

ConnectiCOSH

2020 Ray Elling *Virtual*
Health and Safety Convention

Intersection of Community & Worker



Safety And Health



Keynote speaker: Lois Gibbs
Environmental Activist

Friday, October 16, 2020

10:00am - 3:00pm

September 9, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

We hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during these difficult times.

We are excited to announce that we will still be holding our annual health and safety convention this year. Yes, in keeping with the times, it will be virtual, but we are still planning to have an interactive swap meet, informative workshops, as well as a fascinating speaker.

Please note that we will not be charging for our convention this year.

On December 2, 1970, the Environmental Protection Act was signed into law to help protect our communities. Later that month, on December 29, 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Act was signed into law. Fifty years later how are they doing? This year our virtual 2020 Ray Elling Health and Safety Convention will focus on that very question with a keynote address by nationally recognized **Environmental Activist Lois Gibbs** on the intersection of community and worker safety.

Lois Gibbs, who is also known as “The Mother of Superfund”, directly influenced the development of important pieces of legislation including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

Originally a shy housewife and mother of two who owned a home in Love Canal, Ms. Gibbs became a strong grassroots organizer when she realized that the high incidence of unexplainable illnesses and birth defects in her community could be directly linked to the more than 20,000 tons of toxic waste buried under her son’s elementary school some 30-50 years earlier. Eventually the toxins seeped into nearby stream beds and then found their way into the community water supply. Ms. Gibbs founded the Love Canal’s Homeowner’s Association in August 1978. The association’s efforts to confront government bureaucracy paid off when President Jimmy Carter announced on October 1, 1980, that the government would purchase all Love Canal homes at fair market value—a combined value of \$15 million. Occidental Petroleum, the company whose subsidiary had buried the toxins, was later fined for contaminating the environment with hazardous wastes. They ultimately paid \$98 million to New York State and another \$129 million to the federal government to cover relocation and cleanup costs. .

Since March, ConnectiCOSH has developed and presented online training modules on Personal Protective Equipment, Respiratory Protection, Infectious Disease, and Safe Cleaning and Disinfecting to over 200 workers. In addition to that, as a member of The New England

Consortium, we have participated in presenting training on “Next Steps for Worker Safety as Businesses Open During Covid 19” to over 3,000 workers.

ConnectiCOSH continues to:

- organize and educate injured workers to protect their legal rights
- be active members of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut fighting for chemical substitution and reducing exposure to toxic chemicals
- partner with UCONN and Yale Occupational Environmental Health Clinics
- train Hazardous Waste Site Workers and Emergency Responders as part of a joint effort with the other COSH groups in New England
- organize and participate in Worker Memorial Day events across the state

Why join ConnectiCOSH?

- technical and legal support on workplace hazards
- assistance in filing OSHA complaints and follow-up
- help in researching workplace hazards in your workplace
- speakers and materials for your membership or steward meetings
- workshops on hazards, organizing strategies and leadership development
- coordinate campaigns to pressure for tougher state and federal laws regulations

Your support can make the difference

It would not be possible for ConnectiCOSH to do this work without your financial support and organizational solidarity. Your dues payment as well as your participation in future events is our only guarantee that the movement for safe and healthy workplaces will continue to grow. Standard dues rates are listed below, but, in these tough times, anything that you can afford will be appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and best wishes for your continued health and safety.

Steve Schrag and Jeff Janusonis
ConnectiCOSH Co-chairs

United together we can make sure that more workers go home to their family healthy and safe.

Dues Structure

Individuals		Union Locals	
\$25	Individual Membership	\$50	Less than 100 members
\$50	Contributing Membership	\$100	100 – 500 Members
\$100	Sustaining Membership	\$200	501 – 2000 Members
		\$300	2001 – 5000 Members
		\$500	Over 5000 Members

Please make check out to **ConnectiCOSH** and mail to: **ConnectiCOSH**
683 North Mountain Road
Newington CT 06111

Convention Registration form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Union or
Organization _____

Your email will be very important as we will be conducting the convention using Zoom technology. After we receive your registration, we will email you the Zoom invitation.