

From the Commissioner

I have had the privilege of meeting so many of our state's workers, from both private and public sectors, in my travels across the state. As we approach Labor Day, I can't help but think of all them and hope they, along with each of you, will get to enjoy a much deserved day of rest and relaxation away from work on Monday.

Once we get back from Labor Day break, we'll kick off our annual Employee Appreciation Program. As part of that program, you will soon receive information from Jennifer Haigwood soliciting nominations for the very distinguished Employee of the Year Award. The Employee of the Year Selection Committee, which consists of former Employees of the Year and other staff members, will once again have the very tough job of selecting one individual from all of your nominations. This process of being selected by your peers is what makes the Employee of the Year Award so special. Each year, I am truly glad someone else has to make this very difficult decision.

I am happy to announce that in 2015 we will resurrect the Employee Appreciation Banquet, which will take place at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. For those of you new to the department, the banquet was a special day to congregate with the entire department and recognize employees in front of their peers. Back in 2008, budget constraints forced us to put the banquet on hold indefinitely.

It has been six long years since we last convened as a group, and I am excited that we are in a position to bring us all together again under one roof. More details will follow about the banquet, but please go ahead and mark your calendar for Nov. 5, 2015. There will be fundraising opportunities to help bring the cost down per person, so please be sure to participate.

Lastly, the very long short session finally wrapped up and you should notice the \$1,000 pay increase awarded by the General Assembly in your August paycheck. (This amount is prorated for part-time employees.) The increase is retroactive to include the month of July, so your paystub should reflect it for July and August. While the legislative increase was not what we were hoping for, the 40 hours of bonus leave (also prorated for part-time employees) is nice.



Employee news

- Congratulations to Don Kinney, Boiler Safety, for passing the National Board exam and earning his N endorsement. He is now qualified as an authorized nuclear inspector.
- Congratulations to Laura Crawford, OSH Compliance West, for receiving MESH certification.
- Our condolences to the friends and family of Neil Brown, who died Aug. 24. Neil worked as an OSH safety compliance officer in the Winston-Salem office since January 2005.

New Hires

- Robin Ewart, safety compliance officer I, OSH,* Asheville
- Christopher Cagle, wage and hour field investigator, Wage and Hour, Asheville
- Richard Kraemer, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte
- Jeffrey McClaren, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh

*correction from August issue of *Labor N.C.*

Job Changes

- Curtis Hobson, safety compliance officer I to health compliance officer I, OSH Compliance, Charlotte
- Carol Wells, processing assistant IV to administrative assistant I, OSH/ETTA, Raleigh
- Doris Kester, personnel technician III to assistant HR director, Human Resources, Raleigh

Separations

- Derrick Gibbs, health compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh
- Jeffrey Barnhill, field supervisor, Wage and Hour, Wilmington

Annual Enrollments

Keep an eye out for mailers regarding State Health Plan annual enrollment, which will begin Oct. 1. The State Health Plan will begin mailing benefits information to members in September. If you are satisfied with the plan in which you are currently enrolled, you may remain in that plan and do not need to re-enroll; however, if you are enrolled in the Enhanced 80/20 Plan or the Consumer-Directed Health Plan (CDHP) and wish to maintain or lower your employee-only premium, you will need to complete the following wellness activities: Select a primary care provider in Beacon; complete the online Health Assessment, and attest that you do not smoke or you are going to quit. You can select your primary care provider and complete the online health assessment prior to enrollment beginning, but you must complete your smoking attestation in Beacon after annual enrollment begins.

NCFlex annual enrollment will begin Oct. 1 as well. Information regarding NCFlex annual enrollment will be made available online at www.ncflex.org, but a release date has not yet been set.

If you wish to remain in or enroll in a healthcare flexible spending account or a dependent daycare flexible spending account, you must re-enroll in those plans each year. All other NCFlex plans do not require re-enrollment.



Upcoming Birthdays

9-2 Sara Steward	9-13 Greg Sims	9-24 Henry Moore
9-2 Gwen Williams	9-14 Jonathan Wiley	9-26 Carol Wells
9-3 Kisha Holmes	9-15 Jennifer Haigwood	9-28 Janet Rust
9-6 Charles Knox	9-18 Dean Strickland	9-28 Angela Woods
9-8 Paulette Hernandez	9-20 Charity Locklear	9-29 Ed Geddie
9-8 Dolores Quesenberry	9-20 Shelby Stephenson	9-30 Alexa Cherry
9-10 Brent Wood	9-21 Melinda Boyette	9-30 Howard Walters
9-12 Joe Adams	9-21 Danny Harrell	
9-12 Todd McNoldy	9-23 Jacopo Wiggins	

What's New @ Your Library

By Nick Vincelli, Librarian

Revised Standards List

- http://10.21.81.244:8080/etta_one_stop/listingDetails.cfm?&catid=16&subcatid=201

The standards' list has been updated and can be accessed from OSH One Stop Shop (Library Resources page).

New Titles

- *Compressed Air for Human Respiration* (CGA G-7:2014). Compressed Gas Association, 2014.
- *For Industrial Head Protection* (ANSI/ISEA Z89.1-2014). ANSI, 2014.
- *For Safe Use of Lasers* (ANSI Z136.1-2014). Laser Institute of America, 2014.
- *Standard Practice for Assessment of Resistance of Medical Gloves to Permeation by Chemotherapy Drugs* (ASTM D6978—REAP 2013). ASTM International, 2013.

New DVD

- *To the Point About: Bloodborne Pathogens* (DVD 739—English/Spanish). To the Point Communications; 2014; 12 minutes.

Online FYIs

- *Buy Quiet*
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/buyquiet/>
- *Communication Tower Directive* (updated)
https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-01-056.pdf
- *Heat Illness and Death Among Workers—United States, 2012–2013*
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6331a1.htm?s_cid=mm6331a1_w
- *Heat Stress Quick Card* (updated)
<https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.searchResults?pSearch=Heat%20Stress%20QuickCard>
- *Ortho-Toluidine*
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/oT/>
- *Preventing Falls From Heights Through the Design of Embedded Safety Features*
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2014-124/pdfs/2014-124.pdf>

NCDOL Logo Apparel Sale

Check your email in mid-September for an opportunity to buy NCDOL logo merchandise, including T-shirts, polo shirts, button-down shirts, jackets, hats, bags and more.