SCOTT BOURDON
Candidate Statement for CSHEMA Board of Trustees Election 2024
Office of Vice President

Candidate Name:
Scott Bourdon

Candidate’s Current Professional Role:
Senior Manager or Risk and Environmental Health and Safety, Systemwide Risk Management
California State University Office of the Chancellor

Please describe your professional experience relevant to the Board of Trustees position.

My current position requires leadership skills to help guide the efforts of our 23 Systemwide Environmental Health and Safety programs. This involves active engagement with Systemwide meetings of this group and subgroups. The larger group meets monthly, and I develop the agenda and lead the discussion for significant portions of the agenda. In addition, I initiate multi-functional teams of Systemwide leaders to address areas of emerging risk and related issues that could impact our Systemwide operations. The most recent example includes assembling a team and strategy to comply with new workplace violence prevention legislation. My responsibility for managing aspects of our e-learning content delivery system also relates well to services CSHEMA offers.

In addition to my main role and similar positions throughout my career, I helped lead the Orange County Local Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association as President-Elect (2021), President (2022), and Past President (2023). A founder of that local section thanked me and our Board for reviving a section that “was almost dead”. We focused on connecting our members with each other while navigating COVID restrictions EHS professionals who were anxious due to the pandemic, but who were also hungry for resuming their face-to-face professional networks and associations. In addition to in-person educational events, we also focused on mentoring early career professionals and having as much fun as possible. The member numbers grew significantly my first year and almost doubled during my time as President.

Please describe your CSHEMA experience, involvement, and leadership involvement.

The conference presentation on CSHEMA past presidents and its history during the conference brought back a lot of memories. Having participated intermittently for many years since about 2005, I observed those changes, sometimes more directly, and sometimes from afar. The 2007 conference in Boston, one in Orlando, another in D.C., and more recent conferences in Indianapolis, Scottsdale, and Boston again all made a very positive impression.

In addition, my role as Professional Development Co-Chair in 2022 and 2023 and earlier roles as a member of the Committee gave me some more insight into the workings of CSHEMA and the
importance of offering good programming. We may have broken records or come close to it for offering webinars in 2022, with maybe 12 offered overall, and most of which were facilitated by our committee.

After being honored to fill a vacant Member-at-large spot on the Board of Trustees this year, I have gained insight into the workings of the Board and the potential to really enhance member experiences. Not only has the current Board laid a good foundation, but they have also started to establish a strategic plan to take full advantage of an IT management system and focus on delivery of on-demand e-training content. And as you heard during the business meeting at the Conference, the Board done an excellent job of managing financial resources with a strong reserve and a focus on tying those finances to strategic planning. Though I will not take credit for these Board directions, I mention them so you know that there will continuity in strategy, appreciation of our foundation, and a vision of where we need to go.

Please state your goals for CSHEMA while serving on the Board of Trustees.

My goals will improve the member experience and evolve and modernize CSHEMA operations while maintaining continuity with current strategic directions.

1. Ensure smooth continuity with new member management technology and applications while tying its use to strategic planning.

2. Develop an on-demand e-learning content delivery system as a supplement to the strong tradition of offering engaging in-person conferences and meetings.

3. Continue the trajectory of partnering with other EHS-related professional associations (i.e., AIHA, AAUS, URMIA, and others).
   - NOTE: I have professional connections and memberships with many of these associations.

4. Focus the Board more on strategy and less on operations.
   - NOTE: I have developed, initiated the development of, led the implementation of, and participated in the development and implementation of multiple strategic planning efforts throughout my career.

5. Encourage our Board, our committees, and our communities of practice to engage in succession planning and encourage early career professionals to engage and consider leadership positions.
   - NOTE: Succession planning is something that has been important to me throughout my career, as I’ve tried to train people on my teams to cover my responsibilities, have participated in multiple mentoring programs as mentor, and have developed and actively engaged in offering internship programs.