President’s Message

Dear Georgia Local Section Members,

I hope that you are enjoying the last few weeks of the summer.
I want to thank the GLS members and vendors who participated in our Spring Meeting and Vendor’s Day on May 6, 2008. We had a number of outstanding presentations by local members and guest speakers.

Our summer half-day meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2008 at the CDC’s Chamblee facility. Because of security requirements we are asking members to pre-register for this meeting by August 18, 2008.

Our fall meeting will be held with GA ASSE on November 10, 2008. GLS Board Member Cliff Moseley has been working with GA ASSE Program Chair (and GLS member) Joe Lohkamp to plan this meeting. GLS plans on taking advantage of National AIHA’s offer to collect local section dues in conjunction with national dues at no cost to our section. This should allow us increase our membership and strengthened our financial status.

Through the hard work and effort of Stan Salisbury, Wild Apricot, a web-based database program, for local members has become a reality. Please check out this resource at the [http://www.georgiaaiha.org/](http://www.georgiaaiha.org/).

As we head into the Fall of 2008, GLS Board is seeking to do a better job of planning our meeting dates in advance, reaching out to other public health professionals and industrial hygiene students, and getting back to funding scholarships for GA IH students. We are also continuing efforts to improve communication and streamlining registration and membership services.

I want to remind you that we are coming up on election season, GLS elections, that is.

We are seeking candidates for President-Elect and first year Board member as Past President Margaret Buckalew and 2nd Year Director Steve Tochilin will be rolling off the GLS Board. I want to thank Margaret and Steve for their leadership of the GLS over the past several years.

Barb Epstien will be taking over as President of GLS as we head toward 2009. I am very grateful for the efforts of many GLS members who have volunteered over the years. The Georgia Local Section continues on solid ground as the result on the hard work of these volunteers.

Please contact me or any other board member if you have suggestions, questions, or you wish to volunteer or be nominated for an upcoming position on the board.

—Peter J. Kowalski, MPH, CIH

Georgia Local Section Summer Meeting

Our next GLS meeting is coming up on **22 August, 2008**. This meeting will be held at the CDC/ATSDR Chamblee Campus and there is NO on site registration!! Pre-register by 18 August by sending an e-mail message to Peter Kowalski at pkowalski@cdc.gov.

To see the agenda of topics to be covered, go to the [GLS Web site](http://www.georgiaaiha.org/). This meeting will include a tour of the National Center for Environmental Laboratory!

You must show your driver’s license or passport or other valid government ID to security.
NIOSH to Host “No Fit Test” Respirator Workshop

Are innovations in half-mask respirator fit possible? If so, what are the factors that inhibit or encourage the development of better fitting respirators? These topics will be discussed at the “No Fit Test” Respirator Workshop to be held November 6, 2008 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory and the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, will host the workshop to focus on the nature and process of product innovation and development in negative pressure half-face piece respirators, to gauge the current “state-of-the-art,” and to stimulate new designs and approaches for improved respirator fit. The results of the workshop will lead to a better understanding of how future NIOSH research can encourage ongoing development of better fitting respirators without compromising long-term protection.

Registration is free but required. You can register at [http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/mcohs](http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/mcohs).

### ABIH CM Points

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene has awarded 0.5 certification maintenance (CM) points for the Spring (March 25) 2008 Georgia Local Section Meeting.

The approval numbers are:

#08-1074 Spring 2008 Meeting

11919 Bondurant Drive
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877-568-5227

Steve Winiecki
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AIHA-GLS Meeting Attendance Incentive?

AIHA has announced that attendees of local section meetings are eligible for a 15 percent discount on all publication orders. This offer is valid for orders placed within two weeks following a local section meeting. Your GLS executive board will submit a meeting announcement to AIHA in order for us to receive this discount. There will be a special form you’ll receive at the meeting, which you’ll mail or fax to AIHA headquarters to redeem the discount (prepayment is required; no phone orders for this offer). The discount is applied to member prices (for national members) and to non-member prices (for those who are GLS members). As always, national members receive free shipping.

We hope this provides additional incentive for you to attend GLS meetings! We always enjoy seeing you and we welcome your increased participation in our local section.

AIHce 2009 PDC Proposals Due August 15

Submissions are now being accepted for AIHce 2009 Call for Professional Development Courses held in Toronto, Canada, on May 30 -June 4, 2009. Make 2009 the year to present your discoveries, ideas, and solutions to colleagues who can benefit from your expertise and knowledge. Proposals may only be submitted electronically: www.aiha.org/aihce09/pdc

Instructors may receive CM points for presenting their PDCs if approved by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

Contact Bruce Hermit at (703) 846-0752 or BHermit@aiha.org for more information about AIHce 2009 Call for PDCs.

BTW: Call for abstracts is October 6th!
CEFGA Report: A Great Success

AIHA’s Georgia Local Section members teamed up with ASSE, OSHA, and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) as part of the Georgia Youth Alliance by participating in the annual Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA) Career Expo and SkillsUSA Championships held in suburban Atlanta April 24-25, 2008.

AIHA’s booth was among the ten organizations exhibiting in the World of Safety venue, where 107 schools, 211 construction-related companies and 4,193 total attendees from all over Georgia made their first stop at the Expo. Following a brief safety and health orientation where students were oriented by OSHA, Georgia Tech and other industry volunteers on how to properly wear a hard hat and safety glasses (Figure 1), which were issued free of charge to all attendees, these students traveled to several “worlds” within the construction trades. These interactive exhibits provided students with “hands on” exercises about the various aspects of the many trades within the construction industry. In the World of Highway Construction and Maintenance, students were able to drive virtual power equipment (Figure 2). Students also participated in activities in the worlds of Utility Contracting, Masonry and Concrete, Fire Protection, Plumbing and Mechanical Contracting, Energy and Industrial Construction, Highway Construction and Maintenance, Construction Management, and Architecture and Engineering.

Our goal is to help promote AIHA’s core message of protecting worker health and to help increase students’ awareness of workplace safety and health concerns. This event provided the platform to get them off to a good start. Each student received a “Passport to Safety,” and to get the passport stamped in each of the “worlds,” each student had to complete a safety exercise related to the industry represented by each world.

Figure 1. Safety briefing in the World of Safety.

Figure 2. A virtual exercise using power equipment.
Lead poisoning, caused chiefly by the inhalation of dust and fumes, is a common hazard in the construction industry. Employees involved in demolition, salvage, removal, encapsulation, cleanup and renovation operations are particularly at risk. Lead dust can also be carried home from work on clothing, skin, or hair, so it is important for everyone to take proper preventive measures against exposure. Here are some pointers from OSHA:

- **Know the symptoms of lead overexposure**, such as abdominal pain, headaches and loss of motor coordination.
- **Use personal protective equipment**, such as gloves, nonpermeable clothing and approved respirators.
- **Wash your hands and face thoroughly** before eating.
- **Away from work**, never wear clothes and shoes that were worn during periods of possible lead exposure.

OSHA’s Safety and Health Topics Page on Lead is a resource offering information on the most effective solutions to lead hazards in the workplace. OSHA also offers a QuickCard® on Lead in Construction (English/Spanish) for employees to help prevent health maladies from lead poisoning.

*Source: OSHA QuickTakes*
GLS Well Represented at AIHce

Did you know that the several Georgia AIHA / ACGIH members shared their expertise by participating as podium session and/or roundtable speakers this year at AIHce in Minneapolis? Who were they and what did they talk about?

- **Hilarie Schubert Warren:** “Silica Control Programs for Construction Safety Managers”
- **Jim Drake:** “Starting and Maintaining an S&H Consulting Practice – Learning Through Experience”
- **Barb Epstien:** “State of the Science – Resolving Indoor Environmental Quality Concerns: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Now? Where Are We Headed?”
- **Brian Shelton:** “A Review of MRSA, Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation” and “New Legionella Guidance Criteria and Implications for IH”
- **Don Millar (presented by Brian Shelton):** “Environmental Bacterial Hazards in Recreational Waters”

In addition, **Lisa Delaney** moderated the luncheon discussion on “NIOSH Emergency Preparedness and Response Activities – Where Do We Go from Here?”

**Don Groce** moderated the luncheon discussion on “Protective Clothing and Equipment – MRSA: Superbugs and Nasty Germs”

Finally, one of our newest GLS members, **Alex Lehocky**, moderated the roundtable on “Integrating Field, Laboratory, and Clinical Data for IAQ Investigations.”

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Combustible Dust

OSHA has posted new resources related to combustible dust on its Web site to help employers understand its associated hazards and ways to prevent those hazards. These resources include a Safety and Health Information Bulletin, fact sheet, poster and the reissued Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program.

The Georgia Insurance Commissioner announces emergency rules and regulations “Loss Prevention Due to Combustible Dust Explosions and Fire.”