

What's next in Occupational Health? Fall Conference Summary

The conference for 2009 was a success once again. On Friday, September 18th Cathy Parker our president welcomed 50 attendees and multiple vendors to our Fall Conference. The speakers presented information ranging from ways to work with multigenerational employees, addressing the needs of the aging workforce, developing a stretching program, protecting our employees from respiratory diseases and workplace violence. In addition, information was provided on how the state wide immunization program can benefit the employee by having their vaccination history available to prevent delays in receiving a needed injection such as a tetanus booster. Also, an OSHA update was presented by Doug Fletcher from the OSHA Omaha regional office. There were net working opportunities available as well as time for meeting the vendors.

On Saturday, September 19th the BryanLGH College of Health Sciences classroom was filled with 40 attendees. The speakers enlightened the audience with information about alternative treatments that many of our employees are using such as acupuncture for relief of pain and hypnosis for smoking cessation or handling stress. Dr. James Mayer pointed out the importance of using a "Fit-for-Duty" evaluation for non-work related illnesses or injuries. While Sharon Medcalf, RN, MEd, the Associate Director of the Center for Biopreparedness Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center provided a review on pandemic preparedness and an update on H1N1.

On both days the attendees were provided with great food and snacks. There were multiple door prizes that were provided by attendees, vendors, sponsors, and employers. The sponsors for the 2009 conference include: *Alegent Health-Occupational Health Services, Sigvaris, Genex, and BryanLGH Medical Center.*

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that participated and/or provided assistance in this conference. It was only a success because of you!

I will see you next year.

Kris Kusik

Planning Committee Chairperson