

YPSW AIHA 2026 Meeting Summary

51st Annual Meeting (January 21-23, 2026)

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Yuma Pacific Southwest (YPSW) Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) was held January 21–23, 2026, in San Diego, California. The meeting brought together industrial hygiene and occupational safety and health professionals from private industry, academia, and government to examine the theme **“The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA): 1976 and Beyond.”** Attendance included approximately 55 meeting participants, with strong participation in the technical sessions, tour, and banquet events.

Business Meeting and Section Activities

The meeting opened on Wednesday afternoon with the YPSW Annual Business Meeting, led by President Jenn Sahmel, PhD, CIH, CSP, FAIHA. Key agenda items included approval of the 2025 business meeting minutes, introduction of Executive Committee members, and a review of Executive Committee activities during 2025. The Section reported continued compliance with AIHA and IRS reporting requirements and welcomed four new members. The Secretary-Treasurer presented a financial report indicating the Section remains in strong fiscal condition, with meeting revenues and expenses closely aligned.

Elections were held in accordance with the YPSW Bylaws. Dave Roskelley, MSPH, CIH, CSP, FAIHA, assumed the position of President; Jenn Sahmel transitioned to Past President. The proposed slate of officers and directors was presented and approved by the membership. Plans and potential locations for the 2027 Annual Meeting were discussed, followed by member comments and adjournment.

Technical Program Overview

The technical sessions began Thursday morning with welcoming remarks and announcements from YPSW leadership, followed by an introduction to the program by Program Chair David Roskelley. The program was designed to provide historical context for TSCA, examine current EPA practices, and explore future directions for chemical risk assessment and management, with a particular emphasis on occupational exposure assessment and the role of industrial hygienists.

The opening presentation, delivered by Frank Hearl, PE, reviewed the origins and amendments of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, setting the stage for subsequent discussions on how TSCA has evolved and how it continues to shape chemical regulation in the United States. Josh Maskrey, CIH, followed with an in-depth review of EPA’s use of exposure modeling methods in TSCA risk evaluations, highlighting strengths, limitations, and areas for improvement.

Susan Arnold, PhD, CIH, FAIHA, then presented on the use of the Structured Deterministic Model (SDM) 2.0 to support TSCA risk evaluations, emphasizing transparency, reproducibility, and the importance of professional judgment in exposure modeling. The morning concluded with

a national update from AIHA leadership, including perspectives on government relations and issues of relevance to the industrial hygiene profession.

Technical Tour and Networking

Thursday afternoon featured a docent-led private tour of the USS *Midway* Museum. Participants had the opportunity to explore more than 80 years of naval aviation history aboard the historic aircraft carrier, providing a unique educational and networking experience in a setting closely tied to occupational safety, engineering, and operational risk management.

The evening concluded with a social event, followed by a special dinner cruise banquet celebrating the 51st anniversary of the YPSW Section. The banquet provided an opportunity for attendees to reconnect with colleagues, recognize the Section's history, and celebrate its continued contributions to the profession.

Friday Technical Sessions and Awards

Friday morning sessions resumed with a focus on the future of TSCA risk assessment. Fred Boelter, CIH, PE, BCEE, FAIHA, presented a forward-looking discussion on what lies behind and beyond the TSCA risk assessment horizon, exploring scientific, regulatory, and practical challenges. Charles Redinger, PhD, CIH, FAIHA, followed with a presentation on navigating chemical risk management in the context of materiality and decision-making.

Mid-morning included presentation of the George and Florence Clayton Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the industrial hygiene profession, followed by reflections on TSCA from 1976 to the present by John Howard, MD, Director of NIOSH. Dr. Howard's presentation provided a federal perspective on the evolution of chemical risk assessment and its implications for worker health.

The afternoon sessions focused on occupational exposure assessment under TSCA and contrasts between EPA approaches and traditional occupational health programs. Presentations by Renee Kalmes, MSPH, CIH, and Silvia Maberti, PhD, explored practical impacts on industrial hygienists and highlighted differences between regulatory risk evaluation frameworks and workplace exposure control practices.

The technical program concluded with a presentation on IH Grand Challenges and OHTA initiatives by Chris Laszcz-Davis, MS, CIH, COH, FAIHA, FAIC. The meeting closed with installation of new officers, passing of the gavel, and solicitation of topic ideas for the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Closing Remarks

The 51st Annual YPSW Meeting successfully combined historical perspective, technical depth, and forward-looking discussion on TSCA and occupational exposure assessment. The Executive

Committee thanks all speakers, attendees, and sponsors for their contributions and continued support of the YPSW Section and the industrial hygiene profession.