

ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

On The Level - October 2015

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

[National VPPPA Congressional Outreach](#)
Email by Oct. 21

[Call For Director-At-Large Nominations](#)
Due Oct. 23

[VPPPA's Got Talent Submission Deadline](#)
Dec. 4

Safety & Health News Round-Up

[OSHA Changes Inspection Strategies](#)
(DOL)

[Slight Increase in Worker Fatalities in 2014](#)
(DOL)
-[Full Report](#) (BLS)

[Comment Period for Injury Reporting Proposed Rule Extended](#)
(OSHA)

[New Infectious Disease Prevention Epicenters Announced](#)
(OH&S)

[G7 Declaration on Supply Chains to Protect Worker](#)



In This Issue

October

[National Preparedness Month](#)

[One Week Left For Director-at-Large Nominations](#)

["VPPPA's Got Talent" is Back!](#)

[Join Our National Congressional Outreach!](#)

MSHA Initiative

Did you know that October is the deadliest month of the year in the metal and nonmetal mining industries?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), there have been 51 fatalities in the month since 2000. The majority of deaths involved powered haulage and machinery accidents at a time when mines prepare for seasonal changes. MSHA explains that as the weather cools, mining operations prepare to shut down many activities and disassemble portable plants. During the transition, miners have a tendency to engage in new or unfamiliar tasks, operating equipment they don't have a lot of experience using.

MSHA launched a safety initiative that includes enhanced enforcement, education and outreach, such as informational "walk

Connect with Us



and talks" by federal inspectors at mine sites.

MSHA's suggested best practices include:

- * Identify hazards through effective workplace exams
- * Control hazards through detailed work plan
- * Provide effective task training based on work plan
- * Lock out and block equipment against hazardous motion
- * Provide necessary PPE



"MSHA's heightened vigilance during this period will focus additional resources on preventing accidents at both intermittent and full-time mining operations, and we will look hard for the conditions that have led to mining deaths," said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health.

For more information visit [USDOL's page](#).

[-Back to Contents-](#)

One Week Left For Director-at-Large Nominations

There's only one more week to nominate yourself for the vacant [Director-at-Large position!](#) This is a chance to play a key role in helping the association achieve new levels of success! In the position, you'll have the opportunity to advance the mission of VPPPA, help shape the 2016 agenda and give your input on how VPPPA can continue to improve. The National Board of Directors will appoint a qualified candidate at the November Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for the director-at-large position on the VPPPA National Board of Directors, please complete the [nominations form](#) and the management commitment letter found in the document.



[Click here](#) to see the requirements, duties, obligations and responsibilities.

Send your completed documents by **October 23** to the 2015 Nominating Committee Liaison, Sarah Neely at sneely@vpppa.org.

[-Back to Contents-](#)

VPPPA's Got Talent is Back!

This past year, we introduced "VPPPA's Got Talent" and it was such a huge success that we're bringing it back! Not only did we receive many quality submissions, but the winner of the contest, Annette Eaves, started the national conference on a high-note by performing a heartwarming rendition of the National Anthem, during the 31st Annual National VPPPA Safety & Health Conference's Opening General Session.

We want to showcase our members' singing skills at the 32nd conference in Kissimmee, FL, August 29 - September 1, 2016! VPPPA will once again be taking auditions from our members to sing the National Anthem during the Opening General Session at the Gaylord Palms. The winner will receive a complimentary conference registration, lodging at the Gaylord Palms, and round-trip airfare to the conference. Submit entries and questions to membership@vpppa.org or contact the Membership Department at (703) 761-1146.

Here's how to Enter:

Submit a 90 second clip via YouTube, Dropbox or CD by Dec. 4, 2015, to be considered. For the first round, participants may sing any song they choose. The judges will narrow down the entries to a top five and then, it'll all be in your hands! The top five contestants will be asked to submit a clip of themselves singing the National Anthem which will then be posted on YouTube for voting. Members will vote for the top five finalists and the winner will be determined by who has the most likes at the end of the voting period.



- * Submissions: Now through 12/4/15
- * Five Finalists Chosen: 12/11/15
- * Voting Period: 2/1/16 - 2/26/16

The rules and requirements to enter this competition can be found [on our website](#).

[-Back to Contents-](#)

Join Our National Congressional Outreach!

On November 18-19, VPPPA members from across the country will meet with congressional offices in Washington, D.C., to speak up for VPP and show that safety does not have a political party.

Don't pass up this chance to make your voice heard! We'll provide training and materials for these visits - all you need is your passion for VPP. If you are interested in taking part, contact Charlie Doss at cdoss@vpppa.org by October 21. Please note that these visits follow the National VPPPA Board of Directors meeting on November 17.

[-Back to Contents-](#)

A dark blue banner with a grid of green and blue squares on the left and right sides. The text is white. On the left, it says "VPPPA" in large letters, followed by "7600-E Leesburg Pike, Suite 100" and "Falls Church, VA 22043". On the right, it says "www.vpppa.org" and "(703) 761-1146".

VPPPA
7600-E Leesburg Pike, Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22043

www.vpppa.org
(703) 761-1146

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.

To unsubscribe, send an email with REMOVE in the subject line to Communications@vpppa.org.

| Phone: (703) 761-1146 | Fax: (703) 761-1148 |

7600 E-Leesburg Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22043