



WORKERS' INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

MAIN OFFICE: 271 EAST STATE STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 - 614/224-82

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1126 16th St., Washington, D.C. 20036 - 202/463

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

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OFFICE OF:
GEORGE M. PARKER, PRES.

DATE: November 4, 1980

TO: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: WARREN SMITH

RE: PROGRESS REPORT

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In the time since the Board met in late July, we have been able to firm up the financial base for the Institute, and also significantly strengthen the administrative leadership.

Our first major educational program was held in Park City, Utah in early September. With support from the Communication Workers, Carpenters, Operating Engineers, and the Industrial Union Department, a workshop on the health hazards of microwaves, lasers and heat frequency sealers witnessed the active participation of about 100 representatives from many unions throughout the country. This workshop has received considerable interest, and a book on the subject is being prepared as the first publication of the Institute. At least one additional workshop will be held as a follow-up. One of the outcomes of the workshop is a joint WISH/IUD/Mt. Sinai research project headed by Dr. Arthur Frank.

On August 1, a \$106,000 grant from the OSHA New Directions Program was made operational. This grant will be used for union based community organizing in Ohio, a pilot program for media and development of an institutional capability for health and safety for five years. Vernon McDougall, who has served as Director of the Paperworkers' OSH Project, has accepted the nomination to serve as Project Director.

On August 15, a \$224,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute was awarded, with second year funding in the same amount. The final figure added \$7,000 that which was originally approved. This grant will be used to develop a trade union approach to helping workers who have a high cancer risk because of having worked in a hazardous workplace in the past. Provided that we are effective during the first two years, we can expect long-term funding from NCI. Knut Ringen serves as Project Director.

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Finally, on September 30, IUD President Howard Samuel signed on behalf of the Institute a one million dollar contract with the Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. This three year contract will develop worker compensation training manuals and programs in seven states. Each State Federation will sponsor the program with the intent of creating on-going, self-sustaining annual training sessions in their states. Ed Bergin, on loan from the Secretary's Office, Department of Labor, will direct the implementation of this program.

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Memorandum to Board of Trustees
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As of August 1, we have negotiated a provisional indirect cost rate of 26% computed on the basis of all total direct grant costs. With this rate, the Institute now has a total annual operating budget of approximately \$775,000 in governmental grants. In view of this rapid pace of expansion, we have found it necessary to contract with the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand to develop an accounting/financial management system that meets all government requirements for the handling of Federal grants and contracts. As soon as this system is in place and operating effectively, we will prepare monthly financial summaries for the Board. Our books will be audited annually at the end of the calendar year, also by Coopers & Lybrand. Coopers & Lybrand is the nation's largest accounting firm and has specialty services relating to government contracting.

Because of the expansion rate of the Institute, we have decided that it is necessary to appoint an executive director who is capable of administering complex programs, and who also has a solid labor union background. At the last Board meeting we reported that Dr. Chris Wheeler was elected as administrator of the Institute. Shortly afterwards he was offered a full professorship at Michigan State University in his field of expertise, which was an offer he could not refuse. It was decided to abolish the administrator's position and fill the position of executive director instead. Originally, we intended to leave this position unfilled. With the position of executive director, we recognize the need for a strong central leadership to ensure proper accountability. It was decided to seek a trade unionist to fill this position so that the unique labor orientation of the Institute would be maintained. We also decided to centralize operations in Washington.

I am extremely pleased to inform you that Joe Velasquez has accepted our nomination to serve as acting executive director as of October 4 and until such time as the Board formally approves this nomination. Joe has a unique experience that makes him the ideal executive director for the Institute and I attach his resume for your information. He is educated as a safety specialist from Indiana State University, and was on the staff of the UAW for many years. Subsequently, he was with the State of Ohio Department of Industrial Relations and then was a member of the faculty of the Labor Education and Research service of Ohio State University. For the last three years he has been Special Assistant to Eula Bingham at OSHA, where he has been instrumental in vastly strengthening OSHA's commitment to its labor constituency.

With Joe Velasquez's nomination, we anticipate that the Institute will take a central place in safety and health in the labor movement. Through his nomination we expect to see the Institute develop rapidly and in ways that will accurately reflect the concern and interests of the Board of Trustees and the trade unions movement. I am sure that you share my excitement about this nomination.

At the last Board meeting, Sheldon Samuels noted that he would resign as program director at the time of appointment of an executive director. In response to his decision, I now nominate him to become the research director of the Institute reporting directly to the Chairman of the Program Committee. This action reflects our effort to strengthen the scientific programs as opposed to demonstration programs. The Program Development Committee of the Board, chaired by Howard Samuel, will remain in effect.

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Memorandum to Board of Trustees
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Also attached, please find draft minutes for the last Board meeting. Approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting, the date for which will be announced in the near future.

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Employment
1978

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Labor

Served as Labor Liaison for the Assistant Secretary and was the primary conduit between the administration and the nation's trade unions, the labor legislative representatives, and the state labor bodies. Advocate for workers' rights on policy matters within the administration.

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1976-1978

UAW, INTERNATIONAL UNION
International Representative

Represented and assisted UAW members on health and safety issues. Advised members on hazard control techniques. Conducted training seminars on health and safety issues. Acted as technical advisor for collective bargaining.

1975-1976

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH SERVICE
Associate Director for the OSHA Project

Directed development of a hazard recognition audio-visual program for workers under a contract with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Conducted worker education programs on health and safety.

1974-1975

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO, DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE
Director of Education and Training

Administered the State of Ohio's safety and health education and training programs, the commission's worker compensation statistical program, and the public information program.

1972-1974

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, STATE OF OHIO
OSHA Program Administrator

Supervised the State of Ohio's occupational safety and health enforcement program under a contract with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Established and implemented program guidelines, personnel requirements, job descriptions, and the budget. Staffed and equipped the industrial hygiene program and laboratory services.

1970-1972

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Compliance Officer

Enforced the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; inspected a wide-range of industrial and construction operations. Instructed at the OSHA Training Institute.

1964-1970

INLAND STEEL COMPANY - Student

Member, USWA Local Union 1010

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Education
1970-Degree

Bachelor of Science, Safety Management, Indiana State University,
Terre Haute, Indiana

WISH WORKERS' INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

MAIN OFFICE: 271 EAST STATE STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 - 614/224-82

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1126 16th St., Washington, D.C. 20036 - 202/462

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 22, 1980

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Introduction

The second meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Workers' Institute for Safety and Health was called to order by Warren J. Smith, Chairman, on Tuesday, July 22, 1980 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Council Room of the AFL-CIO Building, 815 16th Street, Washington, D.C.

After the Secretary noted that a quorum was present (list of attendance in Attachment 1), a slide presentation on the history, current status and projected programs was given by Ed Bergin, Director of WISH's Workers' Compensation Program.

Program Overview

Sheldon Samuels, who has acted as Director of the Institute during the first year while programs were in development, then gave an overview of WISH's program structure (detailed in Attachment 2).

He noted that WISH is a freestanding part of the labor movement, and that until it has been proven to be effective, it will remain subject to scepticism and critical appraisal. He also said that its structure has been designed in such a way that WISH does not compete with labor unions for funds from OSHA. WISH is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation that competes for funds with universities and other community groups that fall in a different category from the unions.

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Mr. Samuels also noted the unique role contemplated for WISH's Scientific Advisory Committee, which will ensure that programs are of the highest quality. He singled out the work of one member, C. J. Slanicka, who has participated very actively in helping us get WISH off the ground. The two other members of the Committee, Dr. Irving Selikoff, and Dr. Joyce McCann, also have provide a valuable assistance. He said that Dr. Marvin Schneiderman will join the Institute in September as Scientific Director. Schneiderman just retired from the position of Senior Scientist at the National Cancer Institute, and is recognized as one of the nation's leading epidemiologists/statisticians.

He noted that the high risk program remains the central focus of the Institute. However, he also pointed out that strong expectations have been raised about the likely failure of this effort. The National Cancer Institute has provided two year funding, only, instead of the three years expected, which would make completion of the program objections extremely difficult.

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At this time, this project will focus on the beta-naphthylamine exposed to non-union workers in Augusta, Georgia, who have a very high bladder cancer risk. Also included are the members of the Pattern Makers' League of North America. (See discussion below). With support from the IUD, CWA, Operating Engineers and the Carpenters, WISH is preparing a work book and will conduct workshops on microwave and laser radiation for up to 150 labor union representatives. The first workshop will be held in Salt Lake City in September, and based on results from the workshop a series of regional workshops will be held around the country. The focus of this effort will be methods that workers can use to recognize and prevent possible health hazards.

It is expected that the program of community organizing for occupational safety and health in the Ohio Valley will begin in early fall. Additionally, we have in preparation a major program of workers compensation training in conjunction with 6 state labor federations. This program, to begin in August or September, will attempt to replicate the very successful model that the Ohio AFL/CIO has developed for worker representatives in Ohio.

He also reported that a project for "deprived" populations was in planning. The term "deprived" had been proposed by HHS Secretary Patricia Harris at an IUD meeting last fall, and refers to geographic regions where medical services for workers are highly inadequate or non-existing.

Additional programs in early planning stages include a stress research project. Mr. Samuels noted that this is the most "abstract" research program proposed at this time.

As the Institute gains a full-time administrator this fall, Samuels expressed the hope that we would be able to get on with the development of a program to provide specialized training in occupational health for labor union staff, as well as the creation of a "scholar in residence" program for leading scientists.

Pattern Makers' Project

Warren Smith then asked Knut Ringen to review the proposed project with the Pattern Makers League, which he described as a useful example of how WISH can be of major service to internationals.

Dr. Ringen said that three studies were reported this spring indicating that wood pattern and model makers have higher cancer risks than in the general population. On May 9, 1980, the League had contacted WISH through OSHA to set up a worker education and medical surveillance program for the 10,000 members. After discussions with the researchers who prepared the report, WISH invited the participation of the Ohio State Labor Education and Research Service and the Yale University Occupational Medical Program, both of which agreed to participate.

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A meeting was held with regional vice presidents of the League at Ohio State University on July 8 and 9, where the medical problems and a plan of action were discussed. As a result a three-pronged program is in preparation: 1) worker and family education; 2) medical surveillance, and 3) detailed epidemiologic research. Ohio State will take primary responsibility for part 1; Yale for part 2; and WISH for part 3. Additionally, WISH will work with the League to coordinate the project and to ensure the quality of the program. We are now preparing a special funding proposal for submission to OSHA for this project.

Financial Status

Warren J. Smith reported on the financial status of the Institute. He noted that unanticipated delays in receiving approved or expected grants had resulted in a deficit for the Institute that could reach as much as \$20,000. He suggested, however, that the deficit could be offset by overhead on grants when they begin. He also said that a fund raising dinner scheduled for December would help cover the deficit. He then reported the current status of program grants.

- A total of \$20,000 has been provided by the IUD, CWA, Operating Engineers and Carpenters for microwaves and laser radiation
- NCI High Risk grant was approved on May 22, 1980, for funding no later than August 15th. First year is for \$220,000 plus overhead (to be negotiated). Second year funding is for \$230,000 direct cost.
- A Workers' Compensation Training Contract is expected to be approved by Employment Standard Administration in the Labor Department by August 15. First year is for \$369,000, and second and third year are for \$250,000 each.
- The OSHA New Directions grant has been forwarded to the White House by OSHA for announcement. First year funding is for \$120,000 with likely multi-year renewal. This grant is for competency building, with the intent of eventually being supplanted by self-generated WISH funds.
- The National Institutes for Mental Health (NIMH) has agreed to provide approximately \$30,000 in 1980 for research on the psycho-social effects high risk groups.
- A contract with NIOSH for additional funding for high risk is currently stalled because of administrative review, but is expected to be approved eventually.

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This presentation was followed by an extensive discussion. Conclusions reached included:

1. President Turner said that the major internationals will have to provide major support for the Institute. This had been the intent when the idea of the Institute had been raised within the AFL/CIO in

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the early 1970s. He suggested, however, that we prove ourselves through completion of projects before requesting this kind of support. This was agreed to.

2. President Samuel and Fred Hoehler raised the idea of Foundation support. It was noted that staff had undertaken a limited review of likely sources, and had found that the most likely ones were Kellogg, McArthur (Chicago), and Johnson. Samuels said that he had discussed this with Basil Whiting and felt that Ford would be a good prospect. Ford had expressed a strong interest in supporting a Workers' Institute a number of years back, provided that matching funds were supplied by the Unions. Staff was instructed to explore this possibility further, and that this should be a major focus for the full-time administrator, when appointed.

Appointments

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Warren Smith reported that due to time pressures in obtaining tax exempt status, the Institute's Code of Regulations had to be adopted by telephone ballot last February. This procedure has also been used to appoint new members to the Board of Trustees in May. In either case there were no objections to the procedure or to the issue. To ensure correct procedure, Warren Smith requested a second approval of these matters by the Board in session. Formal approval by the Board was made on a motion from J.C. Turner.

Elmer Chatak, Secretary-Treasurer of the IUD, was nominated to the Board by Warren Smith, seconded by Fred Hoehler, and approved unanimously.

To expedite financial management, Jacob Clayman was nominated as Treasurer by Howard Samuel, seconded by J. C. Turner, and approved unanimously. It was agreed that the chairman and treasurer would determine the best possible method for financial control in accordance with federal rules and regulations, including the possibility of centralizing operations and accounting in Washington, D.C.

Knut Ringen was appointed unanimously as Secretary of the Board.

Chris Wheeler, on a resolution offered by Sheldon Samuels, was approved as Administrator.

Sheldon Samuels was nominated as Program Director by Warren Smith, seconded by J. C. Turner and approved unanimously.

Warren Smith nominated the following Operating Committee for the Institute, which was second by George Parker and approved unanimously:

Warren Smith, Chairman
Fred Hoehler
William Lucy

Howard Samuel
Sheldon Samuels

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Fund Raising

Sheldon Samuels introduced the subject of a first annual meeting for WISH, to be held in Washington in December and focused on recent developments with asbestos as a hazard to the worker. He noted that 90% of the population now knows about asbestos, and that the subject should receive widespread attention. The meeting, which would be a one day affair, would be followed by a fund raising dinner in the evening.

Jacob Clayman hoped that the subject of the meeting would be broader than asbestos hazards, to which Samuels replied that it would include a discussion of workers' compensation, the effort to destroy the OSH Act, etc. Asbestos would be used as a good concrete example to illustrate all the major problems that American workers have in the area of occupational health.

George Perkel has agreed to head a Planning Committee for the meeting. He said that it was too early to outline the details of the program and that the results of national elections could change the focus. Other members of the Committee are:

Steve McDougal, Teamsters	Roy Steinforth, Asbestos Workers
Mike Woods, Boiler Makers	Joe Velasquez, OSHA
Frank Mirer, UAW	

The theme of the meeting and the Planning Committee were unanimously approved.

Warren Smith proposed that the evening dinner could honor one of the strongest OSHA supporters in Congress, Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio. This suggestion was adopted enthusiastically.

Both Jacob Clayman and Howard Samuel agreed that if early notice were given, a sum in excess of \$25,000 could be raised easily with the dinner, which would take care of the current deficit.

Warren Smith then proposed December 3, 1980 as the date for the meeting and the dinner, and this was adopted pending a survey to determine that there are no scheduling conflicts.

Jacob Clayman then nominated J. C. Turner as Chairman of the dinner committee which was seconded by Elmer Chatak and George Parker and approved unanimously. It was agreed that President Turner would appoint the other members of the committee, and the staff was instructed to begin arrangements immediately.

George Perkel expressed hope that this function could be coordinated in some way with the Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (SOEH) and Sheldon Samuels replied that he would explore the availability of SOEH's mailing list, etc., in cooperation with George Taylor, a current member of SOEH's Board.

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Warren Smith
at 12:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

KNUT RINGEN
Board Secretary
July 24, 1980

Attachments

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WORKERS' INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

MAIN OFFICE: 271 EAST STATE STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 - 614/224-8

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1126 16th St., Washington, D.C. 20036 - 202/46.

WORKERS' INSTITUTE FOR SAFETY & HEALTH

Board Meeting
815 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC

IUD Board Room
July 22, 1980
10:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

EXPECTED ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Warren J. Smith, Chairman

*Peter Bommarito
*Francis Burkhardt
Jacob Clayman
*David Fitzmaurice
Fred Hoehler
*Keith Johnson
*Odessa Komer
*William Lucy
*Joseph Odorcich

George M. Parker
George Perkel
Howard Samuel
Sheldon Samuels
*Leonard Smith
George Taylor
J. C. Turner
*William Winpisinger

Invited Guests

Lou Beliczky (representative for Peter Bommarito), United Rubber, Cork,
Linoleum & Plastic Workers of America
Bill Gary (representative for David Fitzmaurice), International Union of
Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers
Ben Hill, International Union of Operating Engineers
*James Wolfe, International Molders & Allied Trades Union

Staff

Knut Ringen, Board Secretary
Ed Bergin, Project Director, Workers' Compensation
Paul Addis, Research Associate, High Risk Projects
Chris Wheeler, Administrator
Harry Heimann, Senior Medical Advisor
Ray McClure, Senior Industrial Hygienist

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*Unable to attend.

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