

# ON THE LEVEL

◊ BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS ◊

On The Level - April 2020



VPPPA Members Receive a  
10% Tuition Discount



## Upcoming Events & Deadlines

[Membership Renewal](#)  
Now

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## Safety & Health News Round-Up

[OSHA allowing all employers to suspend annual respirator fit testing](#)  
(Safety+Health)

[6 Ways to Keep Package Delivery Workers Safe and Healthy](#)  
(EHS Today)

[OSHA to focus inspections on imminent danger sites](#)  
(ISHN)

[Air Pollution Linked to High Coronavirus Death Rates](#)  
(OH&S)



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## Nominate A Hero

It's a chaotic time and it's easy to feel a bit helpless. But you are not alone. You are part of a community: the VPPPA community. In this community, we help each other.

**That's why, we're offering a chance to brighten someone's day with a gift card.**

Do you know a hero? Healthcare workers, frontline workers, someone who lost their job or was furloughed, people in uniform, someone volunteering their time or money to help. The world is full of good. Let's spread a little more.

Send an email to [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org) and tell us **who** you would like to nominate and **why**. We'll take care of the rest! **#VPPPAStrong**

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## Free Resources and Coupons for VPPPA Members

### **Affiliate Member Content Library**

The VPPPA aims to share all of the helpful resources we can among our network, especially during this pandemic. Our awesome Affiliate Members have shared this important content with us, and we will continuously be adding to this listing. From teleworking tips to videos about leadership during a crisis, this page has tons of great resources. [Click here to check out the content library.](#)

### **Member Deals Page**

As a member of VPPPA, we connect you with top of the line safety and health vendors that are passionate about helping you find solutions to your on the job safety concerns. These companies fall under our "affiliate member" category. On this page you'll find deals and product information from some of our affiliate members. [Click here to download member coupons.](#)

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## Behavioral Health Q&A Column - April 2020

VPPPA has partnered with experts at MindWise Innovations to present a monthly Q&A article addressing questions that members might be hesitant to ask about. These columns will address your questions about mental health, substance abuse, brain injuries, family issues and more. You can read the column for April, [here](#).



This month's [article](#) covers the following questions:

- How should businesses communicate the importance of mental health to their employees during the COVID-19 crisis?
- For those of us trying to support someone struggling during social distancing, can FaceTime and video conferencing be just as effective as in-person interactions?
- What are some basic coping strategies that you recommend?

**New this month - the submission form is open! To submit your own question (your information will not be shared), [fill out this form.](#)**

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## After a Pandemic - How Can Employers Prepare for a Post-COVID-19 Workplace

On May 19, EHS Today is hosting a **free** webinar called: "After a Pandemic - How Can Employers Prepare for a Post-COVID-19 Workplace." The spread of the novel Coronavirus may diminish soon, requiring employers to begin reopening their businesses and welcoming back employees. Employers need to be ready to confront the issues concerning a post-pandemic workplace. Business guidance and legal requirements are changing rapidly. This webinar will discuss changes implemented that employers must be ready for in the coming weeks. This webinar

session will cover:

- Navigating the End of Shelter in Place Orders and when employees come back to work.
- Issues concerning safety of employees.
- How the workplace will change after COVID-19 retreats.
- What potential legal claims employers could face.

**[Register here!](#)**

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## OSHA & CDC Updates Regarding COVID-19

OSHA published this [Interim Enforcement Response Plan for Coronavirus Disease](#), which provides instructions and guidance to Area Offices and compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) for handling COVID-19-related complaints, referrals, and severe illness reports. The scope of this guidance covers all investigations and inspections specifically related to the workplace hazard of SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2), which is the virus causing the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Attached to this memorandum are specific enforcement procedures ( [Attachment 1](#)); a sample employer letter for COVID-19 activities ([Attachment 2](#)); a sample hazard alert letter ([Attachment 3](#)); a sample alleged violation description for a citation under the general duty clause, Section 5(a)(1), of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act ([Attachment 4](#)); and additional references, including OSHA's prior COVID-19-related enforcement memoranda ([Attachment 5](#)).

### **Whistleblower Stakeholder Meeting**

OSHA announced a public meeting to solicit comments and suggestions from stakeholders on issues facing the agency in the administration of the whistleblower laws it enforces. On March 13, 2020, OSHA [published a notice](#) announcing a stakeholder meeting on **May 12, 2020**. Yesterday, OSHA [published a notice](#) announcing that the meeting will now be held only via telephone. There will be no in-person participation option, and participants must pre-register for this meeting. If you wish to attend the public meeting, you must [register here](#) by close of business on **May 5, 2020**. A call-in number will be sent to you upon registration.

### **VPPPA Body of Knowledge Mobile App Resources**

The VPPPA Body of Knowledge mobile app includes many useful links regarding COVID-19. You can find CDC guidance for businesses, employers, home isolation updates and screening questions. Look under the Global Health Resource icon for these links. To download the VPPPA Body of Knowledge mobile app, search for "VPPPA" in your phone's app store.

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## Ways to Get Involved in VPPPA

### **Join the VPPPA National Board of Directors**

There is still time to submit your nominations for the VPPPA National Board of Directors. Joining the National Board of Directors is a great way to get more involved in the association.

This year there are several open positions, including:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Director from a Site without a Collective Bargaining Agent
- Director from a VPP Contractor/Construction Site
- Director-at-Large (three positions available)

Each position has a term of two years, beginning at the end of the 2020 Safety+ Symposium and terminating at the 2022 Safety+ Symposium.

To read election requirements, duties of a board member, election protocols and find the nominations forms, [click here](#).

**Submission Deadline: May 29, 2020**  
**Eligible candidates will be notified by June 9, 2020.**

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### **VPPPA Scholarships and Awards**

VPPPA's scholarships and awards are a great way to get involved in the association. Every year, VPPPA is proud to bestow three annual awards to member sites and individuals who go above and beyond in their efforts to improve safety and health for the workforce. VPPPA also provides four scholarships to VPPPA employees and their children who are pursuing degrees in the safety, health and environmental fields.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the VPPPA Annual Awards and Scholarships. The deadline for submissions is May 29, 2020.

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## **Association Announcements**

### **Write for a VPPPA Publication**

Have you checked out the [VPPPA Blog?](#) Send us an article regarding any safety or health topic, and we will consider adding it to our blog schedule.

If you would like to write for a VPPPA publication, or know of someone who is interested, please email [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Membership News**

If you have any news or pictures from your site that you would like to share (an award, a VPP approval, a member who went above and beyond, etc.), please send it to [communications@vpppa.org](mailto:communications@vpppa.org). We would love to add your updates to the next On The Level newsletter or post it on our social media pages.

### **Member of the Month**

Make sure you visit the [Member of the Month](#) section on our website? If you would like to nominate someone as the VPPPA Member of the Month, please fill out our [nominations form](#) and email it to [membership@vpppa.org](mailto:membership@vpppa.org).

**The April Member of the Month is Ricky Lautzenheiser! You can read about Ricky, [here](#).**

Congratulations, Ricky!



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

**www.vpppa.org**  
(703) 761-1146

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[www.vpppa.org](http://www.vpppa.org) | Phone: (703) 761-1146 | Fax: (703) 761-1148 |  
7600-E Leesburg Pike, Suite 100  
Falls Church, VA 22043