

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

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VPPPA would like to wish everyone happy holidays and a safe and joyous new year!

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Renew Your Membership!

We appreciate your support throughout the year; it allowed us to accomplish some very special things, including the success of this year's national conference, our most enriching conference experience to date! We ask for your continued support by renewing your membership for another year.

Prime member contacts who have not yet renewed for 2016 were emailed their membership invoice this week. Also, in

January, a hard copy of the invoice will be

mailed out. Members who joined in 2015 will receive their invoice on their anniversary date.



[Patient Handling Bill](#)
[Introduced](#)
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To renew your membership, visit our [website](#), or if you have questions, contact VPPPA's Membership Department by email at membership@vpppa.org or by calling (703) 761-1146.

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Connect with Us



Donate to VPPPA's Scholarship Fund

Support the next generation of safety and health professionals by [donating](#) to VPPPA's scholarship fund. VPPPA's scholarships are for members and their families, and are provided to deserving students pursuing a career in the safety, health or environmental fields.

Donating is easy, [click here](#) to complete the donation form now! All donations are tax deductible, and go toward the scholarships below:

- June Brothers Scholarship
- Stephen Brown Scholarship
- William "Sully" Scholarship



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Submit Conference Workshop Proposals!

Want the chance to present at VPPPA's national conference? If you're passionate and knowledgeable about a safety and health topic, this is your opportunity to share crucial information and guidance with other worksites across the country.

Submit a proposal to present a workshop at the 32nd Annual National VPPPA Safety & Health Conference, Aug. 29-September 1, 2016, in Kissimmee, FL.

If you have a topic you would like to share with the VPPPA community, submit your proposal(s) online, by Feb. 12, 2016. Chosen speakers will be notified by the end of March 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact the Conference & Education Department by calling (703) 761-1146 or you can email conference@vpppa.org.



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Preventing Workplace Violence in Healthcare

It may not be obvious to those outside the industry, but healthcare workers are prone to workplace violence. Delirious patients who are under the influence of medication, or patients with a history of violence, are common sources of the harm. According to OSHA, from 2002 to 2013, the rate of serious workplace violence incidents (those requiring days off for an injured worker to recuperate) was more than four times greater in healthcare than in private industry on average.

Although OSHA already has "[Guidelines](#) for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers" in place, it has developed additional resources and tools to further aid healthcare facilities in keeping workers safe.



Check out the extended [tools and resources](#) on OSHA's website.

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OSHA Seeks Comments by Jan. 19

There's only one month left to submit your comments to OSHA's [draft document](#), "Protecting Whistleblowers: Recommended Practices for Employers for Preventing and Addressing Retaliation." According to OSHA, the draft document is "intended to help employers develop a program to protect employees from retaliation when they raise concerns about workplace conditions or activities that could harm workers or members of the public."

Submit your comments by Jan. 19, 2016 to www.regulations.gov using the docket number OSHA-2015-0025. OSHA will consider all comments when preparing the final document for issuance.



Please note that all comments will be publicly posted as written; do not submit personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers and birthdates. For more information, see the [OSHA News Release](#).

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OSHA's Updated Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is seeking public comment for an updated version of its voluntary Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines (OSHA-2015-0018).

The [draft document](#) will help provide employers and workers with a sound, flexible framework for addressing safety and health issues in the workplace. What's New in the Guidelines:

- A proactive approach to finding and fixing hazards before they cause injury, illness or death
- Improved safety and health in all types of workplaces
- Help for small and medium-sized businesses to effectively protect their workers
- Increase worker involvement, so all workers have a voice in workplace safety and health
- Better communication and coordination on multi-employer worksites



[Submit your comments](#) by February 15, 2016.

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On The Level is prepared by VPPPA's Communications Department. These reports are for the use of VPPPA members ONLY.

VPPPA, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, promotes advances in worker safety and health excellence through best practices and cooperative efforts among workers, employers, the government and communities.

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