



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

December Newsletter

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President's Message

Greeting NW Chapter Members!

As we approach the end of another year, it's both a pleasure and a responsibility to reflect on the strides we've made in ensuring the safety of our members and fostering a secure environment within our community. The commitment to safety has been at the forefront of our chapter's initiatives, and I am proud to share some highlights and express my gratitude for everyone's dedication.

NW Chapter ASSP: A Year in Review:

1. New leadership
 - We transitioned new board leadership of myself as President, Jon Eichman as President-Elect, and Carol Keyes as Vice President.
2. Community Engagement
 - We enjoyed another year of networking including the famous NW Chapter Boat Cruise!

- We exhibited at the Minnesota Safety Conference in May
- We had several small group gatherings, including after the Northern Safety Days

3. Continued Programming

- We have continued the excellent monthly programming meetings for networking and safety knowledge. We've offered monthly meetings with both in-person and remote options.

Behind every year within the NW Chapter, there is a team of dedicated individuals committed to the well-being of our chapter. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member who has played a role in making the NW Chapter community safer.

Looking ahead, Goals for 2024:

1. Continued training and development

- We will continue to host exciting presentations with our monthly programming and have an amazing PDC planned for February 13, 2024 – register now!
- Check the Events page of the website for registration and more information. Our chapter meetings through May are on the calendar. <https://northwest.assp.org/event/>

2. Enhanced board capabilities

- While we all were frustrated with COVID, it allowed us to transition our meetings to virtual only and hybrid. We will continue to get creative throughout 2024 with our meeting structure,

3. Increased Community Engagement

- We've been working closely with our student chapters to increase engagement and look forward to hearing more from them in 2024. We also have some fun meet-ups planned and another great Boat Cruise – keep your eye out for information!
- We've met with the Northern Plains Section discussing ways we can support them
- Updates are posted on our website and the Northwest Chapter LinkedIn group

In closing, let us celebrate the achievements of the past year and look forward to a future dedicated to a future where safety is not just a priority but a way of life to all those within our chapter. Your dedication, vigilance, and commitment to creating a safe and secure environment are the cornerstones of success.

Thank you for being an integral part of our safety journey. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Warm regards,

Alanna Lee, President, NW Chapter ASSP

Upcoming Events

[Register Now](#): January ASSP & AIHA Joint Program

On January 18, we will have our annual joint ASSP and AIHA program! The program will run from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Melissa Gill, Owner & CEO of On-Site Solutions, will provide a physical therapist viewpoint on ergonomics and the value of understanding the basics. We will discuss anatomy of the spine, basic neutral positions, and how this information relates to ergonomics. Injury prevention programs as it relates to ergonomics and stretching will be discussed, as well as stretching best practice and relating ergonomics to the worker. The attendee will also get a deeper understanding of OSHA First Aid and proactive injury prevention. Register here: [January ASSP/AIHA Chapter Meeting – ASSP Northwest Chapter](#)

[Register Now](#): The Northwest Chapter PDC is Innovating Safety in 2024!

For sixty years now, motorists on Interstate 94 in Maplewood have enjoyed a holiday season treat as selected office lights in the 3M Headquarter Building are illuminated to reveal a glowing, 12-story Christmas Tree! In February, EHS Professionals will get the chance to enjoy a special Valentine's treat as the Northwest Chapter will present the 2024 Professional Development Conference at 3M's Innovation Center on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Mark your calendar now to save that date, and begin making plans to join many other EHS Professionals at the Innovation Center for a day-long conference that will expand your knowledge and skills, provide opportunities to meet with Exhibitors, enjoy awesome networking, and participate in a special tour of 3M's famous Innovation Center!

Watch for more announcements with details on the Keynote Speaker, breakout session topics, sponsors, and exhibitors. Registrations for the PDC can be made at the Northwest Chapter's website here: [“Innovating Safety in 2024” – the Northwest Chapter Professional Development Conference – ASSP Northwest Chapter](#). You won't want to miss this event!



Other Topics

Another Networking Meet-Up in Western Wisconsin

Once again, the Northwest Chapter teamed up with Western Wisconsin Safety Council to host a social and networking Meet-Up for safety professionals in western Wisconsin. The event took place Wednesday, December 6th at the Phoenix Grill & Event Center in Baldwin, Wisconsin. The venue was great with festive holiday decorations, good food and drink, and another round of raffle prizes. Despite the busyness of the holiday season, we enjoyed a group numbering fourteen people coming from a wide range of industries. It appears that the Northwest Chapter will gain at least one new Member as a result of the networking! There is currently a plan to do something like this again on April 9, 2024 in New Richmond, Wisconsin. This Meet-Up will coincide with the annual Northwood Technical College Safety Day. Mark your calendars!



Seeking Chapter and Region Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) nominees!

To nominate someone for the ASSP Northwest Chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY), please review and complete the forms linked below and

return to the Chapter's Awards & Honors chairperson, Abby Ferri awards@northwest.assp.org

Chapter SPY forms:

<https://northwest.assp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/454/2019/09/assp-chapter-spy-packet.pdf>

To learn more about the history of the SPY program and past honorees, please visit:

<https://northwest.assp.org/awards-honors/>

If you're interested in taking over the Awards & Honors chairperson role, reach out to the same email. Abby is looking for an apprentice to take on this role.

Attention All Students! The Northwest Chapter ASSP 2024 Scholarship Program is Here!

Multiple Scholarships totaling \$4000 available for students pursuing a graduate degree, Master of Science in Risk Control, at University of Wisconsin-Stout, Master of Environmental Health & Safety, at the University of Minnesota-Duluth or Master or Doctorate in Public Health or an Occupational Safety, Health or Environmental field of study at the University of Minnesota.

Due dates for your application to be considered are as follows:

- *US Postal Users must have their application postmarked by March 13th, 2024*
- *Last minute filers must deliver their application in person or as a PDF file via email no later than 4:30 pm CDT on Friday March 15th, 2024.*
- *Email users note...It is not 100% certain that your email will successfully make it to your intended addressee. Please consider using the US Postal system.*

Criteria for 2024 Scholarship Awards

- Incomplete or late applications will be disqualified.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled full-time, and plan to graduate in May 2024 or later to be eligible for this award.
- Previous recipients of Northwest Chapter ASSP scholarship awards are not eligible.

- Applicants must complete Section I of the application form and attach a Scholarship Award Essay.
- Applicants must attach a current resume to the scholarship award application.
- Applicants must submit transcripts from completed graduate courses and undergraduate degree programs. The transcripts must:
 - Verify good academic standing.
 - Verify overall graduate GPA of at least 3.25 out of a 4.0 system for all graduate courses completed.
 - Verify undergraduate degree completion and an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 out of a 4.0 system.
- Unofficial transcripts are accepted by following ASSP's Code of Professional Conduct
- Section II of the application form and a reference letter from a university program faculty member must accompany scholarship application. The letter must:
 - Include verification of official enrollment in an occupational safety & health or closely related field.
 - Verify 6 current semester hours or more.

Eligibility for all Northwest Chapter ASSP scholarships requires a current ASSP student membership that costs \$15 per year. To apply for membership, contact ASSP's Customer Service department at 847-699-2929 or visit ASSP's web site at www.assp.org.

The application for the scholarship can be located on the Northwest Chapter website: <https://northwest.assp.org/student-scholarships/>

The Northwest Chapter ASSP Scholarship Award & Selection Committee will review all applications. Scholarship award winners will be notified by early April, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Flint at 763-350-1633 or Scholarship@northwest.assp.org

Member Get a Member Program

When a new full member lists a current member as their referring member in the membership application, the referring member gets the credit and is eligible for prizes at different thresholds. The prizes are outlined in the link below as well as a refer-a-friend tool with some suggested messaging to new potential members. Members typically refer their own colleagues, friends, and associates in safety to become members.

Chapter Board Meetings - Guests are Invited!

Did you know your Northwest Chapter Board meets monthly to manage Chapter affairs? These meetings usually take place prior to the regular monthly programs – from 10:00 to 11:15 AM and are open to all Members. It is possible to attend these meetings in person or via a special Zoom conference call. Observing these meetings is a great way to get an inside look at what it takes to be an ASSP “Platinum Chapter”. It is also a good way to learn more about the various Chapter leadership positions and get involved!

If you have never been to a Board Meeting and want to check it out, come early to the location for the monthly Chapter Program and join us. If you want to attend the Board Meeting via Zoom, please contact a member of the board to get a unique login credentials for the Zoom meeting.

Mentorship Corner: Need Some Help or Do You Want to Help?

Sometimes, ASSP members encounter difficult matters that transcend and/or may lie outside the professional literature, their coursework, and experience. The chance to discuss creative solutions and resources (on a confidential basis), with a Chapter mentor can often be helpful.

On the other side of the coin, seasoned professionals, in their roles as mentors can gain significant benefit from knowing that they have helped a mentee negotiate a difficult challenge, and have had a positive impact on the safety and well-being of employee groups connected with their mentee’s workplace, and (possibly) that organization’s customers and the wider community, as well.

We invite you to explore such opportunities.

News to Share

[It's Time Again...Apply for a Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Achievement Award](#)

Get recognized at the 2024 Minnesota Safety & Health Conference in May!

Why should we apply for an award?

To further demonstrate the importance of safety and health within your organization by:

- Affirming the importance of advocating and prioritizing safety and health throughout your operations.
- Benchmarking the performance of your safety and health programs.
- Publicly recognize and celebrate the successful achievements in reducing work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Validate and honor everyone's hard work, efforts and commitment to safety at work, at home, and on the road.

And, if your organization wins an award, it further validates the positive impact your leadership, team members, and safety and health program is having in protecting your workforce — and that you are better than average!

How easy is it to apply?

Our online application process is user-friendly and requires some basic information about your organization, safety/health programs, and injury/illness information.

Once you have gathered the information, you may complete the application on the **Minnesota Governor's Workplace Safety Achievement Awards** [online application portal](#). All application information submitted in the application is protected and confidential.

What is the first day we can apply?

Applications may be submitted beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

When is the deadline for us to apply?

The deadline for submitting applications is 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

We are available if you have questions! Please reach out to the Minnesota Safety Council staff by calling 651-291-9150 / 800-444-9150 or email msc@mnscc.org.

8 Ways to Improve Organizational Process Management and Safety

The root causes of many safety issues lie inside organizational processes. To find and eliminate these issues, you must dive into process management.

[Read more](#)

Fixing the Fit of Personal Protective Equipment to Improve Women's Safety

Personal protective equipment can only be effective if it fits properly. Kathi Dobson and Abby Ferri join “The Case for Safety Podcast” to share how a new technical report can help you equip the women in your workforce. [Listen now](#)

Marketing Safety Improvements: How to Get Buy-In From Your Organization

Implementing improvements to your safety and health management system starts with selling your ideas to decision-makers. Brye Sargent joins “The Case for Safety Podcast” with tips. [Listen now](#)

“The Get to Know a Safety Pro Show” – Gabriel Atencio

Construction Practice Specialty Administrator Gabriel Atencio joins us with two travel recommendations — one near his home in Amarillo, TX. He appreciates creativity, technology and mild weather. Can you guess his favorite U.S. city? [Watch now](#)

OSHA Small Business Handbook Features Inspection Checklists

OSHA offers many resources to help small businesses protect their employees. One popular tool is the “Small Business Safety and Health Handbook,” which features a set of inspection checklists to help employers identify and address workplace hazards. [Access resources](#)

Career Opportunities

Looking for a new career opportunity? Be sure to check out the Northwest Chapter Jobs Page on our [website](#). There are a number of recent postings,

so you'll want to check it out if you haven't been there for a while!



If you do not wish to receive these emails, please [click here](#)
to unsubscribe from ASSP Northwest Chapter messages.

American Society of Safety Professionals | 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068