



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AOHP Celebrates 35th Anniversary

PITTSBURGH – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP), which has been serving occupational/employee health professionals since 1981, is commemorating its 35th anniversary in 2016! AOHP is celebrating its past while shaping the future for thousands of healthcare workers as the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health, safety and well-being in healthcare.

Led by an experienced and dedicated Board of Directors which oversees grassroots efforts of numerous local chapters in five regions, AOHP supports members across the nation and around the world by:

- Advocating for employee health and safety.
- Developing occupational health education and networking opportunities.
- Encouraging health and safety advancement through best practice and research.
- Partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations (American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Joint Commission, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, Occupational Safety & Health Administration).

"AOHP is the only national professional association dedicated exclusively to addressing the needs and concerns of occupational health professionals who work in healthcare settings," says AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN.

The organization was founded as a local Association of Hospital Employee Health Professionals (AHEHP) in Northern California in 1981 in acknowledgement of the fact that healthcare workers face a unique set of hazards not encountered by workers at large. AHEHP was incorporated and became a national organization in 1983, and then became AOHP in 1994 to more accurately reflect the mission and vision of the organization, which actively champions safer workplaces and recognizes the relationship between healthy healthcare workers and optimal patient care.

AOHP has been leading the movement toward healthcare worker health for the past 35 years by:

- Collaborating with national and international organizations on issues of importance to occupational health professionals.
- Working with government agencies to address national occupational health policy.
- Promoting the advancement of occupational health as a vital specialty nursing role.
- Sponsoring national occupational health studies and research.
- Emphasizing proficiency and competency to elevate the occupational health profession through specialty certifications.

AOHP members receive many benefits, such as the AOHP Listserv, position statements and standards of practice, scholarship opportunities, legislative updates, and monthly and quarterly publications. The association offers educational opportunities in a wide variety of content areas through chapter meetings, electronic discussion groups and its renowned four-day Annual National Conference. AOHP's Getting Started Manual, updated biennially, is an invaluable tool for professionals new to the field. AOHP also connects with members on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

AOHP will be observing its 35th anniversary throughout the year and is extending an open invitation for others to join the celebration during the 35th Annual AOHP National Conference, scheduled for September 7-10, 2016 at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel in South Carolina. For more information about AOHP or how to register for the National Conference, contact AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

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