

## **Report: 2010 ACHMM National Conference**

I just got back from this year's National Conference of the ACHMM where I served as the Chapter Delegate for the Chicago Chapter. As a delegate I also attended Moderator training as well as the CDC (Chapter Development Committee) meeting. We did go through the Moderator Training rather quickly and received little training on the use of the digital recorder. This year with the copied presentations, you can also receive a copy of the audio portion of the presentation; like you were actually there. The CDC meeting spent much of its' time focusing on updating Chapter paper work: Charter, Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws. Your Chapter officers had spent much of last year rectifying all this for the Chicago Chapter so the development meeting held little new information other than discussing ideas for attracting new members. Those ideas included forming alliances with other professional groups, such as: ASSE, AIHA, LEPC groups and others. I mentioned at one point to the group the Chicago Chapter was already doing that and were in the process of setting up joint meetings for next year. Donna Switzer is our assigned member of the National Board and she will be contacting us on a quarterly basis via a conference call.

The meeting was, in general, much longer than in the past starting at 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Some really good presenters for the technical sessions had to cancel due to some type of issues so some topics I was hoping to learn more about were not covered.

The theme of this meeting seemed to be more involved with the launching of the new 'Certified Hazardous Materials Professional (CHMP)' certification program. This was presented by the Institute with great vigor and is considered to be the "magic bullet" to increase our membership ranks. This program was presented in the wake of the notice we have not increased membership with the name change to AHMP. The release of this information from a report from Harry Kemp did not sit well with delegates. The program involves a way non-degreed people with experience in the environmental field could obtain certification and recognition. 30 certificates have been awarded as of the conference and acceptance of the program is being asked of the Institute. This of course means they want the chapters to provide the training/refresher course for the exam. We will discuss this issue among the board members prior to starting this program.

The business meeting covered finances and general administrative issues. Fiscally, we seem to be in mediocre shape with checking balances running in the \$400-500K range with the goal of \$1,000,000 or one years operating expenses. This has not happened due to various expenses, the economy and reduced membership. There were 686 members that attended the 2010 conference and it was also noted that dues will be increased; this is the first increase done in seven years. Leadership classes will be held next year in Columbus, Ohio. The business meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

As for the conference itself, most of the presentations I sat through were pretty good and had a lot of good information, such as: the Hazard Communication Standard changing to the Global Harmonization system and what changes are happening. Other programs consisted of old information just repackaged; a nice refresher in that case. Overall the conference was very good and did provide me with excellent updated information in the EHS profession.

Next year's meeting will be held in Austin, Texas. And the people who now run the event for the ACHMM indicated that Chicago is not being considered for a future convention at this time.

In closing, one of the technical sessions I sat through, that was given by Rich Cartwright, regarded recognition of the credential by governmental agencies be they local, state, or federal. The main topic was the idea of the CHMP and how this will benefit all of us in the future by providing more members.

Well, that is about all I have to say other than thanks to the Chapter and its' members for letting me fill the role as Chapter Delegate. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

John William Lillquist, CHMM

Chicago Chapter President Elect for 2011