



# Steve Menkus

## (1950–2021)



Friends and colleagues of A&WMA Fellow **Steve Menkus** were tremendously saddened by the news of his sudden passing in February 2021.

Steve joined the Association in 1973 and was an active member for more than 48 years. He accomplished so much for A&WMA's West Coast Section (WCS), generously sharing his expertise and time to help make the Section a success. Steve served on the WCS's Board of Directors since the early 1970s until the present in a variety of roles, including Chair (1982–1984), Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, and WCS newsletter editor. Steve prepared WCS's Annual Reports for the past several decades, helping the Section win the Association's Minasian Award over a dozen times with his astute documentation and winning attitude. In addition, he was Chair of the WCS Honors and Awards Committee, where he was a promotor of WCS and Association awards recognizing his colleagues.

Steve served on the Local Host Committee for all four of the WCS-sponsored Annual Conference & Exhibitions: Anaheim in 1989, San Diego in 1998 and 2003, and Long Beach in 2014. He was an Organizer, Chair, and Treasurer of the A&WMA Orange County Chapter. Combining his love of science and interest in supporting students, since 1986, Steve was a judge of the California State Science Fair supported by the WCS and a perennial judge for the WCS student paper awards for over 40 years, as well as helping to organize young professional activities for the WCS. Steve was awarded the WCS's "Dick Davis" award in 1995 and again in 2005 for his distinguished service to the Section.

In addition to his active roles in the Section, Steve also served on the Association's Board of Directors (1983–1986), serving as Vice President in 1986. He also held roles in Technical Council, serving as the Division Chair of Environmental Programs and a Vice Chair for the Business Risk Task Force (1994–1995). He was recognized as a Fellow member of A&WMA in 1996.

Steve's career spanned almost 50 years, starting as a regulator, moving into the petroleum industry, and then opening his own consulting practice with an expertise in environment, health, and safety (EH&S) permitting and regulatory compliance. After graduating from California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1972 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, he joined the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District, the forerunner to the South Coast Air Quality Management District, that was formed in 1976. At the agency, he rose to Engineering Division Supervisor, where he oversaw processing of air pollution permits for industries throughout the region. Upon leaving the agency in 1978, he joined Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), where he worked until 2001, shortly after ARCO was acquired by BP. At ARCO/BP, he was Director of Compliance Audits and an Environmental Manager in the Transportation Division, responsible for EH&S compliance. Steve

represented ARCO as member of American Society for Test and Materials (ASTM) Environmental Management Committee, and he supported development of the ISO 14000 environmental management system.

Upon leaving ARCO/BP, Steve formed a consulting company, Menkus & Associates, where he worked until his passing, providing services to a variety of private and public entities, including utilities, oil, aerospace, transportation, media, local government, military, and manufacturing facilities. For these clients, he specialized in hazardous materials and waste management/emergency requirements, EH&S management systems audits, risk management and analysis, environmental and occupational health and safety plans, and program development.

While working, Steve earned an MBA degree and Certificate in Hazardous and Toxic Materials Management. He became Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) certified. He was a registered Chemical Engineer and Environmental Assessor in California, a Diplomate in the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Environmental Auditing. Steve was the Regional Chair of the Caltech Alumni Fund.

Upon news of his death, a small sampling of the reactions of his colleagues included:

"We should remember his sense of humor, smile, willingness to help his colleagues, students, the community, and dedication to work for a better environment."

"Great guy! So friendly and kind."

"A brilliant engineer, a warm friend, a man who will be missed by many."

"Steve was very smart and more importantly just a good guy all around."

"He was so nice and so smart; it was definitely a pleasure to work with Steve."

Steve always had a tremendous passion for science, which was reflected in his education and lifelong professional and volunteer activities. In lieu of flowers, his wife, Royce, and son, Scott, request donations be made to the California Science Center, in honor of his many years of membership and support for that institution. We will all miss him greatly. **em**

*In Memoriam contributed by Sara J. Head, QEP, a Past President of A&WMA.*