

Summary/Abstract Information Spring 2008 Journal

President's Message

The President's Message is a standing *Journal* column highlighting current hot topics. New Executive President Sandra Domeracki Prickitt, RN, FNP, COHN-S offers tips on how to better manage your time and your workload to improve productivity in an environment where healthcare managers are being given more responsibilities to accomplish with fewer resources.

Vice President's Update

Receive your quarterly update on governmental issues from the AOHP Executive Vice President in the regular *Journal* column. Diane Dickerson, RN, MS, COHN-S/CM, SPHR reflects on her recent move from serving as AOHP Secretary to accepting the position of the association's Executive Vice President. She also discusses the benefits volunteerism offers to both organizations and individuals.

Editor's Column

This standard feature provides commentary from the current *Journal* Editor, Kim Stanchfield, RN, COHN-S. In this issue, celebrate National Employee Health and Fitness Day by trying two of her favorite healthy recipes.

Association Community Liaison Report

Through this regular article, MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM details how AOHP is gaining visibility as an expert regarding occupational health issues. The current article provides an update on AOHP's opportunity to provide comments on a variety of national public documents, its continuing OSHA Alliance, and recognition of National American Occupational Safety and Health Week.

Industrial Hygiene in Health Care

Hearing loss can occur for many reasons, but noise-induced hearing loss is particularly insidious in that it offers no early warning signs, yet the damage is permanent. Lee Shands, MPH, CIH and George Byrns, MPH, PhD, CIH explain how noise-induced hearing loss can be prevented with the implementation of an appropriate hearing conservation program in areas with high occupational noise levels. A successful hearing conservation program offers proper training and motivation of employees to effectively use hearing protection devices.

Ready to Research

MaryAnn Gruden, CRNP, MSN, NP-C, COHN-S/CM was selected to represent AOHP at the 2008 Work, Stress and Health National Conference, sponsored by APA, NIOSH and SOHP and held this spring at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. She provides readers with an overview of the conference's opening address, two poster sessions, resources sessions, some of the 84 concurrent sessions and three awards presentations. Other highlights include her personal networking opportunities, which will help to advance AOHP's national partnerships.

Call for Award Nominees

AOHP is accepting nominations for a number of awards until July 15, 2008. Consider recognizing an exemplary AOHP chapter, past or present officer, member, healthcare professional or business that has made a significant contribution to occupational health in healthcare.

Colleague Connection

Kathy Moss, RN, CPHQ, CPUR is the Lead Clinical Nurse in Employee Health/Occupational Health Services for Prince William Hospital in Manassas, Va. In this article, she shares how the hospital decided to transition from using N-95s to PAPRs to provide respiratory protection for employees, their experiences with the new program, and why this decision was an effective one for the hospital to make.

2008 Call for Nominations

AOHP is looking for dedicated, interested individuals to fill a number of key positions on its Executive Board of Directors for two-year terms beginning in October 2008. Review this article to determine if you are a qualified candidate or wish to nominate a colleague to fill the AOHP positions of Executive Vice President, Executive Treasurer or Regional Director.

The Graying of the American Workforce

Healthcare employees are our most valuable asset, but they may become more expensive as the workforce ages and chooses to work longer. Employers must look at the physical demands of the jobs these employees perform and find ergonomic solutions to make work easier for the aging workforce. A healthier older population that views work as beneficial may keep these employees on the job longer and with fewer injuries until retirement. Kathy Espinoza, MBA, MS, CPE, CIE, a Board Certified Professional Ergonomist with Keenan & Associates, explores solutions to improving the health and work environment for aging employees.