

## 2008 ACHMM National Conference Summary

Over 600 persons including ten from the Connecticut Chapter attended the 2008 ACHMM National Conference in Minneapolis, MN on September 7-10 making it the third largest meeting in Academy history.

The Conference featured several outstanding speakers including former Governor and EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman, current OSHA Administrator Edwin Foulke, former NIOSH director John Howard and Multi-state Working Group Executive Director for Environmental performance Nancy Girard.

The speakers covered a wide range of issues. Topics included presidential politics, governmental relations, energy policy, safety performance, land use, environmental standards, worker health, and climate change.

### Presentations

75 technical presentations were given over the three days in the fields of Emergency Preparedness, EH&S management, New and Emerging Technologies, International issues, Regulatory requirements, Waste minimization, Pollution prevention, Safety and Industrial Health.

The Connecticut Chapter delivered a presentation on the group's experience in "Furthering CHMM's as Certifying Agents for Regulatory programs". The CT session was well attended as members of other chapters sought to understand how they might further recognition of the CHMM credential within their own state regulatory agencies.

### Re-branding Proposal

A proposal was presented at the annual business meeting by the ACHMM board to re-brand ACHMM as the "Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals" to attract more members, certified and non-certified. Certification would not be required to join the new Alliance. With the theme "Rebuilding for the Future", the name change as presented would effectively eliminate ACHMM as an entity.

The reason for the re-branding is a concern that, unless something is done soon, with current membership rates continuing to decline, the academy will not be sustainable within 10 years.

Notwithstanding, not all the chapters at the conference were 100% on board with the re-branding proposal as presented and additional debate is needed. Some chapters felt that while there could be a new alliance the academy should remain intact as a distinct part of it. The good news is that the CHMM credential would not be affected.

### Annual Report

The 2007 annual report was distributed at the business meeting. The annual report described many of the Academy's new initiatives including the Corporate and Community Relations Partnership program, redesigned ACHMM national website, new Essentials of Hazardous Materials on line course, the "10-by-10" recruitment Initiative (10,000 members by 2010), CHMMunity Outreach program, and re-organized Board structure.

The conference was an outstanding venue for professional advancement, networking and continuing education.



*Former Governor and EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman gives the keynote address "Shaping the Future-America's Environment Today" at the National Conference*



*Whyndam Abrams, Nick Zackeo and Gene Metti deliver the CT Chapter's presentation, "Furthering CHMM's as Certifying Agents for Regulatory programs" to over 65 participants.*

## CT Chapter Wins Three Coveted Awards

The CT chapter captured three awards at the ACHMM National Conference in Minneapolis on September 9, 2008.

### Honor Roll of Champions and 15 Years of Outstanding Service

The first award was The Honor Roll of Champions award for outstanding support of the aims of ACHMM. The chapter was honored for exceptional service in advancing public recognition of

the value of the CHMM credential

The second award recognized the chapter's 15 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Academy.

### Champion Of Excellence

Gene Metti, Chapter President was individually honored as a Champion of Excellence for his strong dedication to advancing the core purpose of ACHMM.



