State of the Organization: A Look at the Year Ahead

This has been a year to remember for EHCMA! In 2016, EHCMA’s 3rd Annual Workforce Development Tournament broke a record for proceeds raised, EHCMA helped launch PetrochemWorks.com, extended its reach on social media and much more. Below are some exciting updates from the third quarter:

• Thank you to our 3rd Annual Workforce Development Golf Tournament sponsors who helped us raise $500,000 for student scholarships and technical programs at San Jacinto, Lee and Houston Community Colleges. A huge thanks to Prentice Wilson and everyone who helped make this year’s tournament as successful and smooth as it was. Read more about October’s tournament here.

• In October, the Deer Park community lost a dear friend to many, Roy Roberts. Roy was one of Deer Park Community Advisory Council’s (CAC) most involved members and was often known as “Mr. Deer Park.” Read more about Roy, his achievements and how dearly he will be missed here.

• The Legislative Committee continues to meet with elected officials in preparation for the 2017 legislative session, specifically around the coastal spine project, chemical safety, air quality and transportation. The committee is also keeping EHCMA members up to date on risk management planning, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), process safety analysis and public information on the storage, manufacturing and transportation of chemicals.

• EHCMA’s Craig Beskid and Texas Chemical Council (TCC)’s Hector Rivero recently presented their aligned stance on their support of the coastal spine project to the Texas House of Representatives in Austin. To see Craig’s full testimony, watch the video here starting at 2:45:30.

• Workforce Development Committee members attended the Greater Houston Area Membership Breakfast on November 11 where Roy Watson spoke to the group about the collaboration and goals of the partnership between EHCMA and Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston (ABC).

• EHCMA and ABC also sent letters to state officials asking for support of the Perkins Act (HR 5587) to strengthen career and technical education.

• A 2017 industry survey of hiring and workforce needs of the owner and industrial contractor community was recently created. The results of the survey will be analyzed to potentially expand training programs. Separate electric onboarding surveys were also distributed in October, one for contractors and one for owners.
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- Logistics and Transportation Committee members met with the Port of Houston, local mayors and the Economic Alliance about infrastructure improvements needed, the implementation of Texas Port Transportation Corridors and extending the hours of operation at the Port of Houston container terminals. The Economic Alliance Port Region Transportation Stakeholders Meeting (co-chaired by Monty Heins from Dow Chemical Company and Mayor Glenn Royal) will be the mechanism to make sure EHCMA maintains alignment with the local mayors. In addition, the local mayors asked EHCMA to get involved in the Houston Galveston Area Council’s Freight Transportation Committee to provide a manufacturers perspective when prioritizing state freight infrastructure investments.

- EHCMA representatives will attend and support Association of Chemical Industry of Texas’ 2017 Houston Ship Channel Clay Shoot Tournament on April 21 at the American Shooting Centers. If you’re also interested in supporting or attending the event, email Annette@acit.org.

- In November, EHCMA representatives also attended a TCC and the ACIT luncheon with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick at San Jacinto College. Many other public officials attended, including Congressman Randy Weber (R-14), state legislators and local mayors. Attendees discussed key topics facing the state of Texas, such as education, taxes and population increases, and how these issues impact the future of the state.

- EHCMA is already looking ahead to 2017. We plan to reinvigorate our connection to the seven outreach areas, continue to support state funding of the coastal spine initiative, support increased infrastructure investment, work with community college partners to increase resources available for technical training and much more. Stay tuned!

Thank you to everyone who helped make 2016 such a monumental year of progress. I look forward to seeing how our collaborations with industry partners, local educational institutions and legislative connections carry us into the new year. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!
On October 28, EHCMA’s third annual Workforce Development Golf Tournament raised $500,000 to support technical programs and scholarships at local colleges. Since the first tournament three years ago, the event has raised almost $1M for this critical initiative.

Almost 100 companies in the petrochemical, construction and manufacturing industries came together at Wildcat Golf Club to support the shotgun-style tournament, which nearly doubled last year’s fundraising total of $275,000.

Proceeds raised will be donated to provide scholarships and support Process Technology (PTEC) programs at San Jacinto College, Lee College and Houston Community College. Students from the colleges also volunteered at the event, offering a chance for them to engage with industry professionals.

With more than 50 percent of the region’s petrochemical, construction and manufacturing employees retiring over the next few years, filling the pipeline of prospective employees with certified and skilled workers is imperative for the industry and the economy. EHCMA is committed to creating opportunities for local students to access education programs that provide the skills and certifications necessary for entry into the growing workforce.

This year’s tournament and its success would not be possible without EHCMA’s sponsors, industry partners and member companies. EHCMA would like to give a special thanks to the Texas Chemical Council and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston for their partnership and support. Also, EHCMA thanks this year’s Workforce Development Golf Tournament Chair Prentice Wilson for all of his hard work in planning this event.

The tournament’s Hole-in-One and Double Eagle level sponsors are listed on the next page.
Thank you to our Hole-in-One and Double Eagle level sponsors for their significant contributions to the EHCMA Workforce Development Golf Tournament. Your generous support will help fund technical student scholarship programs at Lee College, San Jacinto and Houston Community College, and will help the next generation take advantage of opportunities in our region. With the help of all our sponsors, we were able to exceed our fundraising goal and raise $500,000.
As an ongoing initiative of the Greater Houston Partnership, of which EHCMA is a member, the On Air: Houston website, houstonairquality.com, serves as the go-to source for fact-based information about the state of our regional air quality. Visitors to the website will find data and general information to understand the challenges to meeting federal air quality standards.

In addition to general air quality information on the website, visitors can download the new Houston air quality toolkit. The toolkit includes:

- Frequently Asked Questions about Houston's air quality
- Houston air quality talking points
- A graphic depiction of ozone pollution standards for Houston’s air
- A sample email or newsletter article for use in your own communications

There is also a recently updated infographic available on the website that provides an overall snapshot of Houston’s improved air quality, which serves as a supplement to the toolkit.

The main message promoted through the website about regional air quality is that it continues to improve. The Houston region meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards, with the exception of the ozone standard. However, while the Houston population increased 41 percent between 2000 and 2015, regional ozone pollution levels decreased 29 percent. Due to the combined efforts of businesses and industry, local, state and federal government, and individual citizens, the Houston region has sustained economic growth while achieving substantial air quality improvements.

We encourage you to visit the website, download the toolkit items and spread the word about Houston’s improving air quality.

Information contributed by On Air: Houston.

DID YOU KNOW:
While the Houston population increased by 41% from 2000 to 2015, Houston ozone levels
Tribute to Roy Roberts: Mr. Deer Park and So Much More

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) began its October 24, 2016 meeting with remembrances of Roy Roberts, one of Deer Park CAC’s most involved members, who passed away in his sleep on October 11 at his home. Roy was known to many EHCMA plant representatives and to the EHCMA staff, with whom he interacted as the CAC treasurer. A retiree from Rohm and Haas, he was an active member of the Haas Beens Retirement Club and served as a board member and treasurer.

At the Deer Park CAC meeting, facilitator Diane Sheridan noted that the CAC is blessed with many wonderful participants, but sometimes someone really stands out. “Roy Roberts was a member who did so. We are all saddened by his too-soon death. I didn’t want to start our business tonight without acknowledging and reflecting upon the loss of this good and kind man.”

Roy became a CAC member in the spring of 2003 and soon joined the Communications Committee that later became an occasional Membership and Visibility Committee, helping identify prospects and cultivate new members. He also helped determine how to change the CAC website.

In March 2005, Roy became the CAC representative to the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). He served until a couple years ago when he asked to be replaced, and Norma Hysler kindly took the job. But Roy believed the work of the LEPC was important, and he continued to take part as an interested citizen.

In 2011, Roy put his finance background to work as a member of the Deer Park CAC Treasury Committee. When the Treasury Committee member who handled the checkbook moved, Roy agreed to take over the treasurer’s job. Diane assured him it would take only an hour or two each month—and then she learned we needed a new financial structure to be sure the CAC’s association with EHCMA was in compliance with the law. Many extra hours were needed to understand the options, research and change banking arrangements, provide additional financial accounting, etc. Though he often reminded Diane with a grin that she told him the job would be easy, he did the extra work without complaint. When he called before the August meeting to tell her he was ill and needed to resign, he fulfilled his last duty with the sense of responsibility everyone knew to expect from Roy.

At the meeting, Jay Stokes, Deer Park City Manager, spoke of Roy’s many contributions to the city. Roy was an inaugural member of Crime Patrol, a member of the Heritage Society and the Senior Citizen’s Advisory committee, and he rode in every Rotary Bike Ride since the first one. His contributions to these and other community activities made him "Mr. Deer Park" to many.

Michelle Roberson, Chemical Production Manager at Shell Deer Park, noted that Roy was a person who listened to both sides of issues and offered balanced and valuable counsel to industry.

DPCAC member Bobby Garcia, a veteran like Roy, arranged with Congressman Brian Babin’s office for the American flag that draped Roy’s coffin to be flown over the U.S. Capital. Roy’s wife Vickey, also an active DPCAC member, brought the flag to the meeting and handed it over to Bobby.

Diane concluded the tribute to Roy by saying, “Roy Roberts was a good and generous man who never wanted to stand out in a crowd. But stand out he did, in a group full of outstanding people. We all will miss him, and our hearts go out to Vickey and her family at this sad time.”
Making Good

Covestro

For the second year in a row, Covestro has broken its fundraising records in its United Way campaign in Baytown, and exceeded its goal by 13 percent. With a 70 percent participation rate, the campaign also set a site record with 138 employees donating more than $158,000. “The United Way campaign is an excellent way to give back to the community in which we operate,” said Rod Herrick, Vice President and Site Manager.

Shell Deer Park

On August 29, Shell Deer Park was the presenting sponsor for this year’s Boys & Girls Harbor Golf Invitational, which brought 450 golfers and 75 volunteers together to raise more than $173,000. The tournament took place at The Clubs of Kingwood in Kingwood, Texas and benefitted Boys & Girls Harbor. The Boys & Girls Harbor serves children experiencing family hardship, neglect, abandonment or abuse living in Harris County and its surrounding counties. “Together with Shell, we’re creating a better tomorrow for our children,” said Don Sweat, the CEO and president of Boys & Girls Harbor. “Children represent our future – we have the opportunity to make it better than they ever could have imagined.”

BASF Pasadena

On October 21 and 28, BASF Pasadena hosted Process Technician students from Lee College and San Jacinto College for a site tour and showed off some of the upcoming changes to BASF’s production plants. Additionally, this was a chance for BASF to train students on the EHS Life Saving Rules: 10 rules and associated actions that can save lives in a production plant. Gary Denson, a Process Technician Instructor from Lee College, commented “This type of education to our students is invaluable. While they get a theoretical knowledge of how chemical process equipment works at our school, they can get a practical understanding of this equipment and how to operate it safely out here.” BASF has partnered with Lee College and San Jacinto College the past four years to offer four co-ops each year to local students.

ExxonMobil Baytown

On October 4, ExxonMobil Baytown participated in National Night Out in the West Baytown neighborhood. National Night Out brings neighbors together and encourages partnerships between local law enforcement and communities. In West Baytown, the ExxonMobil fire team gave fire hats to the children, showcased its fire truck and shared safety tips with the community.
Making Good

Chevron Phillips

Industry Network Manager Karen Hollon, Mayor Johnny Isbell and Pasadena City Council members recently presented a plaque and photo collage of Chevron Phillips Chemical’s volunteer efforts in Pasadena to Pasadena Plant Manager Mike Gilbert and Jerusha Terry. The recognition extended further than the Crown Hill Cemetery project, but included all volunteer efforts over the years to the great city of Pasadena. This award was made possible by the support of Chevron Phillips Chemical’s employees, and their ‘good neighbor’ mentality and kindness in the Pasadena industrial community network.

ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil celebrated National Manufacturing Day on October 7, hosting more than 20 students from Robert E. Lee High School. The students learned about products manufactured at the Baytown Complex and then visited the units that make those products. The students walked away with a new outlook on manufacturing and a new appreciation for ExxonMobil.

Covestro

Covestro hosted 80 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) freshmen from Barbers Hill ISD and Goose Creek CISD for a two-day interactive field trip to Beaumont to learn more about STEM careers. With three stops in one trip, students visited KBMT-12News Television studios, the Texas Energy Museum and the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. The visit to the KBMT-12News studios taught students about technology in broadcasting, as they learned about chromo keys, video equipment, satellite transmissions and a bit about meteorology from the weathermen. The Texas Energy Museum featured a guided tour focused on petroleum science. Students walked through giant molecule replicas and distillation exhibits, and explored offshore drilling and learned about chemical production sites. “At the Energy Museum, I used one of the exhibits to explain how many of our raw materials are derived from oil but through the power of chemistry, everyday items we use in our daily life are born,” said Brandon Buell, who coordinates Covestro’s STEM involvement at Barbers Hill ISD. At the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, students explored monoprints and designed their own, giving them a non-traditional perspective on technology applications. In the spring, students will visit iFly indoor skydiving facility to learn about engineering and technology behind the vertical wind tunnel facility to make STEM exciting, relevant and accessible to all students. They will even have the opportunity to perform a lab experiment and experience a flight in the tunnel.

Chevron Phillips

Congratulations to Chevron Phillips Chemical - Pasadena’s Emergency Response Team for winning trophies for Best Industrial Aerial and Best Booster Truck at the City of Deer Park’s 40th Anniversary Fire Prevention Parade.
TPC

On September 16, the 11th Annual TPC Group Charity Golf Tournament raised more than $112,000 to support 16 non-profit organizations that serve our community’s youth, seniors and veterans and focus efforts on health, education and environment. More than 270 golfers and 70 sponsor companies joined the initiative. The tournament has raised more than $770,000 since it began in 2006. The 2016 Tournament supported the initiatives of 16 non-profit organizations: Adaptive Sports for Kids, Inc., Bay Area Turning Point, BEAR… Be a Resource for CPS Kids, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, CHRISTUS Foundation for Healthcare, Cossaboom Family YMCA, Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center, Educational Programs Inspiring Communities – HEART Program, Estelle & Allen Fetters Center, Genesys Works, Inspire, Encourage, Achieve (IEA), Julie Rogers “Gift of Life”, Lee College Foundation, Mental Health America of Greater Houston, Precinct2gether, Inc., and YMCA of Southeast Texas.

Covestro

More than 20 Covestro employees volunteered for two days to lend a helping hand to one of the homes being built for a family through Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers used their skills and physical abilities to install framing supports, water vapor barriers, siding, clean windows and cut grass.

ExxonMobil Baytown

ExxonMobil’s Baytown Olefins Plant Emergency Response Team participated in the City of Baytown’s Health and Safety Fair, providing hands-on demonstrations of rescue equipment, tours of the site’s fire truck and tips on fire prevention. The City of Baytown’s Health and Safety Fair boasted 65 booths, offering something for everyone, including safety tips on a variety of topics, giveaways, a chance to meet fire and rescue teams from across the area and opportunities to participate in health screenings.

BASF Pasadena

BASF Pasadena recently donated $300,000 in new equipment to San Jacinto College, Lee College, University of Houston Downtown and TEEX (Texas A&M Fire School) for students and professors to use. In the coming months, another $500,000 in new equipment will be donated to the same institutions. Marcus Pezent, Site Director for BASF Pasadena, commented, “All four schools have similar challenges – to get their students the best education with the tools and equipment they have available. These equipment donations will allow students to see and use some of the same equipment that they will be exposed to in the workforce after they graduate.”
Making Good

Covestro

The children at the Footprints Childcare and Learning Center are a little bit safer thanks to the work of more than 20 Covestro employees during the annual United Way Day of Caring. Volunteers replaced the walkway cover, built a platform, spread mulch on the playgrounds and repaired the stairs and ramp. Because of thorough preparation and hard work, the team was able to complete the project ahead of schedule and spent the remainder of the day helping the center with additional duties including painting the steps and ramp for the facility. “We were able to accomplish all the ‘wish list’ items for the day care facility…plus a little more,” said Amber Hicks, HDI2/IPDI Production Lead. “Participating in this event is a great opportunity to make an impact in our community, while also building and fostering relationships with colleagues at Covestro.” The Day of Caring is an annual event for Covestro to provide physical labor helping community non-profits in need.

ExxonMobil

In early October, more than 450 ExxonMobil Baytown area employees and their families volunteered at 20 local sites for the 2016 United Way Day of Caring campaign. Volunteers participated in a variety of activities, including refurbishing playgrounds and painting at local daycare centers, repairing patios and constructing wheelchair ramps, performing minor repairs for residents in need, and extensive beautification and repair projects at multiple United Way partner agencies. These activities made a real difference in the lives of community members who receive help from the United Way. In total, the ExxonMobil Baytown Area United Way campaign raised more than $1.75 million for area agencies.

Dow Chemical Company

Dow Houston Operations’ La Porte Site achieved four years injury free performance on October 30th and the site is also 33 months triple zero, which means zero injuries, zero Loss of Primary Containments (LOPCs) and zero process safety incidents (PSIs). At Dow, everyone is actively engaged and committed to a continuous improvement process that allows everyone to work safely and return home uninjured.