

Dear colleagues



I cannot believe this is the last publication for 2009. Time certainly flies.

The National Council was active in meeting on two occasions during this quarter. Council members met during October where the marketing strategy for SAIOH was discussed and a number of good ideas were tabled. A council meeting was held on the 6th of November 2009. Council members are looking forward to 2010 with a number of challenges to be addressed. The Certification Board has a new name: SAIOH Occupational Hygiene Professionals Council.

SAIOH branches were also active. The Mpumalanga branch held its AGM on the 30th of October. An

article and photo of the event are shown below.

An invitation was received from the MVSSA to visit its website at www.mvssa.co.za for valuable information. SAIOH members are also encouraged to visit the SAIOH website at www.saioh.co.za. A new webmaster has been appointed. Any ideas, inputs or complaints can be forwarded to Kobus Davel (SAIOH website watchdog) at kobus@occuserv.com.

I would like to convey my best wishes to each and every SAIOH member. May you and your families have a blessed Christmas and return rested after the holidays.

Melinda Venter, SAIOH President

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Fun-filled day with SAIOH – Mpumalanga

The SAIOH (Southern Africa Institute for Occupational Hygiene) Mpumalanga Branch made history on 30 October 2009 by hosting the first Year-end Function in its five-year existence. This event, together with the Annual General Meeting, was held at the Pienaardam Ontspanningsoord, in Middelburg. The function was well attended by SAIOH Mpumalanga members from many different industries, mines and companies, with an attendance total of approximately 50 members, excluding sponsor presenters. Bear in mind that the branch started off with an attendee complement of eleven members on the 17th of September 2004.

The underlying aim was to get to know Mpumalanga members better by means of creating a relaxed atmosphere and having fun, which caused the Annual General Meeting to be a mere formality. The spirit of the day was set before the function proceeded by means of a creative invitation that informed members of fun-filled activities

to be presented and the spitbraai that would follow. The members' expectations were however far exceeded by the fun and excitement experienced out in open air at the beautiful venue of Pienaardam. The weather was close to perfect for the planned activities, which included a mix of "boeresport", volley ball and soccer!

These fun-filled activities ensured that participating members became friend and enemy at a level far removed from the professional arena. There was lots of playing and laughter with most participants getting to know their fellow members a little bit better. Rewards were in the form of lucky draw prizes awarded to fun exhausted members. The highlight of the day followed as the function ended off by filling lots of hungry stomachs with a delicious lunch!

The SAIOH Mpumalanga Branch Committee wants to thank the sponsors for their respective contributions to make this day possible. The sponsors included BHP Billiton, HSE Solutions, UVEX and Noise Clipper.

The Year-end Function was a day to remember in the short history of the SAIOH Mpumalanga Branch, which served its purpose and will definitely form part of future endeavors on the branch's calendar. A final salute goes to all branch committee members for their passionate involvement in the branch, the extensive planning for this event, and the excellent execution of their respective responsibilities.

This is a committee I am proud to be part of and a branch that we as a committee are dedicated to serve. May God bless each SAIOH Mpumalanga Branch member this festive season and may everyone return to the year of the Soccer World Cup, well rested and full of passion to steer the SAIOH Mpumalanga Branch to new heights.

Hannes Botha, Mpumalanga Branch Chairman



Mpumalanga Branch Committee members. From left to right: Jacques Wassermann, Colin Mabusela, Goitsemang Keretsetse, Lielzel Strydom, Hannes Botha, Bohlakoa Matshiane