



**AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
SAFETY
ENGINEERS**

**GREATER
CHICAGO
CHAPTER**



WWW.ASSECHGO.ORG

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December 9th Meeting Social Gathering at Chandlers with NEIL and AIHA

The ASSE Greater Chicago Chapter will have a holiday dinner/social gathering with the ASSE Northeastern Illinois (NEIL) Chapter and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

This joint meeting will also include an awards and honors ceremony following dinner.

This is a great opportunity to call some old friends or colleagues that you may know from the NEIL chapter or AIHA and get together to "catch up".

The meeting will be held at: **Chandler's Chophouse & Banquets**, located at 401 N Roselle Rd (*at the Schaumburg Golf Club*), in Schaumburg, IL.



There will be a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. (cash bar) with dinner starting at 7:00 p.m. The cost will be \$30 per person. Please feel free to invite your spouse or significant other to this event.

Reservations for the December meeting can be made with JoAnne Skibinski at (815) 464-6200 extension 200 or at aiha@raeco.com.

OSHA Extends Date to Submit Abstracts on Ergonomic Research

Symposium on Research Will Coincide with NACE Meeting in January

OSHA announced recently that it will extend until Dec. 1, 2003, the period for submission of abstracts on scientific research related to preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs).

The submitted abstracts will be used to select speakers for the research symposium to be held in conjunction with the fourth meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics (NACE) next January. OSHA decided that the additional time would benefit the numerous published researchers who have expressed interest in submitting information.

The original deadline for submissions was Nov. 5, 2003.

An abstract template is available at:

http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/nat_advis_comm.html

Data Show Record-Breaking Results From Strong Enforcement, Compliance Assistance

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao today released the Department of Labor's annual enforcement statistics, showing that the Department's innovative and effective approach to protecting workers is yielding record-breaking results. Chao noted that American workers are safer and are receiving more back wages -- including overtime pay -- than in the past.

Chao emphasized that the department was able to better protect workers by targeting enforcement at bad actors and providing tools to employers that help them better comply with the law. Total back wages including overtime that were collected by the Department's Wage and Hour division for workers in FY 2003 increased by 21 percent over the previous year, representing an 11-year high. The number of workers receiving back wages jumped from 263,593 workers to 342,358 - a nearly 30 percent increase in one year.

Chao also said workers are safer at their work sites, thanks to the strong enforcement and compliance assistance activities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In the last few years, OSHA and MSHA have placed increased enforcement priority on repeat offenders and invested in compliance assistance tools, programs and partnerships that enable well-intentioned employers to better protect workers. Chao said the numbers show the clear positive results of the Department's new approach:

- * OSHA cited employers for 83,760 violations in FY 03, a nearly 8 percent increase;
- * Nearly 60,000 of those violations were considered serious, an 11 percent increase over FY 02;
- * The most recent data available show the rates of workplace injuries and fatalities fell to the lowest point ever in 2002;
- * Fatalities in all mines decreased by 14 percent in FY 03;
- * Total mining injuries fell by 15 percent in FY 03.

"We never forget that behind every enforcement statistic and legal action is a person who needs our help," Chao said. "That's why I'm pleased to make these announcements today. They are an indication of how seriously this Administration takes its commitment to protect the safety and security of America's workers."

The data released today also show that workers' benefits, such as pension plans, 401(k)'s and health insurance, are more secure. The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) reported that it had record monetary results of more than \$1.4 billion in civil and criminal cases, and participant benefit recoveries in FY 03 saw a nearly 60 percent increase over the previous year. In addition, EBSA's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (VFCP), which encourages self-correction of benefit violations, saw a 300 percent increase in applications in FY 03 and more than \$8 million in restored assets to employee plans.

The ASSE 2003 Member-get-a-Member Campaign

How do I win?

When you sponsor one new member (excluding student or emeritus) - your name will be entered into a drawing to win one of these prizes. And, for every additional member you sponsor, you'll receive another chance to win.

How do I recruit a new member?

Choose your Method:

1. Email your colleagues directly through our "[refer a friend](#)" e-mail tool, or
2. Download an [application and cover letter](#) from our web site, or
3. Call ASSE customer service at 847.699.2929 for a supply of applications.

When will the winner be announced?

The campaign runs from April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. The winner will be announced in May 2004.

The prizes are:

- *Big Screen Television
- *Home Theater System
- *\$1,000 Amazon.com shopping spree
- *Digital Camera
- *Palm Pilot

Visit www.asse.org for additional information.

UW-Whitewater Offers Valuable Assistance in Occupational Safety and Health

WHITEWATER- The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater remains a valuable resource in the State for assisting employers in maintaining a safe workplace.

UW-Whitewater offers the only major in Occupational Safety in Wisconsin. A mandatory part of the coursework in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health is a semester long internship. The student spends the final semester of his or her undergraduate degree working in a company under the supervision of a safety or environmental professional assisting with any occupational or environmental safety and health concerns.

Placing interns with companies is a matching process managed by the Internship Coordinator. The process starts with a pool of students seeking internships and a list of companies that have expressed an interest in sponsoring an intern. The coordinator matches the student to the company based on the company's requirements and the student's interests and abilities. If the company feels there is a match, an internship offer is extended to the student.

Most companies provide the students with a stipend to help defer the cost of living during the internship. Many companies that sponsor safety interns are "repeat customers", sponsoring interns year after year.

"We have used the program five times and hired four interns as full time employees. The knowledge level is exceptional and consistent," says Joe Gumola Associate Facilities Manager for Underwriters Laboratories.

For more information contact Andrew Kapp, Internship Coordinator at (262) 472-5423 or by email at kappa@uww.edu.

Welcome New Local Chapter Members

The ASSE Greater Chicago Chapter would like to welcome our recent new members:

- Marilyn Broady
- Jason Cassidy
- Paul Flentge
- Valerie Kuster
- Craig Scott

As new members, we would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming meetings. As we continue to bring new and interesting topics to our membership, your input is valued. If your schedule prohibits you from attending meetings, please contact a board member and let us know your ideas.

Congratulations on 25 years of Membership

The ASSE Greater Chicago Chapter would like to congratulate our local members that are celebrating 25 years of ASSE membership this year:

- Mark Hetherington
- Jon Sweeney

We would also like to congratulate our local member that is celebrating 40 years of ASSE membership this year:

- James Casella

We thank all of you for your membership and participation!

President's Corner

Dear Chapter Members,

As the Chapter President, I had the opportunity to observe the presentation for our January meeting during a recent Regional Operating Committee meeting. Our scheduled speaker is Carla Rea. She will be giving a presentation on generational differences that are present in our workplaces.

Carla is a very energetic speaker and has a lot of information on understanding the differences among generations. Her presentation is both informational and entertaining. I recommend attending this presentation if you supervise or even work with employees from different generations.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! I hope to see you at a meeting next year.

Sincerely,

Dawn Boisvert, President
Greater Chicago Chapter

Chapter Year 2003-2004 Meeting Dates

Our executive board has selected some terrific speakers to present at our luncheons. As you will see by the topics listed below, we are securing speakers that can address local and timely safety issues. As always, if you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, we are open to your ideas.

January 13, 2004-----Developing Generational Synergy

February 10, 2004-----Recordkeeping Updates

March 9, 2004-----Bioterrorism

April 13, 2004-----Workzone Safety

May 11, 2004-----Underwriter's Laboratory Tour

June 1, 2004-----Professional Development Conference