



ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

1660 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 / (202) 223-4885

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 29, 1975

Washington, D.C.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M., AIA/NA office, Washington, D.C. Present were:

F. J. Solon, Jr.	Johns-Manville Corporation, President AIA/NA
George Barge	Atlas Asbestos Company
A. H. Fay	National Gypsum Company
Joseph G. Hall	GAF Corporation
John H. Marsh	Raybestos-Manhattan, Incorporated
William C. Thurber	Union Carbide Corporation
R. H. Mereness	AIA/NA Executive Director

Absent:

Thomas A. Dougherty	Certain-teed Products Corporation
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Others:

Richard Davis	Partner, Frank C. Frantz & Co.
C. Fred Workman	Vice President, Nicolet Industries, Inc.

Minutes

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting, June 4, 1975, were approved as presented.

Financial Report

Mr. Davis of the Association's accounting firm, Frank C. Franz & Co., was present for the financial report. As of June 30, 1975 the Association had a cash balance of \$59,633 plus prepaid expenses, insurance, accounts receivable and short term investments of \$12,518 for a total of \$72,151. Total liabilities were \$29,637 for a net worth of \$42,514. It was noted that the Association's expenditures for the half year were within budget. An office theft on July 8 resulted in a loss of \$340.60 of which \$213.44 was reclaimed from insurance resulting in a net loss of \$127.16. It was agreed to continue the service of the Federal-State Reports, Inc. at an annual fee of \$500 less 10% for early payment. It was

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moved, seconded and approved that a formal audit of the Association's financial affairs would not be necessary at the end of year 1975. This action was taken in consideration of costs involved in obtaining an independent audit as the Association's accounting firm performs dues billings and therefore can not be considered independent. Further, it was advised that it is not customary practice for an Association of the size of AIA/NA to conduct annual audits if good accounting procedures are maintained.

The Committee agreed that the accounting firm would provide full financial statements only at the end of each quarter. Monthly print-out of receipts and expenditures will be provided. This action was considered prudent in order to permit a minimum accounting fee.

Mr. Davis advised that excess costs for accounting services at the half year amounted to \$700 over annual fee of \$5,000, due to extra work involved in changing the dues structure. He stated that reporting procedures (above) should permit a balancing out of costs so that the average could be absorbed within the \$5,000 annual fee.

Mr. Davis made a preliminary report on pension plans for AIA/NA staff and stated he would develop a paper on subject for distribution to the Executive Committee.

Report of the Executive Director

Federal-State Regulatory Activities -

OSHA - Amendments to standard are not expected to be published in Federal Register before mid-September earliest. No petitions have been received by OSHA to change 2 fiber standard effective July 1, 1976. A meeting with Harry Gilbert, project officer for asbestos standard, revealed an inter-government agency meeting was held mid-June on asbestos regulations to assure common approach to problems, to discuss research programs and to avoid duplication of government efforts. A report of the meeting will not be published but Gilbert said there was continuing concern about health implications of asbestos fiber. He said medical community simply does not have enough data on shape, length, diameter of "injurious" fibers, that sub-microscopic fibers may be causative agents of cancer. He spoke of controversy over talc. Gilbert announced he will retire from OSHA after 29 years of government service.

EPA - Promulgation of asbestos air emission standard is expected momentarily. Standard, now in inter-agency review, is expected to eliminate requirement for fencing and signs, unless disposal sites are active, and provide practical guidance for the disposal of small amounts of asbestos waste, among other considerations aimed at reasonable and practicable procedure.

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Department of Agriculture - The Animal and Plant Inspection Service has issued a field memorandum stating asbestos is not considered an acceptable material for product contact. Filters used in connection with hot oil for cooking products commonly contain an asbestos medium. Memorandum states meat and poultry plants may use asbestos containing filters until present supply is exhausted or until arrangements can be made to replace existing asbestos filtering systems. Association of Filter Manufacturers was informed of this action and is in consultation with Department.

States - Majority of state legislatures have adjourned for summer. Most recent states to cancel their plans are New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Wisconsin.

Congressional Activities - Repeal of Byrd amendment to Armed Forces Appropriation Act which would halt importation of Rhodesian fiber is not likely to reach House floor. Fenwick bill calling for release of government stockpiled asbestos will probably not come to vote. OSEA oversight hearings and Workmen's Compensation legislation (Williams-Javitts bill S.2018) were briefly reviewed.

Conference of International Asbestos Associations - Mr. Marsh distributed a report on the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Asbestos Information Conference held week of July 7 in London. A discussion followed. The Executive Director stated he had received an invoice from Mr. Alex Cross for payment of second half calendar year 1975 contribution, \$ 788. Payment was directed.

Meetings of Interest - Upcoming meetings of interest to members on asbestos and health were noted. Attendance of Association members at meetings of interest to the asbestos industry was urged. Mr. Solon emphasized need for early notification of meetings.

A letter from Robert Join in connection with U.S. representation at forthcoming medical conferences in Europe was read.

Federal Regulations Booklet - It was reported that the Association is moving forward with Government Research Corporation to produce a booklet containing federal regulations governing asbestos, hopefully to be ready for distribution at the annual meeting in September.

Industry-Government Conference - In the absence of Mr. Dougherty, the Executive Director reported on the Association's Industry-Government Conference scheduled Sept. 10-11. He said the program is reasonably complete with one or two speakers or panel members

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yet to be confirmed. Letters of invitation to members and guests will be forwarded the first week of August. The Committee was asked to comment on the prospective guest list and make recommendations. It was agreed that a charge for meals (estimated \$35.00) will be made for non-members attending the full Conference and reception as was done last year.

Activity Area Reports

. Standards and Technical - Mr. Marsh reported that preparation of first five work practice booklets are proceeding to final draft and review before publication. It was stated that the booklets should proceed though amendments to the OSHA standard can not be expected in final form before the new year. Mr. Mereness said he would request OSHA to review the pamphlets before publication, and that he was considering incorporating illustrations such as used by the British ARC in their work place literature. In discussing the need for practical up-to-date information on equipment in the work place to assist in compliance with the OSHA standard, such as vacuum systems, monitoring and measuring devices, bag openers, etc. Mr. Fay stated the Association might inquire as to availability of federal funds for studies into equipment, techniques and procedures, much as the government is investigating asbestos-health effects, to lead to simplifications, uniformity and reduction of costs to industry for research and development in these areas. Mr. Solon said that J-M's Research and Development Center is prepared for this kind of government contract work.

. Public Relations and Communications - Mr. Thurber commented on corrections to the Association's employee information booklet originally prepared by J-M noting that minor corrections to text would provide for accuracy in the areas of signs and caution labels on products. He said the pamphlet, "Asbestos in Water - A hazard to health?" should be published as soon as possible. Mr. Thurber commented that consideration might be given to publishing the recommended work practices submitted to OSHA in pamphlet form.

. Legal and Legislative - Mr. Hall stated he had no particular remarks on Legal and Legislative affairs but would like to call attention to the need for constant consideration of the small asbestos manufacturers' interests and concerns. He said the importance of simple, direct communications to members for full appreciation of the problems associated with asbestos and health for top management understanding of the problems and the work of the Association is needed. In discussion, it was recommended that periodic brief reports to member chief executives should be prepared by the staff noting problem areas, actions and accomplishments of the Association.

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. Inter-Intra Association Relations - Mr. Barge said he had nothing new to report over and above that presented by Mr. Marsh concerning the Conference of International Asbestos Associations.

Mr. Barge noted that there was no change in the Quebec strike situation, that many workers had found summer employment but efforts continue to resolve the issues.

. Financial and Membership - In the absence of Mr. Dougherty, no report, other than that of the Executive Director was made.

. Medical Program - Plant Physicians Seminar - Mr. Solon reviewed correspondence and discussions concerning a medical consultant or advisor for the Association. He said that Dr. George Wright, consultant to J-M and National Gypsum, had advised he could not take on the assignment due to pressures on his time. Mr. Solon said Dr. Wright has stated he thought the description of the work as presented by Messrs. Marsh and Mereness would require a full-time man which could be expensive and hard to find.

Mr. C. Fred Workman of Nicolet Industries was invited to sit-in on the discussion. Mr. Workman reviewed the interests of his company in the need for the Association to have a staff medical consultant. He said the need is now. He outlined his thoughts on the "job description". A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Hall said the Association needs a medical director or consultant that could provide guidance to plant physicians. He spoke of the "kind of information a plant physician should keep", frequency of health examinations, circumstances for removing a man from a given job, a health questionnaire for workers, guidance in reading x-rays, etc., as areas where the medical consultant would be of immeasurable value. Mr. Marsh, in answer to questions raised by Mr. Solon as to how long the need for medical consulting would be needed, said the problems will continue indefinitely, that organized labor is becoming deeply involved in the asbestos issue and that much has yet to be learned from medical science and for implementation of procedures in the work place. Mr. Fay spoke of defining the consultant-advisors role in terms of his assistance to individual companies and the industry at large. He said in over-all considerations for medical expertise we must recognize law suits and compensation and the medical problems therein involved. He spoke on his agreement with the remarks of Mr. Hall, and the comments of Messrs. Marsh and Mereness on the functions of the consultant-advisor. Names of possible physicians for the position and remuneration were discussed. Mr. Solon summed up the commentary and requested Messrs. Marsh and Workman to serve with him to meet with Dr. Hans Weil and perhaps others as soon as possible to find a solution to this order of business. He said the Committee would be kept fully informed of progress and that he hoped for completed arrangements for a report at the annual meeting. It was noted that it would be most beneficial to all concerned if the prospective consultant could be present to participate in the Industry-Government Conference.

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Mr. Solon said that Dr. Paul Kotin of J-M had indicated he might be able to assist the Association in a plant physician seminar the week of November 3. Mr. Solon asked the Committee to consider the agenda for such a meeting and indicate to him how many physicians might attend at their company's expense.

. Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Committee was set for 4:00 P.M. September 9 in Washington prior to the meeting of directors, annual meeting and Industry-Government Conference at a location to be advised.

. Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 P.M.


R. H. Mereness
Executive Director

4 August 1975

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