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- ♦ The SCAA Board of Directors met this week via telephone conference. Highlights of the meeting include:
 - 1.) The issue of employees that are injured on the job was discussed, specifically with reference to their ability to receive monetary benefits other than through worker's compensation claims in certain states (e.g., Wisconsin and Ohio). ***We'd be interested in comments from the membership on this issue.***
 - 2.) The Board discussed an increase in annual membership dues. The Board voted on and passed a new membership fee structure, which will become effective beginning with the 2003 calendar year.
 - 3.) The group discussed various issues relative to evolving areas within the realm of homeland defense and homeland security, the need to include the private sector in this area, and the means by which SCAA has been pursuing these initiatives.
 - 4.) SCAA's white paper on OSRO and PREP issues was discussed. A draft of the paper – which was requested by the Coast Guard during the last Partnership Action Team ("PAT") meeting – is being reviewed by the Board of Directors. It will be finalized and presented to the Coast Guard by the end of this month.
 - 5.) SCAA is considering hosting a regional meeting during the Clean Gulf Conference (www.cleangulf.org) in November, and in conjunction with a contractor's panel discussion on "Surviving in Today's Marketplace" that occurs November 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. More information will be provided about this in future editions of the newsletter.
 - 6.) The final program for the 26th Annual Inland Spills Conference (September 30 – October 2, 2002 in Columbus, Ohio) has been finalized and is in the mail. Exhibit space for the event is still available. Anyone needing a copy of the program, or if you need information on exhibition opportunities, contact Marc Shaye at 1-313-962-8255, e-mail marcs@scaa-spill.org, or visit SCAA's web site at www.scaa-spill.org. ***A number of presentations to be made during this conference by public sector entities will relate to WMD and Homeland Security issues, and should be extremely informative to our membership.***

- 7.) The Board agreed that the 2003 Annual Meeting should not be held in conjunction with the 2003 International Oil Spill Conference. New York City and Atlanta, Georgia were suggested as potential locations for the Annual Meeting, which will likely be scheduled to take place some time in January. ***We welcome the input of our membership on potential meeting locations and dates!***
- 8.) The Board discussed an issue a member company was having with the collection of a past due account. An invoice was submitted to the responsible party after response services had been provided. The invoice is now 120 days old, and they have received no progress

payments or any indication if the responsible party has issues with the invoice. It is not clear whether the RP has received payment from its insurer on the case, though it is suspected that the RP is employing stall tactics in hopes that the contractor will reduce its invoice in order to settle the outstanding debt. Some of the suggestions the Board provided with regard to minimizing the occurrence of circumstances like this included requesting two-party checks from the insurer, adding additional language into service contracts, and withdrawing written consent for being named in the response plans of the responsible party in the event of non-payment. ***We are interested to know whether our members have experienced similar situations in the past, and how they were resolved. Send us your comments via fax (1-313-849-1623) or e-mail (mikes@scaa-spill.org).***

- ◆ Earlier this month, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh announced that John R. D'Araujo, Jr. – former director of the Army National Guard – had been appointed Assistant Director for the Readiness, Response and Recovery Directorate at FEMA. In the position, Mr. D'Araujo will be responsible for planning and executing the federal government's response to major disasters and emergencies. He will also be responsible for the multi-billion dollar Individual and Public Assistance Grant programs, as well as FEMA's participation in national exercises. (Source: *FEMA News Release*)
- ◆ The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure issued a press release this week announcing that it had approved a proposed amendment, sponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), to the bill that would create the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). If enacted, the amendment would keep the U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA from being moved to the new department. There had been a concern that the non-security functions of the Coast Guard would be degraded were the agency to be rolled into the DHS. The proposal would create an Undersecretary of the Coast Guard within the Department of Transportation whose duties would include homeland security. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ A good web site to visit to get updates on a wide variety of homeland security issues can be found at <http://www.govexec.com/homeland/>. The web site gives news on a wide variety of homeland security related topics, including pending legislation. It also has a bill-tracking feature that allows users to read summaries and/or the full text of proposed bills, as well as their status in the legislative process. You can also subscribe to two weekly newsletters – *GovExec.com Today* and *Homeland Security Week* – both of which are free. ***Thanks to John Parker for providing this link!***
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** Following are some tips to keep in mind when handling situations involving discriminatory slurs: (1.) Remember that racial slurs that don't pertain to the target's race; names disparaging white individuals; and epithets used by and against members of the same race can all lead to legal charges. (2.) Review your company's policies on discrimination and harassment, and be sure that employees understand that these policies prohibit race-based name calling. (3.) Provide employees with diversity training. (4.) Be sure employees know that language transgressions will reflect negatively in their performance appraisals, promotion opportunities, etc. (5.) If an employee complains about discriminatory jokes, comments, etc., fully investigate the situation and take immediate corrective action when needed. (Source: *Manager's Legal Bulletin*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** "It is not a field with a few acres of ground, but a cause, that we are defending, and whether we defeat the enemy in one battle, or by degrees, the consequences will be the same." - Thomas Paine (1737-1809), *The American Crisis*, No. 1 [December 23, 1777]