



**2006 OHS Section Awards Program**  
Tuesday, November 7, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM No Name  
Restaurant, Fish Pier, Boston

## **Program of Events**

**Introduction and Welcoming Remarks**

**Presentation of the Alice Hamilton Award to Darryl Alexander by Jordan Barab**

**Presentation of the Lorin Kerr Award to Richard Miller by Stephen Markowitz**

**Presentation of the International Award to Metoda Dodic Fikfak**

**Presentation of the Tony Mazzocchi Award to Tony Carr by Tom McQuiston**

**OSH Thespian Collective Street Theatre**

# Alice Hamilton Award

Alice Hamilton (1869 -1970). Alice Hamilton, considered the founder of occupational health in the United States, was a tireless activist and physician who dedicated her life to improving the health and safety of workers. She was committed to science, service, and compassion. This award recognizes the life-long contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves through a career of hard work and dedication to improve the lives of workers

**2006 Winner : Darryl Alexander, American Federation of Teachers**



Through her many decades of dedicated work in the field of occupational safety and health, Darryl has not only mentored a generation of activists, but also made major advances in the field as well. She started her career building coalitions between urban dwellers, environmentalists and unions, and then moved on to work for the Workers Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program, SEIU, and finally established AFT's health and safety program where she has been a highly respected and outspoken advocate for teachers, support personnel and health care workers. She has played an instrumental role in OSHA's communicable disease activities, ergonomics and workplace violence. Almost single-handedly, she has raised the consciousness of AFT and the educational establishment about the workplace safety hazards faced by teaching and support personnel in our nation's educational system.

**Nominated by: Jordan Barab**

## Lorin Kerr Award

Lorin Kerr (1909 -1991) was a life-long activist and served for over 40 years as a physician for the United Mine Workers. He was dedicated to improving access to health care for coal miners and other workers and to obtaining compensation for and preventing black lung disease. This award recognizes a younger activist for their sustained and outstanding efforts and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

**2006 Winner : Richard D. Miller**, Government Accountability Project



For over 20 years, Richard Miller has been a tireless advocate for the health and safety of workers in the chemical and nuclear industries. First sent by Tony Mazzocchi to assist an Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers union local locked out at the BASF plant in Geismar, LA, Miller assisted the union to build community and environmental support that helped it prevail in a more than five year struggle. Miller then became a policy analyst and legislative representative for the union, continuing when the union became the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers (PACE) in 1999. He played a central role in the passage of landmark health and safety legislation by Congress from 1992 through 2006.

These include: 1) establishment of an industry wide medical screening program for atomic workers in 1993; 2) the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000, and major amendments in 2004, which has provided over \$2.2 billion in compensation and medical care to sick nuclear weapons and beryllium workers or their survivors; 3) changing the Atomic Energy Act in 2002 to make violations of safety and health regulations enforceable in Department of Energy nuclear facilities, which led to the promulgation of a DOE Worker Safety and Health Rule in 2006; 4) enactment of federal whistleblower legislation for DOE, NRC and contractor employees.

**Nominated by:** Steven Markowitz MD and David Michaels, PhD, MPH

## Tony Mazzocchi Award

**Tony Mazzocchi** [1927-2003] Tony was the most influential labor leader in the Occupational Health and Safety field in the U.S. Tony played a key role in the legislative struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, including passage of the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). A founder of the Labor Party, he continued organizing support for the party's national health care program up until his death. This award gives recognition to grassroots H&S activists in Local Unions or other local organizations fighting for the H&S rights of workers.

**2006 Winner : C.A. "Tony Carr"**, USW Local Union 998



Tony Carr, Health and Safety Chair of USW Local Union 998, nears retirement as his Firestone Tire Plant in Oklahoma City faces closure. Tony's long-time leadership in health and safety at the United Rubber Workers (URW) carried over into his tenure as a member of the United Steelworkers after their merger in 1994. Tony's deep and booming voice has been the vehicle for his eloquent humanism, shop floor intellectualism and forceful and unyielding leadership. Tony has been in arbitration numerous times on health and safety issues and with both superior cunning and humor has successfully defended his members against management's "blame the worker" approach to safety and health. In 1993, Bob Julian, a long-time member of Local 998 was crushed to death in a Bridgestone-Firestone tire-building machine. While the company chose to blame Brother

Julian, Tony set out on a long and grueling fight to ensure justice for his fellow union member. The result was one of the largest fines and longest running cases in OSHA history. Moved by Brother Carr's invocations, Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich hand-delivered OSHA citations and fines totaling \$7.5 million to the managers of Bridgestone-Firestone's Oklahoma City plant. In the process, OSHA tagged virtually every major piece of machinery in the plant "imminent danger" because of the company's refusal to implement an effective lock-out program. Tony took the lead in Federal Court hearings as the company sought to reopen the plant and free up its machinery.

When the company contested the OSHA citations, the local union elected party status and Brother Carr took up the union's case. In so doing, Tony continually confronted and held his own against some of the top corporate lawyers in the United States. A great storyteller, Tony relates the specifics of the case with the humility, humor and a cleverness that can make any fellow unionist smile with pride. That safety and health fight with Bridgestone-Firestone preceded a strike that lasted almost one year and a labor dispute lasted over two years. Tony was a leader throughout that battle. Since that time, Tony has been instrumental in developing and obtaining the current HSE language in the Bridgestone-Firestone chain. In 2002, the Steelworkers International gave the A. Q. Evans Award to Bridgestone-Firestone local unions for their successful health, safety and environment negotiations. Tony has been serving as a District 13 Health and Safety Advisor and trainer for the International Union. Tony is currently engaged in a worker-based study of HSE professionals, managers and shop floor workers to take on the issue of discipline in health and safety. He has continually pushed Bridgestone-Firestone to be more proactive in his fellow protecting workers. Tony served as Local Union Vice President and H&S Chair for over 20 years.

**Nominated by:** Tom McQuiston, Dr. P.H

## International Health & Safety Award

**International.** This award recognizes individuals with outstanding achievement in the field of occupational health and safety outside the United States.

**2006 Winner : Metoda Dodic Fikfak** Institute of Occupational, Traffic and Sports Medicine in Slovenia.



Metoda Dodic-Fikfak is one of the leading occupational physicians. She is Director of the Institute of Occupational, Traffic and Sports Medicine (the national government's research center on occupational health) for the last 5 years. She received her doctorate in epidemiology in the Department of Work Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell, U.S.A., in 1998, and is known internationally for her work on asbestos disease. Shortly after returning from her studies in the U.S., our colleague prepared the Slovenian government's rules for compensating asbestos related diseases. Since then, more than 2,000 cases have been recognized as occupational diseases (in a country of just over 2,000,000 inhabitants). She has appeared frequently as an expert witness in compensation court cases. Dr. Dodic-Fikfak has campaigned within the government, in the press and in meetings with industries and unions for greater prevention of occupational diseases. She stated publicly that since 1990, Slovenian industries have caused approximately 20,000 occupational illness cases. In short, she is a highly visible figure campaigning for recognition of the problem of occupational disease.

She is now the focus of an attack by industry which is attempting to discredit her in any way they can.

**Nominated by:** Charles "Chuck" Levenstein

# **Other 2006 OHS Award Nominations**

## **Alice Hamilton Award**

- **Roger Cook**- Western New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health WYNCOSH
- **Donald Elisburg**, Attorney
- **J. Davitt McAteer** - Vice-president of sponsored programs at Wheeling Jesuit University
- **Susan Wilburn**, WHO

## **Lorin Kerr Award**

- Lamont Byrd**- Director of Health and Safety, IBT Lamont Byrd, Director of Health and Safety, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Lynn Jenkin**-, NIOSH
- David Newman** New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health [NYCOSH]

## **Tony Mazzocchi Award**

- **Steve Mitchell**, Health and Safety Chair of UAW Local Union 974

## **International Award**

- **Lucien Royer**, Health Safety and Environment Director for ICFTU and TUAD.

We thank everyone who has participated in the nominations and elections process to recognize the exceptional work that is being done in the name of Workplace Health and Safety. These examples of dedicated individuals are a small sample of the many professionals and workers whose efforts make a difference for worker health and safety around the globe. Thanks to all of you and keep up the courageous work!!!

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## Previous OHS Section Awardees

<u>Year/Location</u>	<u>Alice Hamilton</u>	<u>Lorin Kerr</u>	<u>International</u>
<a href="#">2005 Philadelphia</a>	Frank Mirer UAW	Marcy Goldstein-Gelb MassCOSH	<a href="#">Fiona Murie</a> <i>Ireland</i>
<a href="#">2004 Washington, D.C.</a>	Chuck Levenstein David Wegman UMass/Lowell	<a href="#">Jordan Barab</a> Chemical Safety Board Confined Space	Rashida Bee Champa Devi Shukla <i>Bhopal, India</i>
<a href="#">2003 San Francisco</a>	Dolores Huerta United Farm Workers of America	Work Safe Coalition	Juliana So <i>China</i>
<a href="#">2002 Philadelphia</a>	Thomas Mancuso	New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)	Le Van Trung <i>Vietnam</i>
2001 Atlanta	Earl Dotter	Jim Ellenberger Bill Borwegen	<a href="#">Orapun Metadilokul</a> <i>Thailand</i>
2000 Boston	Mary E. Miller	Susan Moir	Jim Brophy Margie Keith <i>Canada</i>
1999 Chicago	Jim Keogh	June Fisher	Fernanda Giannasi <i>Brazil</i>
1998 Washington, D.C.	Denny Dobbin	Garrett Brown	Mohamed Jeebhay, <i>South Africa</i> Rory O'Neil, <i>England</i>
1997 Indianapolis	Meta Snyder	Joel Shufro	Ricardo Santos <i>Puerto Rico</i>
1996 New York	Jim Moran	Linda Rosenstock, Peter Dooley	Cathy Walker <i>Canada</i>
1995 San Diego	Michael Silverstein, Barbara Silverstein	Pam Tau Lee	CAFOR (Commite de Apoyo Fronterizo Obrero Regional) <i>Mexico</i>
1994 Washington, D.C.	Linda Murray	Nancy Lessin	Rajen Naido <i>South Africa</i>
1993 San Francisco	Jamie Cohen	Peg Seminario, Debbie Berkowitz	Antonio Granda, <i>Cuba</i>