ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2019 – Joint Meeting

Hudson Valley Federal Safety and Health Council & ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter

Rockland County Fire Training Center, 35 Fireman’s Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY

1 – Meeting called to order By Federal Council Chairperson at 9:00 AM.

2 – Introductions by participants in the room.

3 – Organizations represented in the room were: OSHA represented by James Giarraputo, Compliance Assistance Specialist; Hudson Valley Federal Safety and Health Council represented by Chairperson La Wanda Mobley; ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter represented by Secretary Charles R. Von Dietsch Jr.

4 – James Giarraputo gave presentation on Silica and OSHA’s new emphasis program. James also discussed the following items that are being looked at by OSHA such as: some new revisions for respirator fit testing. As well as a second look at railroad crane regulations and the general industry standard for cranes. The need for respirator fit testing construction standard review. He also discussed the review of regulations on wielding confined spaces. It was a well-rounded presentation of the work and reviews that will be undertaken in the coming year of 2020.

Apart of the discussion of topics was directed to some very serious and alarming topics such as the increase in Opioid deaths in the Construction Industry. There was a 30% increase in construction workers overdose deaths from 2015 to 2016 (latest year figures available). Also it was noticed by annual statistics that a surprising rise in construction worker suicide deaths is taking place. Thank you James for a well rounded presentation of many safety concerns.

5 – Peter Byrne presented a topic titled “The role of the Safety Officer at an Emergency Incident”. He described the interface necessary between the Site Safety Officer, and the Response team that arrives on site and how they need to work together under NIMS and the named Incident Commandeer (IC) who is the overall authority on scene, and how all data and location information is now fed through the various group commanders to the IC so appropriate actions can be taken. It is imperative that the site Safety Officer be knowledgeable about all operations at the site so current up-to-date information is given to the IC to protect the Response Team, and the general public if necessary. This was a very good presentation on a usually confusing topic to those not familiar with the NIMS procedures.

6 – Federal Council Chairperson La Wanda Mobley announced the results of the recent Council elections. The results were that all current council officers were re-elected for another two (2) year term in office. Congratulations to all.

7 – There was a special presentation held at this meeting. Mr. Thomas Lowe of Mt. Sinai Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health is getting ready to retire and leave the Hudson Valley Federal Safety and Health Council for greener pastures. Congratulations Tom!

8 – The meeting was adjourned by seconded motion by Chairperson La Wanda Mobley at 11:00AM, Friday, November 8, 2019.