



AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

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<http://www.aiche-orangecounty.org>

JUNE 2003

JUNE DINNER MEETING

Leadership in the Workplace, Tips and Advice You Can Use

Joan S. Smith

Tuesday, JUNE 24, 2003
5:30 PM

June speaker will be Joan S. Smith from Leadership Consultants International (LCI), located in Laguna Hills, California. Joan believes that new technology has often provided the edge for many in business. However, the panacea of technology has often proven elusive. Witness the dramatic decline of General Motors in the 1980's despite a massive investment in technology. Could it be that the key to personal and organizational effectiveness lies elsewhere?

LCI is dedicated to the premise that breakthrough results are a function of communication. By altering our view of ourselves, others and our organizations, a powerful reservoir of energy, vision, and talent will be unlocked making it possible to fulfill our most ambitious expectations.

For 25 years, Joan S. Smith has worked in traditional and non-traditional education. She is "an educator at heart." Her commitment to contribute to and inspire people across the globe is far-reaching (and has impacted more than 100,000 lives) by providing the tools to empower them to fulfill not only their professional visions, but their personal visions for the future. The speed with which she is able to see what is needed and wanted, and her ability to empower others to produce results, is remarkable. She is known for her "straight talk", which enables people to go beyond their expectations.

Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

Place: **Wyndham Garden Hotel, Costa Mesa**

Directions: From Interstate 405, go north on Bristol Ave., right on Anton, left on Avenue of the Arts. The Wyndham is on the right at 3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa.

Reservations: *Please make a reservation at (949) 261-2622 by voice by Friday, **JUNE 20, 2003**. Or, you may email your reservation to janice.west@ps.ge.com.* Please specify your preference for either the main menu or the vegetarian menu when making your reservation.

Cost: Members, **FREE!** with a reservation, **\$25** at the door; Non-Members, **\$25** with reservation, **\$30** at the door; Students/Unemployed/Retired, **FREE!** with reservation, and **\$10** at the door

Important Meeting Notice

- **June meeting will be FREE for all members/students with reservation**
- **Starting with the month of June, every third meeting a member attends is FREE with reservation**

Southern California AICHE Meetings

The section for the LA area normally meets every 3rd Tuesday at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. For reservations call (800) 274-3847. Visit their web site for the latest information www.geocities.com/aiche_sc

CALL FOR PAPERS

Presenters wanted for dinner topics and poster sessions for a special technical series tentatively scheduled for this summer. Warm-up for a national meeting, or just present your Senior Project. Please contact the Program Chair with your topic.



The following are excerpts from a report by Bob Katin, PE who is chairing AIChE's KeepUS lobby group:

As you have heard me say in the past, making changes to State Government is an EXTREMELY SLOW process. There have been meetings with the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC), Senate Business and Professions Committee (B&P), and the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The plan is to form a Task Force that will include the Engineering Board (BPELS), DCA, Legislative Staff, CELSOC, and CLCPE to review the ISR Study Report. No more than three meetings are planned. The goal is to achieve resolution of the issues this year so that Committee Hearings can be conducted in NOV-DEC 2003. The outcome of the Committee Hearings will be a report to the Legislature in JAN 2004. New legislation will be introduced in FEB-MAR 2004. The initial version of the bill will be a "spot bill" or place holder until text of the bill is developed. It is hoped that the Task Force meetings will start in the not too distant future.

You may have heard that National AIChE is in major financial trouble, and might result in our becoming a part of another professional society. I want to retain the ability to say I represent the ChEs of California, even if the only exclusively ChE professional society ceases to exist. This might result in asking all ChEs in California to join KeepUs. For the past few years, we have asked California ChEs to make a voluntary donation of \$2 to KeepUs. We have reached our goal of collecting \$20,000 to support lobbying that will be required to pass legislation to promote the standing of ChEs. Before the hearings start, our goal is to increase our political clout by increasing the number of ChEs we can claim we represent to the legislature. If you know the names of any fellow ChEs, please send me an e-mail with their name and e-mail address.

Background information is posted on the NorCal AIChE website <http://www.aiche-norcal.org/> and from the home page select the tab on the top left corner for ADVOCACY.

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EPA Chief Whitman Resigns

Peter Hsiao and Siegmund Shyu, Morrison & Foerster LLP

On May 21, federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman announced her resignation, effective June 27. Whitman had differences with the White House on several issues, including global warming and power plant pollution. According to the Associated Press, Whitman told President Bush that she considered her tenure at the EPA rewarding professionally, but that it was time to return to her home and husband in New Jersey. "I said, 'It's time to go.' He said, 'I know,'" Whitman said. When asked about her differences with the White House, Whitman stated, "I wouldn't characterize them as conflicts. I mean, dynamic discussions, yes. But that's what happens all the time." White House officials stated that it would be a few weeks before a replacement would be named. The list purportedly includes David Struhs, head of Florida's environmental protection department; Josephine Cooper, president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; and former Michigan Governor John Engler.

California Appellate Court Says That California Statute of Limitations Rule Not Preempted By Federal Superfund

On April 30, a state Court of Appeal held that the federal Superfund's statute of limitations (the maximum time period during which a party can bring a legal action) does not preempt the California statute of limitation rules. (Lockheed Martin Corp. v. Superior Court, California Court of Appeal, No. E031381). The case involved a mass plaintiff suit brought by residents living near a Lockheed Martin defense plant in Redlands, California. The plaintiffs alleged that they suffered injuries from Lockheed's releases of chemical into the groundwater, which included the solvent trichloroethylene. Previously, a federal Court of Appeals held that the Superfund statute of limitations preempted California's, because the California statute would have started the limitations period earlier. (O'Conner v. Boeing North American Inc., 311 F.3d 1139 (9th Cir. 2002). However, the California court disagreed, finding that the California rule is "substantially the same" as the Superfund rule. Therefore, the California court held, the limitations period would start



when the plaintiff has notice or information of the circumstances to put a reasonable person on notice. Applying the facts to the law, the California court held that widespread publicity about the Redlands contamination was sufficient to put the plaintiffs on notice of their potential personal injury claims, and that the plaintiffs therefore brought their lawsuits too late.

Something Completely Different

Conquering Mount Everest, elevation 29,035 feet, has been celebrated throughout history as a great achievement for mankind. In 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach its summit. However, as reported by the Associated Press, an environmental symposium being held during Nepal's 50th anniversary celebration of the historic climb has revealed an ugly manmade problem associated with climbing Mount Everest -- human wastes. According to some reports, over the past 50 years, up to 1 million liters of human urine has permeated into various parts of the mountain. Other people disagreed. The Nepal government imposes fines of \$4,000 (US) if climbers do not bring back down their trash, and it only costs four-tenths of a US penny per pound for porters to take trash down. However, the Nepal regulations were only imposed recently, and one of the critics of the mounting waste problem includes Tashi Tenzing Norgay, the grandson of Tenzing Norgay.

Legal Corner reports on recent news, and is not intended to be legal advice. The reader should consult an attorney about the specific facts before acting upon this information.

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

Newsletter delivery by e-mail has proven to be more reliable and expedient than the postal version. If you would like to receive the e-mail version, especially if you only want the e-mail version, please contact the editor at Kris_lp@edwards.com. Postage presently consumes a significant portion of our budget and volunteer time.

Newsletter Contributors Wanted

The newsletter editor would like to hear from you if you have one or more brief articles to contribute, especially a review or brief discussion of a good website, technical book, etc.

Professional Engineering Employment Update

Job Seeking Members can receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire ChEs. Contact the Senior Member Everett Knell at EWKnell@aol.com to receive this list by e-mail.

Job Opportunities

① If you have an employment opportunity in Southern California for a chemical engineer, the newsletter will advertise it for free.

2003 Orange County AIChE Officers

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