



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

June 2021

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## In This Issue

- *Chapter PDC Is Back*
- *Chapter Recognition Award Earned*
- *Chapter Election Results 2021*
- *FDA Letter to Health Care Workers*
- *Long Work Hours Kill People*
- *Chapter Chatter*

## Useful & Helpful Links

<http://www.assp.org>

**Link to the National ASSP webpage for information on great topics in EH&S. Go look things up.**

<http://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org>

**Link to the Hudson River Valley Chapter web page. Information on the Local items and events as well as good information. Try it, you'll like it!**

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

**Link to the Center for Disease Control. Great current information on health items to help protect us all through illness controlling and prevention. Lots of good items!**

Hotlinks in articles are in **Bold Red font.**

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## Hudson River Valley PDC IS BACK For 2021!

Save this date as planning is officially underway for the ASSP Hudson River Valley Chapter's PDC to be held on October 1, 2021. The venue is The Rockland County Fire Training Center, located at 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY 10970.

The date has been negotiated with the venue and will be of one (1) Day duration with registration, or signing in, at 7:00 A.M., with an 8:00 A.M. opening remarks start time. Plans are to include both live and virtual participation if possible. We hope that it will be full of interesting and relevant topics presented for your education and information and allow for time to visit or chat with the vendors that we have signed up to be there. There is plenty of parking at the facility provided free of charge of course. You will be kept informed of all developments for this event going forward. You may be asked to help work on this event as time is short and many things need to be done. Or if you would like to volunteer to help us set up this great event please let us know by contacting the Chapter Secretary and I will pass it on to the PDC Committee Members as listed on our web page.

## Chapter Recognition Awards Announced.

Chapter Recognition Awards were announced by the National ASSP Organization recently. It is my honor to inform you, the Membership of the Hudson River Valley Chapter that we have once again met the outstanding achievement of meeting or exceeding the requirements to become known as a

## *Platinum Level Chapter*

The National Organization will be mailing us the formal declaration and certificate of this achievement. The advance notice was made by an email to the Chapter President.

We should all be proud of this accomplishment for our chapter. It is not handed out to all chapters. It has to be earned by meeting a rigorous set of standards. WELL DONE TO ALL!!!

## Chapter Election Process Completed for June 2021.

The election process has just been completed for our chapter on June 30 2021. All 157 chapter members of record were emailed the slate of candidates, and asked to vote either “YES” or “NO” for the nominated candidates. Only 9 ballots were sent back with a vote marked on them. As per the chapter by-laws, the slate of officer candidates was declared as proposed and accepted by the existing Board and the Chapter Secretary cast a single “YES” vote for the entire slate of candidates to serve in office from July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2023. The new chapter officers are presented here;

- 1) President -- Josephine McCaffrey
- 2) President Elect --Susanne May
- 3) Vice President – Angela Lumbrazo
- 4) Secretary – Charles Von Dietsch, CPEA
- 5) Treasurer – David Zaremsky, CIH, CSP
- 6) Gov’t Liaison – Linda DiGasper
- 7) Awards and Honors Chair, Past President –Matthew McDonald
- 8) Delegate --- Bill Geerlings
- 9) Member at Large—Paul Decker - Pharmaceutical Chair, PDC Committee
- 10) Member at Large – Curt Jones - Construction Chair, PDC Committee
- 11) Member at Large – Paul McNeil - Consultant Chair, PDC Committee
- 12) Member at Large – Tammy Rossomando – Manufacturing Chair, PDC Committee
- 13) Trustee—Past President – Ken Eck—Industrial Hygiene Chair, PDC Committee
- 14) Trustee - Past Treasurer—Jim Bohren—Insurance Chair. PDC Committee

Congratulations to the incoming chapter officers. To the outgoing chapter officers, we say a well-deserved “Thank You” for your service, hard work and dedication to the Hudson River Valley Chapter of ASSP.

## Letter to Health Care Worker’s from the FDA.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is recommending health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers stop using certain syringes and needles with needle safety devices manufactured by Guangdong Haiou Medical Apparatus Co., LTD. (HAIYOU) at this time while FDA continues its evaluation. The FDA has received information about quality issues, including HAIYOU needles detaching from the syringe after injections and other needle safety device failures. These device failures have been reported for the following HAIYOU syringe and needle configurations (combinations of syringes and needles with needle safety devices):

- 1mL syringe with 25G x 1-inch needle
- 1mL syringe with 23G x 1-inch needle

The FDA recommends health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers:

- Stop using and remove from your inventory the 1mL syringe with 25G x 1-inch needle and the 1mL syringe with 23G x 1-inch needle configurations (combinations of syringes and needles with needle safety devices) manufactured by HAIYOU until further notice. Users and facilities that decide to dispose of applicable unused product should follow facility processes for sharps disposal.
- Do not purchase these HAIYOU syringes and needle configurations until further notice.
- Be aware that these syringes and needle configurations may be available as individual units or may be included as part of a kit. Currently, we are not aware of concerns with other products (such as gloves, alcohol pads, etc.) that may be provided in kits alongside the 1mL syringes with the 25G or 23 G x 1-inch needle configurations, but these HAIYOU syringes and needle configurations should not be used.
- Report any issues with the quality or performance of these devices to the FDA.

## Letter to Health Care Worker's from the FDA (continued).

Generally, a syringe is used to inject fluid into, or withdraw fluid from, the body. The HAIU syringe and needle with needle safety device configurations consists of a needle attached to a hollow cylinder that is fitted with a sliding plunger.

The needle safety feature should retract the needle into the syringe after an injection through manual withdrawal of the plunger to minimize the risk of accidental needlestick injuries.

The FDA is aware of various Medical Device Reports (MDRs) as well as additional complaints where needles were reported to have detached from these HAIU syringe and needle configurations and remained in the patient's arm after injection, or the needle safety function failed (for example, did not activate or did not retract), and a small number of incidents involving accidental needlestick injuries to health care providers. The FDA is not aware of any instances where surgery was needed to remove a needle. Risks associated with needles detaching in people's arms and needle safety device failures could include pain, infection, and surgery (if the needle were to break in a person's arm). There is also a risk to health care providers of transmission of bloodborne pathogens involving accidental needlestick injuries.

To date, HAIU has declined to initiate a voluntary recall. The FDA issued an [import alert](#) on April 30, 2021 to prevent these syringe and needle configurations from entering the United States. The FDA is working with federal partners to identify where these configurations have been distributed and inform those sites of the quality issues.

The FDA is evaluating whether other HAIU syringe and needle configurations may have similar problems, and will continue to keep facilities, health care providers and the public informed if significant new information becomes available.

The FDA encourages health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers to report any adverse events or suspected adverse events experienced with any syringe and needle configurations.

- Voluntary reports can be submitted through [MedWatch, the FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting program.](#)
- Device manufacturers and user facilities must comply with the applicable [Medical Device Reporting \(MDR\) regulations.](#)
- Health care personnel employed by facilities that are subject to the FDA's [user facility reporting requirements](#) should follow the reporting procedures established by their facilities.

Prompt reporting of adverse events can help the FDA identify and better understand the risks associated with medical devices.

If you have questions, or need more information about this letter use the following link: [contact the Division of Industry and Consumer Education \(DICE\).](#)

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## 745,000 People a Year Killed by Long Working Hours.

According to estimates from the World Health Organization and the International Labor Organization the annual number of heart attack and stroke deaths rose nearly 30% worldwide between 2000 and 2016.

Researchers conducted two systemic reviews, including an analysis of 37 studies on [ischemic heart disease](#), and 22 stroke studies that involved more than 1.6 million participants combined. These participants were from nearly 200 countries.

Results show that, in 2016, an estimated 745,000 people died from stroke and ischemic heart disease – also called coronary heart disease, which can lead to a heart attack – as a result of having worked 55 or more

## 745,000 People a Year Killed by Long Working Hours (continued).

hours a week. The 398,000 stroke deaths and 347,000 heart attack deaths represent increases of 42% and 19%, respectively, from calendar year 2000.

Compared to the participants who worked 35 – 40 hours a week, those who worked at least 55 hours a week had a 35% higher risk of dying from a stroke and a 17% greater risk of dying from a heart attack.

According to a May 17 2021 press release from the World Health Organization, the number of workers logging more hours is on the rise. Currently, 9% of the global population works at least 55 hours per week. The researchers add that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the growing trend of working longer hours.

“Teleworking has become the norm in many industries, often blurring the boundaries between home and work. No job is worth the risk of stroke or heart disease,” according to Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – World Health Organization Director-General in his press release. The researchers recommend governments introduce, implement and enforce laws, regulations and policies that ban mandatory overtime and ensure maximum limits on working time. Collective bargaining agreements between employers and workers’ associations also can be used to ensure more flexible work arrangements and set a maximum limit on hours per week. Finally, employees could share their working hours to make sure they do not surpass 55 hours a week.

A related study indicates that women who work 45 or more hours a week had a 63% higher risk of developing diabetes than women who worked 35 – 40 hours a week. Researchers speculate that stress stemming from juggling family-life responsibilities with a larger workload may trigger hormonal imbalances and insulin resistance that contribute to an increased risk of diabetes, or diabetes related chronic diseases. The International Diabetes Federation states that 425 million adults worldwide live with diabetes, including 327 million who are of working age.

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## Chapter Chatter

Our last scheduled Hudson River Valley Chapter meeting was a virtual Executive Board Meeting on June 29, 2021 @ 12:00 PM. That concluded at 12:51 P.M. This meeting was to close out the Chapter Business for the Operating year ending on June 30, 2021. The slate of new chapter officer candidates was installed in their respective offices as noted previously in this newsletter. Copies of the meeting minutes were sent to you as well as posted on the [Chapter Files web page](#).

Our next scheduled Board Meeting is to be held on July 14, 2021 for planning purposes of the coming year of July 2021 to June 2022. The Chapter is planning to continue Joint Meetings with other ASSP Chapters and with other Safety Organizations in our area. These meetings may be a combination of in-person and some virtual meetings.

### Thought Of The Day:

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” – Thomas Edison.

The Coronavirus is still with us and impacting our lives. Progress is being made against it; the tide seems to be turning. Some restrictions may be lifted soon. New strains show up and the effectiveness of the vaccines is being questioned, but facts indicate that it will work against those new strains too.

All chapter meeting minutes, newsletters, and many presentations from our Technical Meetings are posted on our chapter webpage. You can view them using the link provided above for the files page.

Stay safe, and stay healthy. Hopefully we can meet face to face soon. Should you have an item you would like to see published in this newsletter please submit it to me, or for any questions you may have about the chapter activities, my email address is: [cvondietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:cvondietsch@yahoo.com)