

Hazardous Material Professional of the Year Submission

John McDonald III

It was a pleasure to work with John during the tumultuous transition period from a paid full time executive director to our current arrangement with an association management company. I am honored to be able to submit John for the Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award by AHMP and feel certain that he is more than worthy of this award.

This award discusses “extraordinary” contributions in several aspects of hazardous materials management. I am going to focus on one key contribution as well as other contributions that occurred during this time. This key contribution was the management of “all aspects” of fiduciary responsibilities of AHMP during our transition and the turn-over to the new management company.

As the person overseeing the office during the transition period, I feel that I understand better than anyone else what John accomplished and endured. I also know that in words I will not be able to fully explain the accomplishment but will endeavor to try.

Event Background

On November 1, 2015, the executive director (ED) announced his resignation for December 1, 2015. At that time, AHMP had no full time office staff but only a minimally trained temporary. There were no documented systems in place to run the membership side of the Alliance and no easily organized or coherent financial records/systems.

John McDonald's Extraordinary Work

John was the AHMP treasurer at this time and was meticulous on monitoring the budget with whatever information was provided him. When the ED announced his resignation, John did not bat an eye and immediately stepped up to keep AHMP liquid. John still had to do his “real” job, was also the treasurer of his local chapter, and had AHMP treasurer duties to fulfill.

John took time off on short notice to meet with the outgoing ED to minimally get signatures transferred on accounts and learn whatever he could before the imminent departure. By December 1st John had gotten authorization on “most” accounts which meant that there was even more effort to get authorization for items such as payroll, PayPal and other miscellaneous accounts without someone to authorize him (e.g. ED signing over authority). John had to travel to get a signature out of his local area because the AHMP bank used was not local for him. I know this because I was trying to help clear up the confusion with him.

Come January 2016, John did have authorization for most critical items, now he had to sort through everything and do some neglected items like paying bills and authorize taxes to be paid. John had to review ever contract AHMP had in place, he had to review the time card for the office temporary. John had to create a new bill paying system. There were many more of these things that I cannot even remember as they just kept creeping up. While doing all this, John kept track of everything to make sure it was in audit ready condition. He also was able to attend the AHMP board meeting and provide guidance on how to proceed.

In March 2016, John was not done. He now had to transition everything over to the new association management company. John never missed a beat. He provided such a beautiful package that the transition was clean to the new accounts. But alas, that was not the end of it. There still were hiccups. Before the ED has left an issue with our credit card processing company occurred and he had to continue to work to final resolution. “But there’s more”, life was not going to be so kind that the bank account could just be closed, there were issues with this. By this time, John could have just said “screw it” and leave it to someone else but he did not. He stayed with this to the end.

The AHMP vision says “AHMP is the premier global leader for hazardous materials professionals”. Without John, I am not sure that AHMP would exist today.

The AHMP values talk about *trusted, ethical, transfer of knowledge, two-way transparent and frequent communication* etc. With what was described above you could use John as the poster child for these values.

In addition to this one event, John is a well-respected Hazardous Materials Professional in his own right. He is the Vice President of Client Services for the Arch Environmental Group. He has been successful in remediation and redevelopment of contaminated sites. I have heard on more than one occasion that he is go to kinda guy this and other environmental needs such as permitting and hazardous waste management.

Not often does someone get something thrown in front of them, that can impact thousands of people. John did and he met it head on and succeeded. The Hazardous Materials Professional of the Year Award would be a small recognition of what Mr. John McDonald III has done for the whole industry.

I kindly request that John be bestowed this honor.

Sincerely

Bruce A. Donato, CHMM, CSP

Former Interim AHMP Executive Director

Vice President/President Elect AHMP

President AHMP Cyber Chapter

Treasurer, National Capital Chapter.