February 9, 2023

NW Chapter Newsletter

Did I Miss the Chapter Election?

Typically, our Chapter election for Executive Committee officers is held every December, with installation of new officers in January. Due to a lack of nominees we did not have a slate of candidates to present to the membership in December 2022. Positions up for election included President Elect/Vice President and At large member. According to our bylaws, current officers remain until a new election is held or the Executive Committee can appoint a replacement. The Executive Committee is vital to the operation of the Chapter. As we've reported here and in previous editions of the newsletter, we have upcoming plans including a spring workshop, a fall hybrid conference, and updating the annual plan.

We need volunteers, please step up and help! We have over 70 members and the largest savings account of any chapter (or even national), so we have the resources needed to do great things. Please seriously consider putting your name forward as nominee to either the Vice President or the At Large member. Contact Megan Warfield (megan.warfield@ecy.wa.gov), Immediate Past President and Elections chair, or Pete Pasterz (Pete.PASTERZ@deq.oregon.gov), President/Past-President-in-Waiting with any questions you have and to express your interest.

Warning: if you don't call us…we may be calling you!

NW Chapter Pioneers Again

NAHMMA's Northwest Chapter, the first chapter, and the cradle of the "HHW'' movement, has once again led the way with the development and implementation of the 1st Hybrid 24 Hour HAZWOPER course. The course was simultaneously presented in-person and online.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, several HHW programs in the Pacific Northwest had been requesting the 24 Hour HAZWOPER course. The pandemic caused us to cancel courses until it was safe to get together again. What we all thought would be a matter of weeks turned into months and then years. During this time, we learned and honed our "Zoom skills", and found new ways to productively and safely get our work done in a hybrid work environment. For the NAHMMA NW Chapter, hybrid work allows us to safely provide training during the pandemic and into the future. With hybrid course offerings we can support and engage students that are unable to travel to a central classroom. Traveling can be challenging for many reasons including budget, childcare, personal health reasons, no time for travel, etc. Hybrid courses also help bring all chapter members together. With NAHMMA Chapters expanding into Canada, Mexico and elsewhere, members are physically more spread out than ever. For the Northwest Chapter, we've always been challenged to engage members from Alaska to Idaho. Now with the addition of Yukon and British Columbia, our territory is equal to about half of the landmass of the lower 48 states!

Led by National Training Committee member and Chapter President, Pete Pasterz, NAHMMA started planning out how to turn this in-person experience into a hybrid experience for both in-person and remote students. After several months we finalized the technology needs and instruction approaches, and scheduled the first hybrid class in St. Helens, OR at the county's Emergency Operations Center. The class was held January 11 – 13, 2023. The location was chosen because of its physical accessibility, adjacent to Interstate 5 and on the border of WA and OR, and because the venue was well equipped with remote audio and video capability.

We of course expected the unexpected technical challenges and were not disappointed. But we made our way through these glitches and had a very good and productive training. It is said you always learn the most after you've done something the first time. Of the 16 students who enrolled, 8 attended in person and 8 participated remotely, with attendees from Washington and Oregon in both groups. The virtual attendance option doubled course attendance. Initial feedback was that students were pleased with the content and presentation. We await the results of our formal post-training survey to help us further refine. We've already had interest from another chapter who wants to conduct this hybrid training.

These results and reactions reinforce our beliefs that all workshops, trainings and conferences should be equitably accessible, and we will continue to plan our chapter events accordingly. We urge National NAHMMA to follow our lead to engage as many members as possible.

Host a Free Pollution Prevention Intern - Applications Due February 17th



Are you struggling to find time to research solutions to your sustainability challenges? Washington and Oregon have free intern programs for businesses to host a full-time, ten-week intern to conduct onsite or virtual research at your business. You will benefit from:

- A new set of creative eyes looking at ways to prevent pollution
- Your intern being mentored by a team that includes an engineer or scientist
- A full report and presentation with monetary and numeric environmental reductions detailing the intern's work and next steps for your company

"Our summer intern was focused and smart, her collaborative work style gleaned relevant information from within and outside the company. She produced an excellent final document that will be useful to us - and other companies for years to come." - Shauna Alexander, Stumptown Coffee Roasters

Past interns have found tons (literally!) of savings for their host companies:

- Decrease hazardous waste by 11.5 tons
- Reduce costs by $2 million dollars
- Cut water use by 60 million gallons

Boeing's intern recommendations will prevent the use of 252 tons of hazardous waste and TE Conductivity intern's recommendations will save $40,000 and prevent 2,100 pounds of hazardous materials.

Oregon details:

Applications due Feb 17, 2023: contact Lisa Cox at oaseinternship@gmail.com to obtain an application and to talk about your project ideas.

Resources: Oregon Applied Sustainability Experience web page: OASE Intern Web Page, OASE Video, Success Stories, Business Testimonials.

Priority Businesses: coastal businesses, B-Corps, the metal finishing industry, small businesses and the food and beverage sector

Washington details:

Applications due Feb 17, 2023: contact Jenny Yoo at jenny.yoo@ecy.wa.gov *to talk about your project ideas and any questions.*

Resources: Washington Applied Sustainability Internship (WASI) WASI webpage

Upcoming NAHMMA Webinars

HHW Facilities Helping VSQGs

Description: For Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities authorized to accept Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) waste, educating local small businesses, government and non-profits about proper hazardous waste handling can be a challenge. This webinar will cover the types of information that should be transmitted and possible ways for facilities to educate their VSQG customers.

Presenter: Richard Lobinske, Retired

Date/Time: Thursday, February 23rd from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm (EST)

Cost: Always free for NAHMMA members, $50 for nonmembers

Registration: https://nahmma.org/meetinginfo.php?id=144&ts=1675713480

Extended Producer Responsibility for Lithium Batteries

Host: National Stewardship Action Council

Moderator: Jordan Wells

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 28th from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm (MST)

Cost: Free

Registration: North American Hazardous Materials Management Asso - Meeting registration page 1 (nahmma.org)

Jobs

Have a job to share with NAHMMA NW Chapter Members? Email it to Kim Southwell, ksouthwell@kingcounty.gov, and she will include it in the next newsletter.