



Chapter Malama O Pa!



Take Care Lest You be Hurt!



ASSE Chapter Recognition
2009-2010

Chapter Officers 2010— 2011

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Inside this issue:

October Chapter Meeting. 2

Chapter Announcements. 3

What were the 10 Update. 3

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November 2010

The ASSE Hawai'i Chapter at Construction Career Day

By Les Onaka

The two years that I helped at the Hawai'i Construction Career Day the event was held at the Honolulu Community College. This year the organizers decided to hold it in Hilo on the Big Island. Chapter president **Neil Yamamoto** and Chapter secretary **Howard Hendricks** greeted about 200 students at their table

at the Hilo Civic Auditorium. A total of about 600 high school students attended the October 21st event—a turnout that pleased the organizers so much that they are planning to return to Hilo every 2-3 years for it.

Neil noted that several of the students and teachers had not considered safety as part of the construction work-site. While our table lacks the impressive big machinery to draw the crowds, I have found that some students find the idea of preventing injury appealing. We need to reach out to the younger generations to let them know about the safety profession and the benefits of belonging to it.



Neil Yamamoto took this picture of **Howard Hendricks** as he manned the Hawai'i Chapter table at the Hilo Civic Auditorium.

The November issue

(Continued on page 2)

A Note from the editor...

My oldest memories of the Hawai'i Chapter began when I watched and listened to **Allan Yokoyama** standing at the podium in a large room at the Sheraton Waikiki bedecked in a three-piece suit as he ad-

ressed conference attendees. I did not know what the acronym ASSE stood for and had not registered for the conference but had come for a presentation on HIV in Hawaii that an

(Continued on page 4)

Our Member Profile: Chester Yamaga by Les Onaka

After 25 years in the safety business, **Chester Yamaga** would have gladly retired quietly without any hooplah. He had worked hard to make this a safer world for workers and built his consulting business in the process. When asked to provide information for this profile, he initially felt reluctant, but as he thought about all the people who helped him over the years, he decided that this newsletter would be a good medium to thank them for all they had done for him.

The mental and physical trauma of having served our country in the Vietnam War would not have been easily overcome without the help of fellow combat Veterans Mike Seu and Steve Proffitt. They shared with Chester the need and importance of finding the inner peace necessary for moving on with one's life after such an ordeal.

Chester began his career in the safety profession as a Fire Surveyor for the Hawai'i Insurance Rating Bureau. The job required visiting various companies

and their sites to estimate the potential for a fire to start and if it did, how quickly and far it would spread. This task opened his eyes to the proactive preventative activities of the safety profession. His dedication to doing this over the years culminated in his most rewarding moment as a safety professional: A worker once told him "You saved my life!"

Chester also acknowledges and thanks those who have helped him along the way. Drew Nagai and Brian Uchima helped him to keep his family at the forefront of everything he did. Clayton Makiya taught him that sometimes it is wise not to think too hard or too much.

So as Chester takes down his "C. K. Yamaga—Safety and Health Consultant" shingle and prepares to begin his next phase of life, he advises fellow safety professionals, especially those starting out their careers, that they need to have a passion for injury prevention and without this it may be difficult to remain long in our profession.

ASSE's December Virtual Classroom Offerings

December 8th, 7:00 (HST): **Out of the Box: More Skills for Developing Your Own Career Path.** Society past-president Mark Hansen offers his insights on career advancement for the safety pro-

fessional and registrants get a free electronic copy of his new book (same title as the presentation).

(Continued on page 3)

Construction Career Days (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

of Money Magazine ran their annual "Fifty Best Jobs in America" report and "Environmental Health and Safety Specialist" was listed as #22. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that employment of SH&E practitioners is expected to increase nine percent in the 2006-2016 decade. The University of California at San Diego Extension listed the SH&E profession among the dozen hot careers for college graduates.

While our passion for injury prevention constantly pushes us to target higher levels of safety excellence, we must also reach out longitudinally to others, especially the coming generations. We need to pass on this passion and one way is to participate in career days and spread the safety culture beyond our corporate borders. Thank you, Neil and Howard for doing this.

Hawai'i Chapter Announcements

- ⇒ Our November Chapter meeting with featured speaker Galen Lemke, the new OSHA Area Director, was re-scheduled to Tuesday November 30th at 10:30 AM at Hale Ikena.
- ⇒ Our Chapter Holiday Gathering will be Friday, December 10th at The Willows Restaurant. **Mark Behrens** plans to bring the Society's Kids' Safety-on-the-Job posters from Maile Elementary and Waianae Intermediate Schools for judging by members. For the first time, the Hawai'i Chapter will be selecting three winners from each of three categories for Chapter-level prizes. All of the posters will then be sent to the Society for their judging process. Also, remember the Chapter Logo contest? **Mary Silva** may be unveiling our new logo at the Holiday Gathering. Also, our student section (please see last bullet in this article) plans to use the Holiday Gathering as a joint meeting opportunity with the Chapter. Hopefully many of them will also attend.
- ⇒ Chapter past-president **Joanna Clark** heads the planning committee for the OSHA-Hawaii one-day workshop scheduled for Wednesday May 4, 2011 at Hale Ikena. Please contact Joanna if you have topics of interest you would like to learn about or would like to help with the planning.
- ⇒ Chapter president-elect **Craig Shoji** heads a By-Laws Committee to conduct a biennial review of our Chapter By-Laws. They may present a number of amendments to our Chapter membership after their review is completed in February, 2011. Please contact Craig if interested in helping.
- ⇒ Chapter Nominations and Elections Chairperson **Joanna Clark** will be putting together a committee to prepare our 2011 slate of candidates and run the election process. Please contact Joanna if willing to help on the committee, serve on the committee, serve as a Chapter Officer or want to nominate someone to be on the slate. One of my mentors once told me that the best way to avoid getting nominated is to be on the nominating committee.
- ⇒ Citing increasing demands on his time in his "retirement," **John Ramos** has stepped down as the Liaison between the Chapter and the Student Section. The Chapter gives their fondest Mahalo to John for his many years of working with students of the safety profession. Although John has left big shoes to fill, Hawaiian Dredging's **Lewis Boucher** has agreed to work with **Chulee Grove** and Student Section president **Tom VanDer Hout** to keep the Section active.

OSHA Update

OSHA PELS. OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels addressed attendees at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting on November 8th and disclosed the agency's plans to review the outdated permissible exposure levels (PELs) for workplace chemicals. Studies on worker health suggested that workers exposed to levels below the PELs may still suffer health consequences. OSHA received 130 nominations for chemicals to consider initially at a web forum in August 2010. They have since been working on narrowing down the list to the most pressing ones on which they will focus their initial efforts.

General Industry Falls. OSHA plans to hold an informal public hearing beginning January 18, 2011 on the proposed rule to revise the Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment standards. The

revisions target the reduction of fatalities and injuries from worker slip, trip and falls in general industry. The hearing has been scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. The deadline has already passed for mailed and faxed comments regarding the revisions.

Virtual Classroom (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

December 15th, 7:00 (HST): **The Zero Harm Organization: Shifting Focus from Injuries to Exposures** by safety consultant Jim Spigener.

Visit Virtualclassroom@asse.org for more information or to register for any session.

Visit Your Chapter Website Often for the Latest News



Protecting People, Property and the Environment since 1911

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Stay up to date with chapter activities and other news items related to our profession by visiting the chapter website at . . .

www.assehawaii.org

Write to the webmaster at ASSE Hawaii

jnewberry@islandinsurance.com

- Got safety news? Let me know and I'll post it.
- Got safety ideas? Let me know I'll post it.
- Got safety training? Let me know I'll post it.

Web motto: Working in partnership with industry and government for a safe Hawaii!

Editor's note (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

infectious disease physician was presenting after the conference. Alan impressed me with the intensity and power of his delivery and thus began my real interest in the safety profession and ASSE's Hawai'i Chapter. **Clayton Makiya**, from our company's worker's compensation carrier had mentioned joining a safety organization to get help in becoming a CSP. I had given it some thought, but somehow Alan convinced me that there was more to the profession than I realized and I joined the ASSE a few months later.

No doubt all of our members have stories of how they made the decision to become an ASSE member. No doubt many stories begin years before mine did and for a select few, it began in 1951 when the Chapter first formed. Each one of us has our own story to tell in this regard and wouldn't it be something to get all the stories and piece them together into a Chapter timeline?

For the Society's 100th anniversary celebration, our Chapter plans to put together a timeline of its history. For the celebration, the Society will provide each Chapter with a booth during Safety 2011 in Chicago. Each Chapter will be able to present their accomplishments and history. Unfortunately, our Chapter's history will not go back very far without the help of our members.

Mary Silva and I have taken on the monumental task to obtain whatever information and photographs we can about the Chapter and its members, especially the past presidents. If you are a seasoned safety professional, or know a seasoned safety professional who would be willing to contribute to our legacy for the future Chapter members, please let Mary or myself know so we can add the information to the project. If we can get enough information, we may even put together a book.



Who is that next to Dan? For those of you who do not know him, **Dan Vasilash** is on the right and you probably need to come to more meetings. Learn more about the gentleman on the left in the December Malama O Pa!