

NH COSH Celebrates 20 Years of Working to Keep NH Workers Safe

On October 29, 2009, members, friends, and supporters gathered to celebrate NH COSH's 20th anniversary of working to keep New Hampshire workers safe at the annual members dinner and business meeting. The evening proved to be a festive occasion with good people, good food, door prizes, and time for networking. Dennis Martino, board chair, recognized several past directors and their initiatives while at NH COSH. He highlighted NH COSH accomplishments over the last 20 years.

The past directors acknowledged were Dan Toomey, Peter Kellman, Paul Smith, Gail Kinney, Paul Morse, William Stetson, and Judith Elliott. The current director is Brian Mitchell, a long time union activist and previous COSH board chair. Dennis cited some of the legislative advocacy work of NH COSH including the joint loss management and indoor air quality in schools.

This year's speakers included Matthew Co-mai, the school risk representation, from the Local Government Center who spoke on the NH Healthy School Environments program, which NH COSH has been a participating member for many years. Paul Morse, the project director, for the New England Consortium (TNEC) HAZWOPER training grant and former NH COSH director spoke of the long association between TNEC and NH COSH.

Judith Elliott, who recently stepped down as NH COSH director was honored with a parting gift, which reflected her new career direction. Judy received a large flowerpot filled with gardening hand tools, a gardening calendar, and more. Judy has chosen to refocus her career on the needs of the immigrant farm worker in the state. Her dedication to the ongoing plight of the immigrant worker in



Dennis Martino, Board Chair; Judy Elliott; and Brian Mitchell, NHCOSH Director

New Hampshire will continue through this new effort. We all wish her the best in this endeavor. Judy continues part-time with NH COSH as a safety and health trainer for our ongoing vulnerable worker and adult education grant work.

A new executive board was elected at the annual members business meeting. They are: Dennis Martino, chair; Alfred P. Bouchard, vice-chair; Steven O'Connor, secretary; Louise Anne Hannan, treasurer; Eva Castillo, at-large; and David C. May, at-large. Appointed by NH AFL-CIO is Mark MacKenzie, NH AFL-CIO; Bill Demotta, IBEW #1837; and Elizabeth Skidmore, Carpenters Local 118.

NH COSH Has a New Address

NH COSH moved their offices from 57 School Street to the Plumbers and Steamfitters Hall at 161 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, NH 03106-1938. Our new office is handicap accessible. It is hoped the move will strengthen our ties to the community and labor.

Our website, www.nhcosh.org and e-mail, nhcosh@nhcosh.org have remained the same while our phone numbers have changed. Phone is now 603-232-4406 and FAX is 603-232-4461.



Senator Maggie Hassan, Denise Brewitt, Sandra Chabot and Sylvia Pelletier (a CCACHC council member)

NH CCACHC Recognizes Sandra Chabot For IAQ Work in Schools

The New Hampshire Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions recognized Sandra Chabot recently at their annual meeting for her dedication to improving air quality in New Hampshire schools. NH CCACHC presented Sandra Chabot with a "Champion for Children" Citation from Governor Lynch. Ms. Chabot has been involved with establishing indoor air quality teams in schools since 1995. She is an active member of the NH Asthma Control Program's Steering Committee and the NH Partners for Healthy Schools Environments.

The NH Partners for Healthy Schools (NPHS), which NH COSH is a member established a NH Healthy School Environments program to help school districts improve their indoor environments and the health of their students and staff. During the 2009-2010 school year, the program will work with at least two school districts by providing free training, technical assistance, building assessment, and team mentoring to address environmental and asthma management needs in the participating schools. This work is partially funded by a U. S. EPA Healthy Communities grant for the implementation of their "Tools for Schools" program, which Ms. Chabot has been working with for over 14 years. Ms. Chabot is one of the program's mentors.

In addition, some of the partners are able to make small grants available to be used by the schools to purchase supplies, materials, equipment, or further technical assistance in order to implement their healthy school improvement plans developed through the program process.

More information on the healthy schools program can be obtained by visiting the group's website at www.nhhealthyschoolenvironments.org.

Executive Board Chair, Dennis Martino Speaks Out

In the Health and Safety and union communities we have waited a long time to have an administration that was supportive of our issues. President Obama has started to loosen the grip of the right wing on workers across the nation. Unfortunately some of his nominees for key positions have had their appointments delayed by Republican senators. This is not new and each party has been guilty of the same sins over time. In addition to holding up nominees, many Republican Senators are holding up legislation that is crucial to the labor and Health and Safety movements. The question is how we move forward.

Our agenda must include not only electing the people who will help us but also working with those who have been elected to get things done. One vote on the first Tuesday in November every two, four or six years is not enough. We need to be vigilant. We need to talk to our congressional delegation. If you would talk to them about one thing I suggest it be this. We need the level playing field that the Employee Free Choice Act would bring.

This bill changes labor law in three ways. First, it allows for "Card Check" instead of NLRB Secret Ballot Election. This takes away the employer intimidation at captive audience meetings. Second, it provides for mandatory arbitration for first contracts. Some employers do not fight elections but stall at the table to break unions. And, third, enhanced damages for certain unfair labor practices. Currently most unfair labor practices get a slap on the wrist. This segment of the proposed law would give the National Labor Relations Board some teeth.

Sadly, there are senators who have vowed to filibuster this bill. Those of us who value the many wonderful quality of life issues that labor has fought hard to acquire need to get to our legislative delegation to move this incredibly powerful piece of legislation to a vote.

Every American has benefited from the Health and Safety and Labor movements. Each generation had made advances. We have been on hold. It is time to getting moving. As President Obama says, "Yes we can!"

NH COSH 2009 Membership Drive

The Executive Board and Staff of NH COSH would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their ongoing support of NH COSH:

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Service Employees International Union #560
State Employees Association of NH, SEIU #1984
United Steelworkers Local #8566

Your faithful support provides us with the ability to actively advocate for workers rights and safe working conditions for all New Hampshire workers. Thank you.

You Can Join NH COSH Today

Organizational Membership:

\$ 60 1-100 members
\$135 101-500 members
\$250 501-2000 members
\$375 2001 members or more

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NH COSH
161 Londonderry Turnpike
Hooksett, NH 03106-1938

**NH COSH is a 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Tax Code. Contributions to NH COSH are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed.

NH COSH EXECUTIVE BOARD AND STAFF

OFFICERS: Chair: Dennis Martino, AFM 374; Vice Chair: Alfred P. Bouchard, H.E.A.L., Working America; Secretary: Steve O'Connor, IBEW 2320; Treasurer: Louise Anne Hannan, SEIU 1984
AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS: Eva Castillo, Working America; David C. May, Working America; Tom O'Neil, SEIU 1984
NH AFL-CIO: Mark MacKenzie, President; Bill Demotta, IBEW 1837; Elizabeth Skidmore, Carpenters Local 118
NH COSH STAFF: Director: Brian Mitchell; TNEC Adjunct Trainer: Mike Fitts; Program Coordinator: Sandra V. Chabot; Adult Education Trainer: Judith Elliott
SUPPORTED AND FUNDED THROUGH MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS FROM: TNEC/UMass Lowell, OSHA, NH Department of Education, Endowment for Health.



Safe Jobs - Workers' Rights

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TNEC Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response Training

The New England Consortium (TNEC) is the region's model Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) worker Health and Safety training organization. Since, 1987, TNEC has provided dynamic hands-on, participatory health and safety training. With simulated work tasks and mock incidents, students gain a better understanding of work site hazards and how to properly respond in an emergency situation.

TNEC is one of 20 programs administered by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Education Training Program. TNEC is located in an academic environment that offers a wealth of worker health and safety knowledge. It is based in the Center for Health Promotion and Research in the School of Health and Environment. TNEC's work is conducted in cooperation with the Department of Work Environment at UMass Lowell.

Customized courses can be delivered on-site anywhere in New England or at TNEC's training center in Lowell. Open enrollment courses are scheduled throughout the year at TNEC's training center and at other locations in New England. All courses meet or exceed the requirements of the OSHA 1910.120 HAZWOPER standard. Check out the TNEC website for the schedule of training programs, dates and times or contact TNEC at UMass Lowell, 1 University Avenue, Lowell MA 01854, 978-934-3257, t nec@uml.edu or www.uml.edu/t nec.

Franklin Foundry Cited for Lead Hazards

OSHA cited the Franklin Non-Ferrous Foundry Inc. of Franklin, NH, for 17 alleged willful and serious violations of workplace health and safety standards. The Franklin Foundry faces \$254,000 in fines following comprehensive inspections, which identified inadequate or absent protections for workers whose duties expose them to airborne concentrations of lead. According to OSHA area director, Rosemarie Ohar, "Lead is a subtle and insidious hazard that can seriously damage the blood-forming, nervous, urinary and reproductive systems. This reality makes it imperative that employers monitor their workers' lead exposure levels, provide effective respiratory protection and promptly remove workers from exposure when necessary."

The Foundry did not provide the required biological monitoring for workers exposed to lead in the course of their duties, and did not properly fit-test and ensure adequate respiratory protection for those workers. In addition, it did not provide required benefits for a worker who was medically removed from work due to lead overexposure. The foundry has been cited several times over the past decade for similar violations.

The sizable fines that OSHA proposed reflect the fact that this employer knows well the safeguards required to protect the health of its workers, yet has repeatedly refused to provide them. In addition, OSHA issued serious citations for damaged and lead-contaminated respirators, erroneous and outdated lead compliance program, and for various confined space, forklift, machine guarding and electrical hazards. The foundry had 15 business days from receipt of its citations to comply.