



12-02

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March 29, 2002

- ♦ ***New Members!!*** We'd like to welcome these new members to the Association:

HEPACO, Inc., is a full service environmental company based in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has a number of branch offices throughout the Southeast. Their headquarters address is 2711 Burch Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28269, telephone 1-704-598-9782, facsimile 1-704-598-7823, and their web address is www.hepaco.com. The contact there is Ron Horton, and his e-mail address is ronhorton@hepaco.com.

3R Inc. is a full service environmental company specializing in emergency response, industrial maintenance, and industrial cleaning. They are located at 315 A Bond Place, Greer, South Carolina, 29650, telephone 1-864-848-1312, facsimile 1-864-848-9963, and their web address is www.3RInc.com. The contacts there are Bill Rhodes and Tim Sloan.

Our thanks to HEPCACO and 3R Inc. for their support, and Welcome Aboard!

- ♦ We like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this week. By all accounts, it was one of the best meetings the Association has had in some time. All of the presenters and presentations were outstanding, and the two panel discussions (QI's and OSRO's) informative and lively. Some items of note:

1.) Larry Doyle (CBI) made a presentation discussing a study he performed as a part his pursuit of a doctorate degree. The basis premise of the survey is to identify strategies to reduce the onerous costs associated with employee turnover. Those companies participating in the study received a packet summarizing results of the study results for their company, and how their study results compared to other participating companies. Contact Larry Doyle via e-mail (ldoyle@cliffberryinc.com) if you would like to participate in the study or receive more information about it.

2.) Bill Ferroli (Compliance Associates) made a presentation on a fire response in the Baltimore Tunnel, upon which CSX was the responsible party. An interesting point is that this was the first time CSX allowed a presentation of this type to be made to anyone but their corporate officers.

3.) Les Stanfield (Acme) provided a moving account of the cleanup activities surrounding the World Trade Center, including a discussion of some of the local politics.

4.) MAR, Inc., the managers of OHMSETT, made a presentation on the testing facility, and made note of many cost effective ways contractors may utilize OHMSETT for testing purposes. More information on OHMSETT can be obtained by calling MAR's Bill Schmidt at 1-732-866-7183

More details of the results of the Annual Meeting will follow in upcoming editions of the newsletter!

- ◆ On March 19, 2002, President Bush signed an executive order to create a new public-private sector advisory council to assess the effectiveness of homeland security policy. The President's Homeland Security Advisory Council ("PHSAC") is comprised of 21 experts from all sectors that were appointed by the president, and will work closely with Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge to assist the administration in developing, implementing and determining national policy. The executive order also establishes four senior homeland security advisory committees with officials chosen by Mr. Ridge. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness Newsletter*)
- ◆ **Speaking of Homeland Security . . .** Chiefs within the U.S. Navy admit that they've searched 30 ships and questioned some 5,000 masters in their hunt for vessels associated with the Al Qa'eda terrorist network. This operation on the part of the U.S. Navy includes some 13,000 people and 100 ships from 12 countries, 40 of them U.S. and 60 allied, but unfortunately has yielded very little by way of results thus far. The Al Qa'eda network is thought to control or own a fleet of around 20-23 vessels, all of which are thought to be heavily disguised. Most are likely owned by front companies linked to the terrorist network. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Justice is seeking public comment on the proposed Homeland Security Advisory System ("HSAS"), which is intended to provide a comprehensive and effective means of disseminating information to federal, state, and local authorities and the public regarding the risk of terrorist acts. The system would provide warnings in the form of a set of graduated threat conditions, and at each threat condition level, federal agencies would implement a corresponding set of protective measures to reduce vulnerability or to increase response capability. Comments on the proposed system will be accepted through April 25, 2002, and should be sent to: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Advisory System, Room 7222, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20535. They may also be submitted electronically via e-mail to HSAScomments@fbi.gov. A full copy of the text associated with this request is available in the March 18, 2002 edition of the Federal Register, page 12047-12049. (Source: *Maritime Items* and *Federal Register*)
- ◆ U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta recently named RADM Richard Bennis (USCG-Retired) as the Associate Under Secretary of Transportation for Maritime and Land Security at the Transportation Security Administration ("TSA"). RADM Bennis spent 30 years in the Coast Guard in a variety of headquarters and field assignments, and we're sure that many of our members have worked with him over the years. ***Our best wishes to RADM Bennis in his new position!***
- ◆ A Danish ship management company, D/S Progress, has been ordered by a Federal judge in Baltimore to pay a \$250,000 fine for conspiring to hide a hazardous leak in an oil tanker's hull, failing to report the dumping of oil to save the ship, and falsifying logbooks as a part of the subsequent cover up. The judge also ordered that half of a \$250,000 surety bond paid by D/S Progress after the event to the whistle-blowing crewmembers under a bounty provision of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. This is the fifth time this provision of the act has been exercised. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** A recent survey of Fortune 500 companies revealed that very few employees take advantage of flextime when that option is available. The reason: too many managers question an employee's motives or commitment if they request a flexible schedule. Flextime isn't a good benefit if nobody uses it. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "In the modern world the intelligence of public opinion is the one indispensable condition of social progress." – Charles William Eliot (1834-1926)