



**NORTHWEST
CHAPTER**

January Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Northwest Chapter,

The days are getting longer and hopefully the outdoor temperatures will start seeing higher numbers above zero soon. I'll keep my column short as there is a lot in this newsletter.

I want to acknowledge that we are in unusual, trying times in Minnesota, which is impacting businesses and individuals in many different ways. In a post addressing the presence of ICE, Apple Valley Police Chief Nick Francis provided this guidance (condensed):

1. Don't isolate yourself.
2. Have a safety plan. Know your limits.
3. Reach out for help and resources
4. Decide what makes you feel safer.

That's pretty solid safety advice that always applies.

The Professional Development Conference (PDC), which is coming up fast, is an opportunity to stay connected and not feel isolated. The PDC Committee is doing a fantastic job, having lined up a broad scope of presentations. Not only is this an opportunity to learn and get CEUs, but it is a chance to connect with others in the profession. There is an opportunity to talk to vendors face-to-face, and have some fun during the day.

Our next Chapter meeting is March 10 on HOP, to be held at The Builders Group in Eagan and available remotely. If you purchased a meeting bundle, remember that you need to sign up for each meeting you are attending, using the code that was sent to you.

Nominations Committee is reaching out to members to fill our slate of candidates for elections this spring. If you are interested in running or knowing more, please contact Jon Eichman, Megan Navarre or Curt Schroeder.

Carol Keyes, CSP | CHESS, Inc

Northwest Chapter President | president@northwest.assp.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Northwest Chapter PDC is Less than a Month Away!

Need a cure for cabin fever and an escape from the clutches of a cold Minnesota winter? In less than a month, the heat will be on at the ASSP Northwest Chapter Professional Development Conference (PDC) at the beautiful Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel and Conference Center in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. With the theme, "Connecting Today for a Safer Tomorrow", you will forget about the ice and snow outside while spending the day connecting with other safety professionals, attending general and breakout sessions, and learning about the latest EHS products and services in the Expo Area. To cap off the day, unwind at the Post Conference reception immediately following the Closing Session.

If you have not yet made your registration, do so immediately by visiting the Northwest Chapter website (<https://northwest.assp.org>). Be sure to mention this event to your associates, colleagues, and EHS friends; keeping in mind that it is not necessary to be a member of ASSP to attend! As a reminder, the event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 and the registration fee is \$200. Please note: the registration fee goes up to \$225 on February 2nd.

See you there!

Register [here](https://northwest.assp.org).



Agenda

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026
MINNEAPOLIS MARRIOTT NORTHWEST - BROOKLYN PARK, MN

7:00 - 7:45	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Exhibitors Open		
7:45 - 8:00	Welcome & Opening Remarks		
8:00 - 9:00	Keynote: Ten Commandments of Safety Communication Ted Schick		
9:00 - 9:20	Exhibitor & Networking Break		
9:20 - 10:20	Takeaways from OSHA Fatality Investigations		
10:20 - 10:40	Exhibitor & Networking Break		
10:40 - 11:40	Work Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Lisa Pierson	Methods for Learning from Incidents Involving Human & Organizational Performance (HOP) Norman Richie	Where Leadership Goes, Safety Follows Ted Schick
11:45 - 12:30	Lunch Break / Exhibitors		
12:30 - 1:30	Business Meeting & Awards CLEAR Values; ASSP Regional Speake		
1:30 - 1:50	Exhibitor & Networking Break		
1:50 - 2:50	Active Threat Preparedness for Safety Professionals Drew Moldenhauer	Turn Your Supervisors into Superstars! The Essential Skills They Need to Achieve Success Chris Ross	Ergonomic Program Design and Implementation Beth Mayotte
2:50 - 3:00	Networking Break		
3:00 - 4:00	OSHA Litigation Aaron Dean	Building a Culture of Total Worker Health & Safety Al Roth	Four Dimensions of Engagement - Engagement is More than "Hands On" Learning Ben Wood
4:00 - 4:15	PDC Closing Session		
4:15 - 5:00	Post Conference Networking Reception		



Working together for a safer, stronger future.
www.assp.org

And in case you missed it, our PDC was highlighted in the December issue of PSJ!



Online
2/9-2/13 • SafetyFOCUS, ASSP; (847) 699-2929; www.assp.org.

Online
2/10-2/12: Office Ergonomics Accreditation Program. The Ergonomics Center of North Carolina; (919) 515-2052; www.ergocenter.ncsu.edu.

Brooklyn Park, MN
2/17 • ASSP Northwest Chapter Professional Development Conference. This event features general and breakout sessions, an exposition, and networking opportunities. ASSP Northwest Chapter; <https://northwest.assp.org>.

Online
2/19-3/19 • Integrating Z10 to Manage Occupational Health and Safety. ASSP; (847) 699-2929; www.assp.org.

Online
2/19-3/19 • Accident Investigation Techniques. ASSP; (847) 699-2929; www.assp.org.

2025-2026 Chapter Event Schedule

We have all our engagements planned for the upcoming Chapter year. Please see below for our events and mark your calendars now.

[Check out our registration page.](#)



ASSP Northwest Chapter 2025-2026 Chapter Event Schedule

Event Date:	Topic:	Speaker(s):	Location:
September 9 th	MN OSHA Update: Regulatory Refresh & What's Next	Jim Krueger, Director of Minnesota OSHA	McGough 2737 Fairview Ave N., Roseville, MN 55113
October 14 th	Next-Gen Safety: AI for Smart EHS	Robert McIntosh, M.S. Digital Strategy & Marketing Leader for College of Science & Engineering at the U of MN	Acme Tools 1271 Town Centre Dr Eagan, Mn 55123
November 11 th	Doing Right by Safety: Ethics in the Workplace	Adele L. Abrams, Esq, ASP, CMSP Law Office of Adele L. Abrams P.C.	Marsh 6160 Golden Hills Drive Golden Valley, MN 55416
December 9 th	What's that Smell? Industrial Hygiene Made Simple	Cathy Howde, CIH, CSP, Resilient EHS	MN Safety Council, Inc. 474 Concordia Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55103
January 20 th 11 am – 1 pm	Joint Meeting with AIHA Cleared for Safety: Guarding those Who Guard Us	Matthew Monjes, Occupational & Weapons Safety Manager	Air National Guard 133 rd Airlift Wing located at MSP International Airport
February 17 th	Professional Development Conference (PDC)		
March 10 th	From Near Misses to Meaningful Change: Harnessing HOP to Learn & Improve	Nikki Knapp, CSP, HOP Champion, Senior Safety Business Process Analyst with ALLETE	The Builders Group 2919 Eagandale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121
April 14 th	Student Paper Presentations	Chapter Student Members UW-Stout & Duluth	The Builders Group 2919 Eagandale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121
May 12 th	Stay Current: NFPA 70E Essentials for a Safer Workplace	Kamron Allipour, QSSP	The Builders Group 2919 Eagandale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121

*Some schedule planning details are subject to change; dates and times will remain the same.

Safety 2026 Registration is Now Open

Join us in Anaheim, and see what everyone's talking about. Registration is officially open for [Safety 2026](#), and we're heading to Anaheim, CA, June 15–17, for what's shaping up to be our biggest event yet.

Last year, Safety's expo hall was the largest in event history and the energy, innovation and engagement were unmatched. From cutting-edge technology and breakthrough products to hands-on demos and direct access to solution providers, the expo floor became the heartbeat of the event. In 2026, we're building on that momentum with an even more dynamic, award-winning expo experience.

Beyond the expo, Safety 2026 brings together thousands of EHS professionals for world-class education, insightful general sessions, valuable CEUs and unmatched networking with peers from across industries. It's where safety professionals come to discover what's next—and take it back to their organizations.

The full session schedule will be announced in early April. If you'd like to get an idea of the types of topics offered, [browse the sessions from Safety 2025](#).

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to our Long Serving Chapter Members!

- David Marquette, CSP, 50 years
- Rene Hilgemann, CSP, ARM, 40 years
- Terrance Lahti, CSP, 40 years
- Gregory Rigdon, 25 years
- Jon Dahl, 25 years
- Michael Tupy, 25 years
- Nathan Snyder, CSP, 25 years
- Paul Baer, CSP, 25 years
- Roger Dahlke, ARM, 25 years
- Timothy Flint, 25 years

- William Maxfield, CSP, 25 years
-

The January Joint Meeting with AIHA and ASSP Takes Wing: "Guarding Those Who Guard Us"

It has been a long tradition for the ASSP Northwest Chapter and the AIHA Upper Midwest Section to come together each January for a joint meeting. Each year we put together a special program or visit a unique location. On a very cold January 20th, we held the 2026 version of this meeting as guests of the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing, whose base is located at the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport. The formal part of the program took place in the Base Dining Facility where we received a briefing from Lt. Col. Stacey Meiser, Pilot / Chief of Safety. She gave a fascinating presentation on the aircraft flown by the 133rd - the Lockheed C-130 Hercules, and described the types of missions they perform. She also talked about the various risk management methods and procedures they utilize to manage the hazards that are such a big part of what they do.

Following LTC Meiser's message, the group heard from Northwest Chapter Member, SMSgt. Matthew Monjes, who described the many functions performed as part of their flying missions. One thing we learned is that the Air National Guard Base functions much like a small city with property needs, facilities, security requirements, and operations that involve their own sets of hazards. After this message, SMSgt. Monjes led the group on a tour of one of their hangars where we were able to get a close look at one of their C-130 Hercules, and learn more about the features of this amazing aircraft.

The event was a unique opportunity for us to learn about how military aviation manages risk, plus we got to see a facility and an aircraft that has a long and distinguished history. Many thanks to LTC Meiser and SMSgt Monjes for their hospitality - and their service!



Engagement at Career Days

The Northwest Chapter is engaging in career days at various high schools and at one college (Gustavus Adolphus) and we are currently seeking additional opportunities to get our message out, relative to the great careers available in EHS. Our mission is of dual nature: encourage students to participate in Chapter-affiliated college and university programs, such as those at Stout, UMD and U of M Minneapolis (via student section membership) and also raise the awareness of student counselors and faculty, about the opportunities in EHS. We welcome the participation of alumni of educational institutions within the Chapter - either as a source of referrals, and/or to directly participate in such events.

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.

<https://www.assp.org/membership/member-get-a-member>

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 and are open to all Members. It is possible to attend these

meetings in person or via a 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 conference call, please contact a member of the board to get a unique login credentials.

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.

OTHER NEWS TO SHARE

2026 Northwest Chapter ASSP Student Scholarships are Open: Submit by March 15!

Multiple Scholarships totaling a minimum of \$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 MN.

Check out our [website](#) for all the details

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out our [website](#) to see the latest in current openings!



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