**CONFERENCE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ROBERT BAHR**

**WELCOME #1**

Hello everyone and welcome to this year's National Safety Conference here in beautiful, picturesque New Orleans. **(If there are any people like hosts or organizers, you can acknowledge them here**). I would like to thank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his team for the fine job that has been done in organizing this event and I would also like to recognize \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for giving me the opportunity to speak with all of you today. Events like these are invaluable opportunities to meet, network, and learn about new innovations and regulations that are vital in informing and modernizing our protocols and our actions and reactions to situations within the workplace.... wherever that might be. And whether we're discussing conditions in a factory or in an office or a field, there is no such thing as being too cautious, too conscious or too prepared. Safety compliance must be rigorous and non-negotiable... no matter where... no matter what.

You may have heard the adage, "Safety is something that happens between your ears, not something you hold in your hands." If you've heard it, I urge you to remember it. We are living in very modern times and with the constant technological advancements that enhance and ease our workload in some ways come countless new procedures and distractions that may conspire to divert our consciousness and vigilance. This conference is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to pay attention, know procedures, and work with colleagues to ensure a safer and more highly functional environment. Safety really is a state of mind and while we are all very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of ever evolving innovations, once an accident or injury occurs it can't be undone.

I am sure we can all think of incidents throughout our lives where, when looking back, we might say.... "If only....". "If only I hadn't looked away..... if only I hadn't flicked that one little wrong switch.... if only...." too many injuries are the result of those "if only" moments. I invite all of us to bring a refreshed and clear vision to our participation at this conference. Ask questions... take notes... **FOCUS**. Recall scenarios in which you noticed that heightened awareness would have supported more successful results. Remember some of those "close calls" you've had? **LEARN** from them. Discover new and innovative ways to motivate your teams to execute their jobs and responsibilities at new levels of commitment to safety, inclusion, and effectiveness.

This is **YOUR** conference..... for the next two days we invite you to explore.... look around... take advantage of the expertise that is being presented by the participants and vendors and share your own relevant experience and expertise. Everyone in attendance is united in a common goal... to improve conditions, learn about innovations, and find the ways and means to get the job done effectively and safely. And remember the most important tool you have for safety and compliance is logic, common sense, and a heightened sense of awareness and commitment to your mission and your team.

Have a great conference! Thank you!

**WELCOME #2**

Hello everyone! I'm so glad to see you all made it through the past two days of the conference! I'm fairly certain that we've earned this dinner and celebration! (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)... I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but this dinner is actually the first test for you as you apply your newly acquired safety skills and knowledge... we're trusting you with **sharp objects**... namely the cutlery.... **baby steps**!! (**And wait for the laugh**)

This year we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Safety Awards Dinner and Celebration, and for those of you that have been part of this industry and conference for a while, you know that great strides have occurred as we live, learn, and practice improved procedures for safer work environments. (**I'm giving some loose OSHA statistics but if you have more pertinent stats, use them instead**) OSHA cites that over the past several decades, improvements in safety and compliance have had a significant and positive affect on the workplace. Estimates for the rate of employee fatalities on the job in 1970 hovered around 14,000. That number fell to approximately 4,340 in 2009. That's a significant improvement but the thought that thousands may still die in 2017 and beyond is unacceptable. Further estimates citing progress in overall safety tell us that in the past twenty-five years, injury rates have been reduced by ten fold. This is a great achievement and guess what? It's **no accident.**.. Thanks to the commitment of safety leaders like all of you, we are on the right track... the goal is 100% safe environments.... worker safety and compliance for all.

This long standing tribute that we celebrate each year is a welcome and appreciated barometer on many levels. It is a forum to acknowledge excellence and it is an opportunity to take a look back... to see how far we've progressed while pledging renewed and increased commitment to safety and compliance on every level going into the future.

Ray Kroc said, "The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves." By being here you have self selected as leaders of your organizations. You've taken the initiative to demonstrate a commitment to the safety of your colleagues and teams and we want to acknowledge your participation. As we continue to recognize outstanding participation throughout our membership, I invite you to ask yourselves... "What can I do to increase the safety goals of my company? How can we distinguish and reinforce best practices in the workplace and in the field? What else can be done to insure the safety of our human resources?

I want to thank each one of you for your commitment to your organizations and to this conference and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you!