Editorial

This year ISHM will be holding elections for Board Members. Current CSHM’s will have the opportunity to vote for three board members who will take their positions October 1 of this year.

The bylaws specify that three board members will be elected every two years. This requirement enables the organization to continue to flourish and grow as the new board members bring a fresh perspective and exciting new ideas that will greatly contribute to the future of the organization.

There is a time commitment involved but current board members have not found it to be overwhelming.

If you would like to be considered for membership on the board, or if you know of someone who you believe will make a great board member, now is the time to submit those nominations to so we can get the information to the nominating committee.

There are several no cost publications available to you. Last month we talked about the NSC magazine being free for one year if you signed up, hopefully you took advantage of the opportunity. The Cal-OSHA reporter is a daily email which contains information about safety issues around the country. You can sign up at: http://www.cal-osha.com/Subscribe.aspx. ISHN makes available two enewsletters. Go to: http://pages.exacttarget.com/page.aspx?QS=c76003443ff9837d6e17dd4a54e716c01088e334df0107ba7f37a93fd2204a2c

And finally, please call or email with your thoughts or suggestions. Each one will be considered and all will be answered. Working together we will continue to grow and get better.

THE VALUE OF YOUR CERTIFICATION

We frequently field questions concerning the value of the CSHM and ASHM designations.

It is certainly a valid question but one that is not easily answered as there are so many variables involved.

Here is the company mantra:

Professional certification shows employers and clients that you are qualified and committed to your profession. It gives them confidence in your abilities and makes you more valuable to employers.

Choosing which certification to pursue is an important career decision. Some professional certifications focus on specific areas of practice; the CSHM focuses on a broad range of knowledge and skills that safety and health managers need today.

This is certainly a true statement but we need to add a dose of reality.

The CSHM certification has been around for about 10 years and fully accredited for 2 plus years. The other notable professional safety certification has been in existence for more than 40 years. As you can imagine that results in more recognition for them. We have all seen the job adds specifying a certain certification for consideration. Mainly this is because for years hiring authorities wanted a way to
qualify applicants and at that time the other certification was the only viable one available. Now there are more than one but it will take time for HR folks and headhunters to become aware of the CSHM. We are now seeing some positive change in that some agencies/companies are specifying a safety professional with a third party accredited certification. Hopefully that trend will continue to pick up steam as it levels the playing field.

You can help (Sounds like a song title)

The more certified professionals we have the more influence we have. So your staff would like to challenge all current CSHM/ASHM holders to recruit one new member in 2011. Larry and Jolene have a bet for a whole dollar ($1.00). She told me that the board members could each recruit two new members and I had to take the challenge. Stay tuned!

Also, if you could talk to the hiring folks in your organization and advise them of the benefits of the ISHM certifications we will continue to increase visibility through word-of-mouth advertising. The HR folks have a huge network and if we can get CSHM/ASHM in front of them we will see increased recognition.

The bottom line

Besides pursuing a certification that fits your needs and reflects your commitment it is important to choose a certification that is accredited by an organization or association that monitors and upholds prescribed standards for the particular industry involved. The CSHM is accredited by the Council on Engineering Standards boards (CESB), a leader in setting quality standards for credentialing organizations.

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TWEET TWEET

It often takes awhile to effect change in ‘seasoned’ safety professionals. Well, we heard the message, we observed the trends, and we joined the movement. You can now follow us on twitter @ISHM_2011

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Jolene’s Corner

My Name is Jolene Gastelum and I am the Executive Assistant in the office of ISHM. Working with Larry and ISHM has been a learning process and I feel that I have been given the opportunity to work on some very important projects, Updating the CSHM Exam through the Standard Setting Process has been a project I have been working closely on and to see all the people and details that go into it to updating it and making what it is today was a great learning opportunity.

One of my favorite parts is working with and meeting new people and assisting in their process of applying and becoming a member. The other is traveling with ISHM and the Board to Safety Conferences and Standard Setting Seminars. Working for ISHM has been one of my most rewarding Experiences and I look forward to several more years working with Larry and Joyce and learning much more about the Safety and Health Management.

Looking forward to helping you, feel free to email me with questions or comments jolene@ishm.org