, Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC, Tacoma, Wash. ★



A JOURNEY TO IMPROVED SAFETY PERFORMANCE

BY JOSEPH J. ANGELLO JR. >> EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DEFENSE SAFETY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Since “volunteering” our installations for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) in 2005, the Department of Defense (DoD) has seen an improvement in safety performance and a significant reduction in civilian employee workplace injuries.

Military leaders know:

- + Mission readiness is Job One
- + Lost time = lost productivity
- + Employees = mission readiness
- + We are committed to keep our workers safe from preventable injuries
- + We have zero tolerance for preventable injuries
- + We are working to lower rates; zero injuries are the ultimate goal

The 2009 DoD Safety Perception Survey of Senior Leaders (843 Flag Officers & SES responded) reported many positive comments about VPP successes at their commands.

With VPP, the DoD has a proven methodology to better protect its workforce, reduce costs and improve readiness. Commanders, managers, employees and union representatives have come to recognize and embrace VPP as a tool to prevent injuries to themselves and their coworkers.

VPP advantages for DoD:

- + Grass-root, employee-driven
- + Empowers employee work leading to cultural change
- + Lasting program (after safety guy transitions)

- + Industry excellence business model
- + Management system to avoid gaps
- + VPP Center of Excellence assistance
- + Attains a 60 percent or greater reduction in lost days
- + Third party certifications (ISO 9000 type system)

VPP has already yielded impressive reductions in workplace injury and occupational illness rates at DoD VPP locations. DoD VPP Star sites averaged 69 percent lower incidence rates and 62 percent lower lost day rates, which is comparable to industry successes. Corresponding cost savings, due to the lower rates, range from \$73,000 to more than \$8.8 million depending upon the size of the workforce.

Injury and lost day rate reductions of this magnitude will get us close to the secretary of Defense’s target of reducing preventable mishaps by 75 percent from a 2002 baseline. The secretary has said that we can no longer tolerate the injuries, costs and capability losses from preventable accidents. Our goal is zero preventable accidents.

The DoD VPP program is managed under the auspice of the Defense Safety Oversight Council (DSOC). The deputy secretary of Defense chartered the DSOC in 2003 to provide governance on DoD-wide efforts to pursue the secretary’s 75 percent accident reduction goals. The DSOC is comprised of the senior leaders of the Department. Several general/flag officer-level task forces support the DSOC with a focus on identifying new ways to reduce illness and injury rates across the Department.

DSOC supports VPP:

- + Ensure personal involvement of the senior leadership
- + Garner the resources to support VPP
- + Center of Excellence for installation support
- + VPP software tools and other initiatives
- + Return to work programs
- + Flag level task force assistance
- + Installation progress monitoring

The recommendation to “volunteer” our installations for VPP came from our DSOC Installation and Industrial Task Force. The chair of this task force was a Navy



[LEFT] Workers of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard stand proudly with their VPP flag.

DOD JOURNEY WITH VPP IMPLEMENTATION IMPACTS SERVICE-WIDE SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Lost Day Rate	FY 02	FY 09	Rate Reduction	Percent Improvement
DoD	31.5	18.7	12.8	41%
Army	29.3	17.8	11.5	39%
Navy	39.8	21.2	18.6	46%
Marines	73.8	36.7	37.1	50%
Air Force	25.6	16.5	9.1	36%
Defense Agencies	25.6	16.9	8.7	34%

admiral. The Army was chosen to lead the VPP effort for DoD and the Air Force was in full support; a true joint effort.

The initial installations offered VPP support were those with the highest lost day rates. The DSOC publishes a “Top 40” Installations list that ranks all DoD installations based on their rates from highest to lowest.

The Army manages the DoD VPP Center of Excellence (VPPCX) that provides both guidance and direct technical support to installation commanders with emphasis on assisting the “Top 40” installations. Using VPP, one of the installations with the highest rate on the “Top 40” list became one of the lowest lost-time rates locations in less than two years.

“VPP is worth the investment ... If you already have compliant Safety Programs, you are two-thirds there,” said Commander MCLB Barstow, July 2008

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Defense Logistics Agency are presently working to implement VPP at nearly 200 selected sites. DoD currently has 30 Star sites. The Navy leads the Services with 10 recognized Star sites, followed by the Army and the Air Force with seven Star sites each, the Marine Corps and Defense Logistics Agency with one Star site each, and the National Security Agency with four recognized Star sites. By the end of 2010, an additional 10 Star sites are forecasted.

While the cost and readiness benefits of VPP

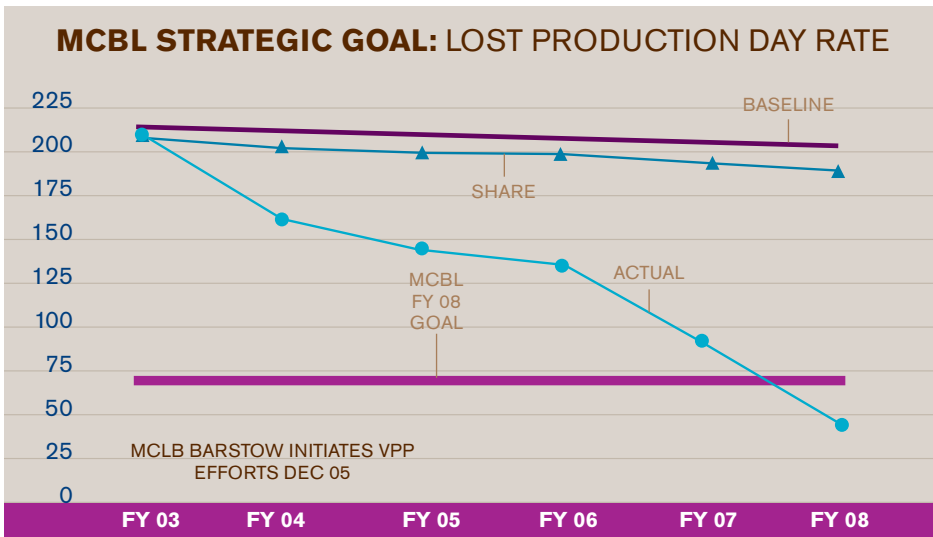
are well documented at the locations that have achieved Star recognition by OSHA, it has been discovered that even those sites still working toward full VPP implementation derive immediate and substantive benefits in terms of reduced illness and injury rates, reduced lost workday rates and corresponding cost avoidance.

The Services have shown steady growth in VPP participation with 38 participants in 2005 compared to 194 participants in 2010. The Air Force has the largest number of sites currently participating with 70 sites. The Navy and Army have 51 and 49 sites participating, respectively. The Marines have 10 sites and the Defense Agencies have 14 sites. Ultimately, 400 or more of the Department’s installations, and thousands of sites at these installations, are potential VPP candidates.

Incremental progress is being achieved within DoD to reduce incident rates and mishaps. For example, as compared to fiscal year 2002, the overall civilian total case rate has decreased throughout DoD by 41 percent and must be reduced further to achieve the desired mishap and lost day reduction levels. Installations that successfully implement VPP can expect to accelerate the reduction rates already achieved and exceed the 75 percent reduction goal set by the secretary.

Injury costs not only represent the direct medical treatment costs of an injury, but also the cost of the lost work days, production delays, investigations, reporting, rehabilitation, workers’ compensation claims, etc. As of 2009, the average estimated cost (direct and indirect) was \$43,500 per injury resulting in lost work time. Based on an estimate, as few as 10 injuries avoided may represent nearly \$435,000 dollars in avoided costs; furthermore, one permanent disability can exceed \$1,000,000.

Larger installations, with a higher civilian workforce, will, and have, benefited most



from VPP implementation efforts. However, even a small reduction in the number of injuries can demonstrate a performance shift that can determine whether or not a worker will return home safely.

While VPP reflects “best in class” performance criteria, the fact is that current DoD and Service regulations already

dictate requirements and performance standards that are compatible with VPP. Commanders and military leaders familiar with the benefits of implementing VPP criteria support implementation because it promotes continuous improvement and it is universally applicable to civilian and military safety management systems.

Regardless of the Service, a major factor in determining the success of a VPP effort is the active involvement of the chain of command. Locations that have been identified and vetted by their major command or higher headquarters as candidates for participation – coupled with active interest, involvement and support for safety staff by the local commander – demonstrate the best results with VPP implementation. VPP is a partnership between management, workers and unions in changing the basic culture of how the Department views the health and safety environment of its workforce. The single most important aspect of those sites successfully completing the VPP Star journey is leadership’s unwavering support of the site’s workforce to reach for Star. The VPP Star flag is a clear, visible symbol of that commitment.

The VPP journey is proving to be an effective method to reduce illness and injury rates, and the OSHA Star Flag is the capstone. ★

Group Awards

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Q & A WITH ALWAYS IN MIND, INC. (A.I.M.)



The staff of A.I.M.

Always In Mind, Inc., (A.I.M.) is a small, woman-owned, promotional products company that joined the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association, Inc. (VPPPA) as an Affiliate member in October of 2003 and as a Full member in January of 2005 after receiving its Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star status from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Paxton Guidroz is the general manager for A.I.M., located in Thibodaux, La. He also serves as a Special Government Employee (SGE), helping other sites with their VPP onsite evaluations.

Marisa K. Connaughton is the VPPPA membership and development manager for the VPPPA National Office. Go to page 35 to learn more about Marisa's responsibilities as your membership manager.

MARISA :: Can you provide us with a brief background about A.I.M. as a small business and who you are as a company?

PAXTON :: A.I.M. was founded in 1986 by William "Sully" Sullivan and his wife Beryl Sullivan as a small "mom and pop" promotional products business. In the early 90's, Sully decided to give the company better direction and make the safety industry our main focus. He felt that by directing our focus, we could better help companies achieve their safety and health goals through the use of promotional products and incentive programs.

MARISA :: What motivated you to join VPPPA as an Affiliate member?

PAXTON :: A.I.M. joined in order to be part of a group that is as passionate about safety as we are.

MARISA :: What are some of the major benefits to you as an Affiliate member?

PAXTON :: There are several benefits to being a member. The first benefit is

having a dedicated team of individuals whose focus is the success of cooperative programs. The second benefit is being able to network with so many other safety professionals to discuss safety-related items and best practices. The third benefit is the educational resources (e-mails, publications, conferences, etc.) that the association has to offer.

MARISA :: How, in your opinion, does VPPPA differ from other safety and health organizations?

PAXTON :: VPPPA is different than other safety and health organizations in that its main focus is the support and success of OSHA's cooperative program, VPP. VPPPA also does a great job of hosting regional and national conferences in which most attendees are excited about being there and taking advantage of the resources at hand.

MARISA :: At what point did A.I.M. decide to pursue OSHA VPP Star status and why was that the right choice for A.I.M.?

PAXTON :: A.I.M. decided to pursue its Star status in 2003. One reason we decided to go after the achievement was for the safety of our employees. Going for VPP helped assure us that management and employees are serious about safety and to make sure that we are doing everything possible to ensure our employees work in the safest environment possible. Another reason we decided to go for the achievement was to "walk the talk." We decided that if we were going to educate other sites about VPP, we better do it ourselves to make sure that what we are doing is correct.

MARISA :: Did you become an Associate member while going through the application process? If so, what membership benefits did you utilize to guide you through that process?

PAXTON: Yes, we did become an Associate member while going through the process. The main benefit we utilized was the networking aspect. It gave us the opportunity to connect with other VPP sites and to utilize them in helping us through the process.

MARISA :: Can you also talk a little bit about employee involvement, which is one of the most important aspects of VPP?

PAXTON :: Since A.I.M. specializes in employee involvement programs, this

was fairly easy for us. A.I.M.'s employees were an integral part in us getting approved. Our employees regularly participate in different committees and safety-related activities.

MARISA :: What advice would you give other small businesses that are thinking about or in the process of obtaining VPP?

PAXTON :: The advice we would give to other small businesses is don't be overwhelmed, find a great mentor and utilize all the available resources. This will insure a smooth and worry-free application process.

MARISA :: You mentioned working with a mentor. Could you please describe your experience with the VPPPA mentoring program and how it affected your VPP application experience?

PAXTON :: We did utilize the Mentoring Program. Fortunately, we had Mike Maddox [formally with Valero, currently with NuStar Energy] as our mentor. His knowledge and experience helped us in our preparation, which included drafting

our application. Thanks to his guidance, we were confident when OSHA came to our facility to conduct the evaluation. It definitely made the process less stressful, and believe it or not, enjoyable.

MARISA :: How has being with VPPPA as both a Full and an Affiliate member affected your bottom line? Does it affect employee morale? How does it affect your approach to regional and national VPPPA conferences?

PAXTON :: Being a member of VPPPA has positively affected our bottom line. Any time you can further educate yourself and increase the safety of your workplace, you will save money. It doesn't just affect the company financially though, it also positively affects employee morale. Employees enjoy coming to work for an employer that cares as much about their safety as they do.

While attending conferences, A.I.M. employees, on occasion, attend workshops. At some conferences, A.I.M. employees do actively participate in workshops by actually presenting one themselves. This

allows for us to share ideas with safety professionals on how to market safety to their workforce as well as giving them ways to get employees involved.

MARISA :: Is there any advice or suggestions you would give other Affiliate members or those potential vendors that are considering joining VPPPA on how to effectively use their membership?

PAXTON :: For current and potential members, I would suggest utilizing the tools that VPPPA has available to its fullest. VPPPA produces educational publications and conferences that can help make any workplace safer. VPPPA is also a great place to find safety professionals that are as passionate about safety as you are. So, this makes for a great resource of exchanging ideas and best practices.

For potential vendors, I would suggest becoming a member because it demonstrates to other safety professionals your own dedication to safety. This is important because safe companies like to do business with suppliers who also utilize safe work practices. ★

HAS YOUR EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION BECOME DEFLATED AFTER YOUR VPP AUDIT?

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Employees at Wenner Bread Products.



SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE >>

Wenner Bread Products

BY ELISONIA VALLE >> ASSISTANT MANAGER TO HUMAN RESOURCES, WENNER BREAD PRODUCTS

Wenner Bread Products is a family-owned company established in 1956 and is presently located in Bayport, N.Y. This independent, frozen dough manufacturer produces nearly 500 different varieties of wholesale breads and rolls. It employs about 500 workers in over 150,000 square feet of production and warehouse space.

In the early 90's the Wenner family began improving its workplace safety and health culture after a serious accident and several citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). During this period, the company hired its first safety professional to begin the process of developing a safety and health program. Shortly after, Wenner began pursuing OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) recognition. Wenner obtained VPP Merit recognition in 1996 and in 1998 was recognized as a Star site.

The journey to obtain Star recognition was unique to this company because as Wenner began expanding its operations, the increase of the Hispanic population in the workforce began increasing as well. The company not only had to develop an effective program that met the VPP requirements, but had to present it to the workforce in a language and means that they could understand. Being a small business, the company had limited resources to fund such an ambitious goal.

However, Wenner Bread was able to reduce costs by utilizing employee involvement. Among other systems, Wenner began extending the benefits of the safety recognition and reward program to employees that volunteered to serve as interpreters during training or to translate documents related to training and development. Eventually, the company began extending the bilingual resources to other areas of operation. Today, the company offers all information related to compliance and company-wide communications in both English and Spanish.

Wenner Bread has been an active participant in the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association, Inc. (VPPPA). Since 2003, Wenner Bread presented best practice seminars, helping companies develop successful safety and health training for the Latino workforce at several conferences on the regional and national level for both VPP and the American Society of Safety Engineers. Additionally, in 2004, Wenner Bread was recognized by OSHA's Region II regional administrator for its commitment to Hispanic outreach efforts by combining forces with the Region II area offices, local companies and community groups to provide safety and health training to Hispanic workers. Most notably, in April of 2010, Wenner Bread was invited to be part of a panel of speakers at the First Latino Action Summit coordinated by OSHA. Wenner continues to partner with OSHA in the training of Hispanic immigrant workers in parts of New York and New Jersey.

Pursuing VPP has been an overall rewarding experience for the Wenner family. The company has been able to maintain injury rates below the industry standards, therefore obtaining low experience modification rates. Additionally, Wenner Bread has experienced improved labor relations within the bilingual workforce, which lead to an increase in productivity and an increase in product quality. ★

Wenner staff prepares dough for the oven.





TWO AND A HALF DECADES TO Becoming a VPP Star

BY BRENDA A. TOLSON-MARKAS >> PRESIDENT, CEO, CSP,
CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

What is the importance of zero? That was the question that the Certified Environmental Management, Ltd., (CEM) President asked one of their clients in the mid-1980s. The explanation was simple; any reported injury or illness performance above zero means that someone who works for our company is experiencing a health or safety event that could permanently change their lives or the lives of their families. The CEM executive began to understand the meaning of this zero criterion. So how does our team at CEM see the importance of zero? Essentially, that was our first step to becoming an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star site and understanding the totality of an OSHA recordable.

In the workplace, risk equals cost – that’s the bottom line. With corporations of all sizes facing shrinking budgets, increased stakeholder scrutiny and intense competition for market share and quality employees, controlling costs by effectively managing workplace environmental, health and safety (EHS) programs is crucial for sustaining growth and profitability. Workplace EHS programs reduce costs and risks by maintaining a safer, healthier and more productive workforce, adding significant value to the bottom line. Integrating EHS systems with strategic business planning delivers far-reaching financial, economic, competitive and operational benefits.

CEM partners with clients to understand their specific business and EHS processes,

objectives and strategies. From individual programs to comprehensive systems, we help companies address both immediate and long-term EHS issues, delivering point solutions that add value today and sustainable management strategies that enable our clients to track EHS value and drive improved EHS performance well into the future. We have the experience to understand the business value of EHS and the expertise to provide comprehensive solutions that effectively deliver that value.

That is why in 2008, our CEM team, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) laboratory and consulting group chose to vigorously pursue becoming a VPP Star worksite.

CEM's Journey as a Small Business to Becoming a Star!

Our industrial hygiene (IH) team since the 1980s has had the privilege of working with the leaders of multiple industries within the United States. But one thing that always stood out when our IH field team would arrive at these sites was how from a behavioral, housekeeping, cultural and quality perspective, they were different. It might be as subtle as the signage that exists in the entry way into the facility or the pride which exists in the landscaping on the exterior of the facility. These sites always would shine in a very specific and unique way, so our team began to ask why the employees at these special sites are so conversant, knowledgeable and proud. Why did these sites appear differently both physically and internally? The answer was simple ... they were VPP Star worksites!

Because of our first-hand experience of witnessing these VPP sites and team members, our company in 1993 attended the national Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) conference in Orlando, Fla., and sponsored kick-off events, like "Seventh Inning Stretch" receptions for all VPPPA team members. At the 1994 conference in San Antonio, Texas, we sponsored "Let's Go Out to the Ballpark" by bringing in legendary baseball players and providing every VPPPA member with an autographed baseball from Baseball Hall of Fame player Harmon Killebrew. We also got the chance to meet him in person and shake his hand. We also gave VPPPA members a personally autographed baseball by every member of the World Series baseball champions, the Minnesota Twins. During the next decade, our CEM team continued our efforts to support Region VII.

From CEM's perspective, every individual that helps their plant become a VPP Star worksite is a hall of famer! Over the years, our team has helped companies track their return on investment toward VPP Star status and has found that historically, clients generate a \$4 to \$11 lifetime return for each dollar invested in VPP.

Jumping Forward to 2008 ... Finally – CEM's Opportunity to Pursue VPP Star Status

In 2008, with so many industrial hygiene laboratories and companies being acquired by foreign investors and companies, our

CEM president believed it was our patriotic responsibility to support the "best" that the United States of America had to offer in the regulatory arena – VPP.

For years, CEM has participated in the following certification and accreditation programs:

- + American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
 - Certification Number 101294 (Since 1987)
 - ELLAP Certified (Lead in Paint, Lead in Soil, Lead in Air, Lead in Wipes)
 - IHLAP Certified (Organics, Organic Badges, Metals, Asbestos and Silica)
- + National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditations (NACLA), #101294
- + NACLA Mutual Recognition Arrangement
 - Coordinates Laboratory Accreditation with the United States, Canada and Mexico
- + International Organization for Standardization (ISO) policy ISO/IEC 17025 ISO/IEC 17025 incorporates requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO 9002
- + Proficiency Analytical Testing (PAT) Program for 23 continuous years
 - Operated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and funded by AIHA
 - All Parameter (Organics, Metals, Silica, Fiber counts)
 - Organic Badges (3M, Trace air, SKC, etc.)
 - Lead (Pb) in Paint, Soil, Bulks
 - Bulk Asbestos Identification
- + Germany's BGIA Program
- + United Kingdom's WASP Program
- + Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)

Bottom Line

None of these certifications or accreditations has made our employees as proud as being recommended as a VPP Star worksite! After CEM's decades of watching and assisting the "best of the best" worksites in the country become Stars, OSHA Region VII recommended

that CEM be acknowledged in May of 2010 as a VPP Star site!

One major misconception that we had for many years was that VPP was not a small business option. Our employees proved this not to be the case as they saw the VPP Star as a professional step and honor for themselves and the company. Their safety practices were critical in going home each day without any laboratory accidents or incidents. Protecting their health was vital to their daily tasks as well as their ability to conduct accurate analytical chemical analysis. This program also increased the team spirit and close working relations in the laboratory. More time was spent on developing safer laboratory practices, standard operation procedures and methodologies. VPP was almost a professional growth step for all of our laboratory operations and all of our team members. We really discovered that you do not have to be a large organization to become a VPP Star. It is for all companies, large and small.

Our team learned that VPP promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. Following VPP objectives, management, labor and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces and jointly implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system. The approval of CEM for Star recognition by our OSHA Region VII team was OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding team efforts that our employees achieved and their exemplary occupational safety and health work habits.

We are honored to state that we value the importance of zero and that we are part of this time-honored "fraternity" of being a Star worksite for our employees, their families and for this great nation.

Special recognition and salutes need to be extended to multiple Special Government Employees (SGEs) that suggested our company apply for VPP Star recognition. Their advice and counsel were invaluable in engaging in this process. Two extraordinary SGEs need individual recognition by our team: Jon Baxt of Koch Industries, Inc./Aviation and Dr. Norman Murphy, who is retired from NASA. ★

YOUR ASSOCIATION AT WORK >>

MEET YOUR MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

MARISA K. CONNAUGHTON >> MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

How long have you been with the association?

I am relatively new to the association, having only nine months under my belt (but they have been some of the most exciting months of my career!).

What is your primary function in your position?

I am responsible for heading up all membership recruitment and retention efforts for the association and making sure our members are satisfied with the products and services we provide. I also work to secure sponsorships for the association's annual national conferences and identify companies that provide products and/or services to the VPPPA membership and have them place advertisements in our publications.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Meeting and speaking to our members. I have never worked with a membership base that is as dedicated and passionate about the success of a program as our members are about VPP, safety and health. Not to mention, they are by far the friendliest people out there!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I'm a very active person and enjoy going to the gym, biking and running. I also play softball with my university's alumni association. I'm a big fan of travelling, reading and learning new things in general. Currently, I am learning all about American football (but between you and me, I have a lot of learning to do!).

What do you want to say to the VPPPA membership?

I am looking forward to meeting you face-to-face in Orlando, Fla., at the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference. I would love to get your feedback on how you think we can improve our benefits and make the association's offerings stronger.

KATIE B. CAMPBELL >> MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

How long have you been with the association?

I began working for the association in February 2010.

What is your primary function in your position?

I assist with the development, planning and execution of recruitment campaigns to bring new members to the VPPPA network. I also handle members' service concerns and field questions about benefits. Essentially, my job is to ensure that the benefits of VPPPA membership reach as many sites and workers as possible.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

I particularly enjoy when I am able to help associate members take full advantage of benefits and educational opportunities that smooth their path to VPP and ensure that their employees have a safe and healthy place to work.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

In the summertime I like to make the most of all the nature Maryland and Virginia have to offer. When I'm off the clock, my husband and I are usually out somewhere swimming, fishing or barbecuing.

What do you want to say to the VPPPA membership?

Although I'm a relative newcomer to VPPPA, I've already developed immense respect and admiration for the safety professionals and safety-minded folks that make up the VPPPA membership. I can't imagine how many lives have been saved and injuries avoided because of the hard work and dedication of our members. I look forward to continuing to work to make their jobs a little easier. ★

[LEFT] Membership & Development Manager Marisa K. Connaughton

[RIGHT] Membership & Development Coordinator Katie B. Campbell



Member Info Corner

>> NEWS & HOT TOPICS FROM THE LEADER
IN SAFETY AND HEALTH EXCELLENCE

2010 National VPPPA Board of Directors Nominees

Running For: Chairperson

DAVID L. JACKSON, CIH, CSP
Manager of Site Safety Standards
Mission Support Alliance, LLC,
Richland, Wash.

Running For: Chairperson

MIKE MADDIX
Corporate VPP Director
NuStar Energy, LP, San Antonio, Texas

Running For: Treasurer

CHRIS ADOLFSON
Business Specialist
Idaho National Laboratory,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

*Running For: Labor Representative
from a Site without a Collective
Bargaining Agent*

ROB HENSON
Process Technician
LyondellBasell, Channelview, Texas

*Running For: Representative from a
VPP Contractor/Construction Site*

RICHARD MCCONNELL
Project Manager
Austin Industrial, Channelview, Texas

Running For: Director-at-Large

JACK GRIFFITH
HAMTC Safety Representative
CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation
Company (CHPRC), Richland, Wash.

Running For: Director-at-Large

BOB HAMILTON
Captain, Emergency Response Team
Dow Chemical Co., Bristol, Pa.

Running For: Director-at-Large

GERALD "JERRY" HIPP
Safety & Health Manager
Parson TDFC, Pasco, Wash.

Running For: Director-at-Large

BUDDY TUCKER
Business Development Manager
The Mundy Companies,
Pasadena, Texas

Visit www.vpppa.org/About/BODnominees.cfm for information about the nominees.

Annual Meeting of the Membership

As a membership-based organization, your participation and feedback are key to VPPPA. Members are invited to hear about the newest initiatives of the association, vote on pertinent issues and nominate individuals from the floor for open positions on the VPPPA National Board of Directors. You are encouraged to attend this important meeting on Monday, August 23, 2010, from 8:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Orlando, Fla. Come join your fellow VPPPA members for the Annual Meeting of the Membership and participate in a chance to win an exciting prize.

2010 Elections

Elections for open positions on the VPPPA National Board of Directors will take place during the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Orlando, Fla.

VPPPA BOARD ELECTIONS,
SESSION 1
Tuesday, August 24
11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

VPPPA BOARD ELECTIONS,
SESSION 2
Wednesday, August 25
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

This year's open positions are:

- + Chairperson
- + Treasurer
- + Labor Representative from a Site without a Collective Bargaining Agent
- + Representative from a VPP Contractor/Construction Site
- + Director-at-Large (two positions available)

Here is what you need to know before you vote:

(1) VPPPA Full member sites are eligible for a maximum of two votes – one hourly and one management representative.

(2) If only one of the two is present during voting times, the site will only be eligible for one vote.

(3) Attendees from the same member site should decide in advance who will represent their site and cast their vote (one hourly and one management) on behalf of the site. This will help avoid confusion during elections.

(4) VPPPA strongly encourages members to send both hourly and management representatives to the conference to get the maximum site votes.

Attend the Annual Meeting of the Membership on Monday, August 23, 2010, at the conference for an introduction to the candidates or read about them online at www.vpppa.org/About/BODnominees.cfm.

Poker Tournament at the Conference

Join us for the 2nd Annual VPPPA Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament on Tuesday, August 24, while at the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Orlando, Fla. The last one standing will win a weekend getaway at any Marriott property in the continental U.S. plus roundtrip airfare courtesy of Delta Airlines, Inc.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: Anyone associated with the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference (this includes spouses and guests of attendees)

WHEN: 7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.,
Tuesday, August 24, 2010

WHERE: Orlando World Center
Marriott, Sawgrass & Vinoy

COST: \$25 entry fee
(no additional buy-ins)

PRIZES!

+ **1ST PLACE WINNER** will receive TWO roundtrip tickets courtesy of Delta Airlines to anywhere in the continental United States plus a two-night stay at any Marriott property in the continental United States.

+ **2ND PLACE WINNER** will receive a mini refrigerator.

+ **3RD PLACE WINNER** will receive a professional poker chip set.

“You can’t lose what you don’t put in the middle. But you can’t win much either.” – From the movie Rounders

VPPPA National Committees

You might have heard at some point during your time as a member of the association that VPPPA is a “member-driven association,” and we really mean it! As an employee at a VPPPA member site, you have the unique opportunity to serve in one of the many VPPPA National Board of Directors’ committees that have a direct impact on the objectives, goals and priorities that drive the association. We encourage your involvement and invite you to learn about this exclusive member benefit. Members have a choice of eleven different committees – the Achievement, Awards, Bylaws, Conference Planning, Construction, Education, Labor and Management, Legislative and Regulatory, Member Services, Mentoring and Nominating Committees. For a full description of each committee, please visit www.vpppa.org/About/Committees.cfm or give the national office a ring at (703) 761-1146. We would be happy to assist you in identifying which committee best matches your interests and priorities.

VPPPA Recognition Programs

The winners of VPPPA’s Scholarship Program, Annual Awards and Safety and Health Achievement Program will be announced at the Opening General Session at the 26th Annual National VPPPA Conference in Orlando, Fla. Join us at this session on Monday, August 23, 2010, to applaud the efforts of your colleagues and celebrate safety and health achievements across the U.S.

Next year’s deadline is May 2, 2011. Please visit www.vpppa.org/Programs/index.cfm to find out more about the awards and scholarships we have available. ★

VPPPA

QUICK REFERENCE >>

To reach the VPPPA National Office, call (703) 761-1146 or visit www.vpppa.org. To reach particular staff members, please refer to the contact information below.

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Occupational Medicine and VPP WHAT A COMBINATION

BY BRENDA KAY WIEDERKEHR >> VICE PRESIDENT, ACCESS HEALTH SYSTEMS

Access Health Systems has to be one of the smallest members of the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), if not its smallest. In addition, when we became a VPP Star site on May 29, 2003, we were the first outpatient medical care provider in the nation to join this program – aspiring to promote the health and safety of employees throughout the nation. Throughout this journey, being an active part of VPP has helped to form and shape what we do for ourselves and assist a large number of employers in achieving their goals of safety and health.

Access Health Systems began in the mid-1980s as an occupational medicine medical practice. The field of occupational medicine is a specialty dealing with the medical relationship between an individual and his or her job. The standard activities include such services as surveillance physicals, fit testing for respirators, work injury treatment and management and drug-free workplace programs. At Access Health Systems, we have expanded our staff and knowledge over the years to be able to serve as a valuable resource to our employers, using a wide array of additional risk management arenas. The impact of joining VPP has been profound on our entire operation.

In the late 1990s, our medical director and founder Warren Silverman, M.D., a board certified occupational medicine specialist, began to attend the Federal Health and Safety Council meetings hosted by our Region II Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office under the guidance of the area director of the Albany OSHA office. Inspired by employers coming together for the purpose of understanding and learning strategies for keeping the workplace safe and healthy, Silverman came back to our office and engaged the staff in

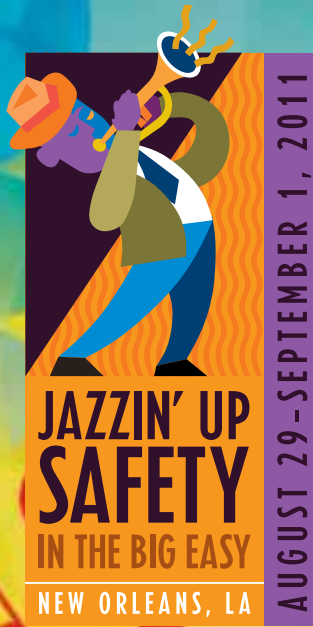
working with the regional OSHA office to help expand the outreach and mission of the council through the geographical area in which it served. Soon, our Vice President Brenda Wiederkehr, owner of our affiliate organization, Access Compliance, and other employees were actively involved in the mission of “bringing the message” to as many people as possible. In the process, Access Health Systems first became aware of, and later involved with, the employers who had taken the steps to become or move toward partnership with OSHA in VPP. Seeing their commitment and the impact on their organization, we approached the Albany OSHA area director and asked if a small organization such as ours could partner with OSHA.

Recognizing that we were a unique group – a small service organization in the medical field with maybe one dozen full-time employees and as many part-timers – we wondered about the fit. The advice we received was to “go for it.” Soon we became familiar with the Regional II VPP OSHA manager and a host of VPP sites who became our mentors. Every member of our office staff became involved in designing and promoting safety throughout all that we do in our practice. We ultimately examined every facet of what we were doing, looking at how, where and why we were doing things, and were fortunate enough to create programs that achieved “best practices” status when reviewed by the VPP onsite evaluation team. When we formally received our VPP Star status, each and every one of the people who work at Access Health Systems felt proud for what they had accomplished.

The story does not end there. Access Health Systems has been able to use its expertise in the field of safety and health

to join this community and promote these values and practices throughout the region. We have recruited and mentored a number of new companies into VPP and have been active members of the Region II Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association (VPPPA) Chapter, with Brenda Wiederkehr as a sitting chapter board member. Within our small operation, we can brag that we have two certified Special Government Employees (SGE) available to work with OSHA on its goal of promoting and maintaining VPP. Employers know that they can call us at any time for help, assistance and advice in trying to find answers to the technical sides of health and safety. Through VPP, we have developed the resources to offer solutions to their problems, partnering not just with OSHA but with workplaces throughout the region to make them safer and better places to work.

The impact of VPP, however, is most felt at home, with our employees and in our workplace. Over the last decade, our facility has remained a healthy and safe place to work. Each day, our employees are on the lookout for ways to improve our work environment. Whether walking through our facilities, checking outlets for grounding, making sure that the hypodermic needles we have are the safest possible or assuring that every employee’s vehicle has the full range of emergency and safety equipment, every one of our employees is involved. Attending safety meetings, programs and training is as much a part of our work duties as greeting the patients. Access Health Systems has become a better, healthier and safer place for all of us to live and work, thanks to our involvement with VPP. ★



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN JAZZING UP SAFETY IN THE BIG EASY AT THE 27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL VPPPA CONFERENCE!

So come on down to New Orleans, LA, August 29 to September 1, 2011, and experience a world-class educational event and quality VPPPA networking to spice up your safety programs.

ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER
900 CONVENTION CENTER BOULEVARD
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

HOST HOTELS: New Orleans Marriott - JW Marriott Hotel
New Orleans - Sheraton New Orleans

Please visit VPPPA's Calendar of Events at www.vpppa.org/Calendar/index.cfm for regional educational events and future national conferences!



7TH ANNUAL Site-Get-a-Site Campaign

The winner of the 7th Annual Site-Get-a-Site Campaign is:

BILL COLE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT – CORPORATE OFFICE, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Congratulations Bill Cole!

As the winner, Waste Management Corporate Office receives a complimentary membership for 2011.

The Site-Get-a-Site Campaign was designed to strengthen the VPPPA network by linking new sites to the premier association in the safety and health industry. Current member sites that recruited new sites to join the association for the first time were eligible for participation.

We would like to extend a big thank you and a round of applause to all of our 2010 recruiters who shared the value and benefits of VPPPA with their colleagues.

Tamrat F. Antenyistegn, CSP

GE Aviation Flight Test Operation,
Victorville, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: GE Aviation
Actuations, Duarte, Calif.*

Keith Blanton

Norbord Georgia, Inc., Cordele OSB
Mill, Cordele, Ga.

+ *New Member Site: Norbord
Mississippi, LLC, Guntown, Ms.*

George L. Bowser, Jr., SGE

Croda Atlas Point Plant, New Castle, Del.

+ *New Member Site: Croda Inc.,
Mill Hall, Pa.*

Amanda A. Brendlinger

Sherwin Williams Company,
Fredericksburg DSC, Fredericksburg, Pa.

+ *New Member Site: Sysco Central
Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Staci A. Cannady, SGE

Simmons Manufacturing Company,
Aurora, Colo.

+ *New Member Site: Simmons Bedding
Company S.I.T.E., Norcross, Ga.*

Scott Carbaugh

General Electric Dover Product Plant,
Dover, Ohio

+ *New Member Site: Special Pack, Inc.,
Canton, Ohio*

Jeffrey A. Carlson, CSP, CHMM, REM, CES, SGE

ConocoPhillips Company Alaska, Inc.-
Kuparuk, Anchorage, Alaska
+ *New Member Site: Kakivik Asset
Management, LLC, Anchorage, Alaska*

Robert Coble

Valero Refining Company, New Jersey,
Paulsboro, N.J.
+ *New Member Site: Solvay Solexis, West
Deptford, N.J.*

Bill Cole

Waste Management – Corporate Office,
Houston, Texas

+ *New Member Sites:
Waste Management – Joliet (Satellite)
Transfer, Joliet, Ill.*

*Waste Management – Rockdale Hauling,
Rockdale, Ill.*

*Waste Management – Edmond Transfer
Station, Lewisville, Texas*

*Waste Management – East Oak Landfill,
Lewisville, Texas*

*Waste Management – Tampa MRF,
Tampa, Fla.*

Waste Management, Lewisville, Texas

Penny L. Cooper

Southern Ohio Medical Center,
Portsmouth, Ohio

+ *New Member Site: St. Bernard's
Medical Center, Jonesboro, Ark.*

Joel Dendinger, SGE

Nucor Steel, Norfolk, Neb.

+ *New Member Site: Nucor Cold Finish,
Norfolk, Neb.*

Todd S. Eriksen

Butterball LLC, Carthage, Mo.

+ *New Member Site: Orval Kent Food Co.,
Baxter Springs, Kan.*

Richard M. Foreman, SGE

Frito-Lay, Inc., Aberdeen, Md.

+ *New Member Site: Cintas Corporation,
Columbia, Md.*

Stephen L. Gauthier, SGE

General Electric Transportation Aircraft
Engines/GE Riverworks Plant/Geer Plant,
Lynn, Mass.

+ *New Member Site: Veolia ES Technical
Solutions, LLC, Lynn, Mass.*

David J. Gilbride

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

+ *New Member Sites:*

Defense Reutilization & Marketing Service, Columbus, Ohio

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, Robins AFB, Ga.

Robert D. Gilchrist, CIH, CSP

DA Collins Companies, Kubricky Construction Site, Wilton, NY

+ *New Member Site: Finch,*

Payne & Co Inc., Glens Falls, N.Y.

Robert A. Hamilton, Jr.

Dow Chemicals, Bristol, Pa.

+ *New Member Site: Dummore*

Corporation, Bristol, Pa.

Scott Hatchell

Nucor Building Systems-SC, Swansea, S.C.

+ *New Member Site: American Buildings*

Company, La Crosse, Va.

Jill N. Herrel

US Postal Service, City Of Industry, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: United States Post*

Office, Simi Valley, Calif.

Clark W. Hislop

Longview Fibre Paper & Packaging (LFPPPI), Longview, Wash.

+ *New Member Sites:*

Longview Fibre Paper & Packaging, Inc., Spanish Fork, Utah

Longview Fibre Paper & Packaging, Oakland, Calif.

Longview Fibre, Paper and Packaging, Inc., Seattle, Wash.

Longview Fibre Paper & Packaging, Inc., Yakima, Wash.

LFPPPI, Twin Falls, Idaho

Barbara L. Holbrook

Covanta Energy, Oroville, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: Covanta Energy –*

Mt. Lassen Power, Westwood, Calif.

John W. Jamba, SGE, CSP

United Space Alliance, NASA Shuttle Logistics Depot
Cape Canaveral, Fla.

+ *New Member Site: Oberon*

*Company Div Paramount Corp,
New Bedford, Mass.*

Michael Joyce

BG Dighton Power, Dighton, Mass.

+ *New Member Site: Lake Road*

Generating, Dayville, Conn.

James R. Lees, SGE

General Electric International, Inc., Dallas, Texas

+ *New Member Site: Raytheon,*

Dallas, Texas

Thomas LeBlond

Pratt & Whitney, North Berwick, Maine

+ *New Member Site: UTC Fire &*

Security, Pittsfield, Maine

Joyce Lew, CIH, CSP

Raytheon Company-Space Airborne Systems, El Segundo, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: Raytheon Company,*

Goleta, Calif.

Raymond Magruder

PepsiCo., Columbia, Mo.

+ *New Member Site: Pfizer, Inc.,*

Lees Summit, Mo.

Amy Manbeck, CIH, SGE

DLA Columbus, Columbus, Ohio

+ *New Member Sites:*

*Defense Logistics Agency Norfolk-West,
Norfolk, Va.*

DLA - PSNS&IME, Bremerton, Wash.

Richard Marmolejo

Frito-Lay, Inc., Modesto, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: Sysco Central*

California, Modesto, Calif.

Gregory Mimms, CSP

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, Carmel, Ind.

+ *New Member Site: Pacific Scientific*

*Energetic Materials Company,
Chandler, Ariz.*

Kurt A. Paton

ConocoPhillips Company, Freer, Texas

+ *New Member Site: ConocoPhillips*

Company, Franklin, Texas

Bill Reaves

Hunt Construction Group,
Houston, Texas

+ *New Member Site: Hunt Construction
Group, Inc, Phoenix, Ariz.*

Daniel Saathoff

Eaton Corporation, Kearney, Neb.

+ *New Member Site: R M Wester and*

Associates, Inc., Saint Peters, Mo.

Terry Schulte

Valero Refining Company, Benicia Refinery,
Benicia, Calif.

+ *New Member Site: The Dow Chemical*

Company, Pittsburg, Calif.

Anthony Stoner, SGE

Integrity Windows and Doors, Fargo, N.D.

+ *New Member Site: Monsanto, West*

Fargo, N.D.

Kevin F. Sykora, CSP

Sherwin-Williams Company,
Cleveland, Ohio

+ *New Member Site: Sherwin-Williams*

Company, Terre Haute, Ind.

James D. Taylor

United Space Alliance, LLC, Huntsville
Operations, Houston, Texas

+ *New Member Site: United Space*

*Alliance, LLC, Huntsville Operations,
Huntsville, Ala.*

Phil Walsh, ASP, CHMM, SGE

Hunter Douglas, Shannon, Miss.

+ *New Member Site: Hunter Douglas*

Horizontal Blinds Div., Gilbert, Ariz.

Richard R. Ward

Sysco Corporation, Houston, Texas

+ *New Member Sites:*

*Sysco Northern New England,
Westbrook, Maine*

*FreshPoint Southern California, Inc.,
Industry, Calif.*

Brenda Kay Wiederkehr, CSC

Access Health Systems, Latham, N.Y.

+ *New Member Site: Clickner Security,*

Inc., Watervliet, N.Y. ★

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE (SGE) TRAINING COURSE

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has confirmed the following Special Government Employee (SGE) training courses. The course schedule is projected through October 2010.

The training course must be taken prior to assisting OSHA with Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) onsite evaluations. To participate in the course, the applicant must meet the SGE safety and health qualifications. Interested applicants can contact Chantel Sollers, SGE coordinator, U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA, Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs, Office of Partnerships and Recognition, at (202) 693-2213. For more information, please also visit www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/sge.html.

If you are interested in becoming an SGE, meet the qualifications and would like to attend one of the following courses, an application must be submitted by the application deadlines below.

DATES	HOST/LOCATION	REGION	APPLICATION DEADLINE
August 20-22, 2010	26th Annual National VPPPA Conference, Orlando World Center Marriott Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.	IV	6/15/10
September 14-16, 2010	United Space Alliance, Houston, Texas	VI	7/15/10
October 5-7, 2010	Exxon/Mobil, Paulsboro, NJ	II	7/15/10
October 5-7, 2010	Mary Kay, Dallas, TX	VI	7/15/10



GET SOCIAL WITH VPPPA!

Your association is broadening its social media presence online! We are now a part of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. Search for us on these social networking websites to keep up with association and industry news, conference updates and much more.

Use these sites to stay connected with other members, view safety-related videos, share your favorite conference pictures or memories, tell your VPP success stories or simply spread the word about VPP. VPPPA is getting social so join the conversation!

Mentoring Matches

The VPPPA Mentoring Program matches current VPP Star sites with sites interested in pursuing VPP approval or improving their safety and health management system. Mentors can offer assistance and insight into personal experiences with VPP. They can also share techniques on conducting annual evaluations and help mentees effectively communicate the benefits of VPP to management, employees and unions.

VPPPA would like to recognize the companies striving toward overall safety and health excellence and thank the mentors that are facilitating the process for their efforts and dedication. If you are aware of any VPP mentoring activities or would like to receive information on the program, please contact the VPPPA National Office at Mentoring@vpppa.org or (703) 761-1146.

MENTEE	MENTOR
McConnell Air Force Base Wichita, Kan.	Koch Industries Wichita, Kan.
CDH El Dorado, Kan.	Utility Contractors Inc Wichita, Kan.
Burgers' Smokehouse California, Mo.	Cargill California, Mo.
Farmland Foods Milan, Mo.	Kraft Foods Kirksville, Mo.
Sysco Foods St. Peters, Mo.	GE Infra, Water St. Peters, Mo.
Trinity Marine Products Caruthersville, Mo.	Woodproducts Dexter, Mo.
Cemex Omaha, Neb.	3M Company Valley, Neb.
Michael Foods Wakefield, Neb.	Omaha Steaks Omaha, Neb.
Premier Technology, Inc. Blackfoot, Idaho	CH2M-WG IDAHO, LLC Idaho Falls, Idaho
CH2M-Hill Twin Falls, Idaho	CH2M-WG IDAHO, LLC Idaho Falls, Idaho
Longview Fibre Paper & Packaging, Inc. Spanish Fork, Utah	Battelle Tooele Operations Stockton, Utah
Milliken and Company St. George, Utah	Morton Salt Grantsville, Utah



Outreach

Throughout the year, VPPPA is represented at safety and health related conferences and exhibits. If you are planning to attend any of the conferences, please feel free to visit with association representatives at the VPPPA booth or participate in the VPPPA workshop to network with presenters and attendees who are interested in learning more about VPP and the association.

Upcoming Outreach Events

OCTOBER 3-8

- + National Safety Council 2010 Congress & Expo
San Diego, Calif.
Booth 1142

New & Continued Leaders

VPP Indicates a VPP site that is also a VPPPA member

NEW LEADERS*

*as of print date

Congratulations to the following sites that have been honored as models of safety and health excellence through acceptance into VPP since the last issue of *The Leader*.

New VPP Sites

VPP Covanta – Pittsfield

PITTSFIELD, MA

- + 32 employees
- + Nature of Operations: solid waste combusters and incinerators

Covanta Field Services North Group

HAVERHILL, MA

- + 29 employees
- + Nature of Operations: power and communication line and related structure construction

Entergy Arkansas Inc., Lake Catherine Plant

MALVERN, AR

- + 45 employees
- + Nature of Operations: electrical utility industry services

Florida Power & Light - Putnam Plant

EAST PALATKA, FL

- + 47 employees
- + Nature of Operations: electric power generation

GE Ravenna Master Distribution Center

RAVENNA, OH

- + 51 employees
- + Nature of Operations: warehousing and distribution

Hospira Worldwide, Midwest Distribution Center

PLEASANT PRAIRIE, WI

- + 75 employees
- + Nature of Operations: distribution of specialty injectable pharmaceutical solutions

Lancaster Safety Consulting, Inc.

MARS, PA

- + 11 employees
- + Nature of Operations: management, scientific, and technical services

NextEra Energy Resources Marcus Hook 750

MARCUS HOOK, PA

- + 32 employees
- + Nature of Operations: electric power generation

VPP Norbord Mississippi

GUNTOWN, MS

- + 125 employees
- + Nature of Operations: wood products manufacturing

VPP Northrop Grumman Ship Systems

PASCAGOULA, MS

- + 19,000 employees
- + Nature of Operations: ship building and repairing

Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, Inc. Modular Construction Facility

WAGGAMAN, LA

- + 40 employees
- + Nature of Operations: manufacturing and painting of ship's structural outfitting

VPP NuStar Energy

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

- + 84 employees
- + Nature of Operations: storage and transportation of petroleum products

Owens Corning Roofing And Asphalt, LLC

HOUSTON, TX

- + 84 employees
- + Nature of Operations: asphalt shingle and coating materials manufacturing

VPP RRI Energy

TITUSVILLE, FL

- + 50 employees
- + Nature of Operations: electric power generation

Rhode Island State Energy Center

JOHNSTON, RI

- + 28 employees
- + Nature of Operations: fossil fuel electric power generation

Rogers Corporation - High Performance Foams Division

CAROL STREAM, IL

- + 60 employees
- + Nature of Operations: manufacturer of urethane and other foam products (except polystyrene)

Standard Forged Products, LLC

MC KEES ROCKS, PA

- + 90 employees
- + Nature of Operations: iron and steel forgings

VPP Temple-Inland Forest Products Corp.

DIBOLL, TX

- + 160 employees
- + Nature of Operations: manufactures dimension lumber from southern pine timber

VPP Temple-Inland, Fiber Products Operation

DIBOLL, TX

- + 90 employees
- + Nature of Operations: reconstituted wood product manufacturing

U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA

CALUMET CITY, IL

- + 28 employees
- + Nature of Operations: building and inspection services

U.S. Postal Service

WILMINGTON, OH

- + 26 employees
- + Nature of Operations: postal service

VPP Vulcraft

NORFOLK, NE

- + 400 employees
- + Nature of Operations: fabricated structural metal manufacturing

Westbrook Energy Center

WESTBROOK, ME

- + 21 employees
- + Nature of Operations: fossil fuel electric power generation

VPP WPP – Performance Products Division

WASHINGTON, PA

- + 62 employees
- + Nature of Operations: custom compounding of purchased resins

New Merit Sites

VP# John Deere Seeding Group

VALLEY CITY, ND

+ 316 employees

+ Nature of Operations: AG manufacturing, produce the hoe drills, no till systems, commodity carts and openers. All air seeding equipment.

VP# Nucor Cold Finish

NORFOLK, NE

+ 104 employees

+ Nature of Operations: manufactures hot roll bars and coils material as requested from customers

Continued Leaders

Anadarko Industries, LLC @ NASA JSC

HOUSTON, TX

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Washington Group International

ANNISTON, AL

VP# B/E Aerospace, Inc.

EARTH CITY, MO

VP# Bay Ltd.@ Valero Corpus Christi Refinery

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

BlueLinx Corporate Headquarters & Eastern Sales Center

ATLANTA, GA

Brock Maintenance Inc. @ Valero Bill Greehey Refinery

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

VP# ConocoPhillips Company, Houston Corporate Headquarters

HOUSTON, TX

Down River An ITW Company

MACON, GA

VP# Georgia-Pacific Leaf River Cellulose, LLC

NEW AUGUSTA, MS

Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensor Tactical Systems – Clearwater Systems

OLDSMAR, FL

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (Hayward OSB Plant)

HAYWARD, WI

VP# Mine Safety Appliances Company

MURRYSVILLE, PA

Monsanto Company Monmouth Agronomy Center

MONMOUTH, IL

VP# Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding

NEWPORT NEWS, VA

Pactiv Corporation

COVINGTON, GA

Parsons

RENTON, WA

VP# Pratt & Whitney West Palm Beach

WEST PALM BEACH, FL

VP# Schering-Plough Corporation

MIAMI LAKES, FL

VP# Scott Electric Company at Valero Corpus Christi Refinery

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

VP# U.S. Postal Service

FENTON, MO

VP# Xerox Oklahoma City Supplies Manufacturing Site

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Work shouldn't hurt. Save your knees with our ergonomic products!



Soft Knees Knee Pads



Disposable Knee Pads



Ergokneel Handy Mats



Pak-A-Ladder



Garden Kneeling Strip



Extreme Standing Mats



Ergokneel Ground Blankets



Ergomotion Soft Top Surgical Lift Mat



Aircraft Mats

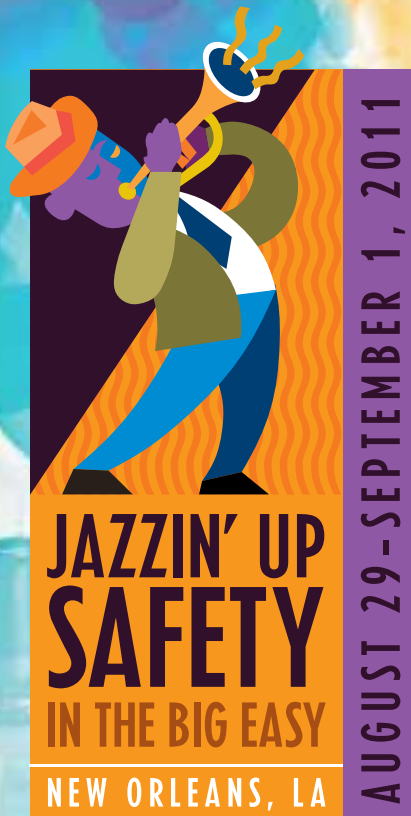


Pocket Kneeler with Lanyard

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CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

JAZZIN' UP SAFETY

IN THE BIG EASY

NEW ORLEANS, LA

CONFERENCE DATES: AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

EXPO DATES: AUGUST 29-31, 2011

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: AUGUST 28, 2011

Approximately 3,000 representatives are expected to attend for an unsurpassed exchange of the latest best practices, programs and innovations in occupational safety, health and environmental processes.

This year, VPPPA's 2011 Conference Planning Committee is working on a new way to present workshops. Along with the standard lecture workshop format, the 27th Annual National VPPPA Conference will hold new interactive sessions that engage the attendees to participate in active learning. We will also be looking for proposals for round-table discussions, peer-to-peer sessions and subject matter expert workshops.

The 2011 Conference Planning Committee encourages you to submit a workshop proposal for any of the workshop types listed above. The committee will look favorably on advanced, new and value-added topics. Do you have information that will help conference participants face the challenges of achieving or maintaining excellence in occupational safety, health and environmental practices? If yes, please consider sharing your insight with the conference participants.

If you are interested in providing a new interactive workshop, round-table discussion, peer-to-peer discussion, 60-minute workshop(s), an eight-hour Skill Builder Workshop and/or a four-hour Pre-Conference Workshop, please complete the online proposal form on or before the deadline of **Friday, December 3, 2010**. Go to www.vpppa.org and click on "Annual Conference." You will find the online proposal form in the Annual Conference section.

Spread the word to ensure that everyone in your organization has the opportunity to submit a workshop proposal.

The VPPPA Conference Planning Committee will review all proposals that have been submitted. Notification of decisions regarding proposals will be sent no later than **Friday, April 1, 2011**.

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US IN NEW ORLEANS, LA, FOR THIS TERRIFIC CONFERENCE!

**HELP VPPPA MAINTAIN ITS
OUTSTANDING REPUTATION BY
SUBMITTING AN ELECTRONIC
PROPOSAL TO PRESENT AN
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP AT
THE 27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
VPPPA CONFERENCE.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are as of print date. For more information, please refer to the Calendar of Events at www.vpppa.org or call the VPPPA National Office at (703) 761-1146.

DECEMBER 6-8, 2010

13th Annual Safety & Health Congress

Sponsored by VPPPA, Inc., OSHA, PR OSHA and the Puerto Rico Federal Safety & Health Council
Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza
San Juan, PR
Hotel Reservations: (888) 722-1278

APRIL 20-21, 2011

Region IX VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> AZ, CA, HI, NV
Best Practices Workshop: April 19, 2011
JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa
Las Vegas, NV
Hotel Reservations: (800) 582-2996

MAY 4-5, 2011

Region VIII VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
Pre conference Workshops: May 3, 2011
Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech
Greenwood Village, CO
Hotel Reservations: (800) 327-2242

MAY 16-18, 2011

Region I VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
VPP Application Workshop®: May 16, 2011
Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club
Brewster, MA
Hotel Reservations: (508) 896-9000

MAY 16-18, 2011

Region VII VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> IA, KS, MO, NE
The Chase Park Plaza
St. Louis, MO
Hotel Reservations: (314) 633-3014

MAY 17-19, 2011

Region X VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> AK, ID, OR, WA
VPP Application Workshop®: May 17, 2011
Red Lion Hotel on the River, Jantzen Beach
Portland, OR
Hotel Reservations: (503) 283-4466

MAY 17-20, 2011

Region VI VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center
Hyatt Regency Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, TX
Hotel Reservations: (210) 222-1234

JUNE 1-2, 2011

Region V VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
VPP Application Workshop®: June 3, 2011
Hilton Netherlands Hotel
Cincinnati, OH
Hotel Reservations: (513) 421-9100

JUNE 22-24, 2011

Region IV VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
VPP Application Workshop®: June 22, 2011
Strengthening Star Quality Workshop: June 22, 2011
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel
Mobile, AL
Hotel Reservations: (800) 922-3298

JUNE 27-30, 2011

Region III VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV
VPP Application Workshop®: June 27, 2011
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center
National Harbor, MD
Hotel Reservations: (301) 965-4000

JULY 11-13, 2011

Region II VPPPA Chapter Conference

>> NJ, NY, PR, VI
VPP Application Workshop®: July 14, 2011
Trump Taj Mahal Hotel
Atlantic City, NJ
Hotel Reservations: (800) 825-8888

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

27th Annual National VPPPA Conference

Pre-Conference Workshops: August 28, 2011
Expo: August 29-31, 2011
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, LA



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VPPPA is a nonprofit, charitable organization devoted to improving worker safety and health protection through best practices and cooperation among employees, management and government.



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