



**NORTHWEST
CHAPTER**

February Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!

Thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, presented, exhibited and helped with the February PDC. It is the awesome work of our volunteers that make this chapter exceptional. We had close to 150 people who participated in the PDC. I cannot begin to express my appreciation to the PDC committee who put in hours of work to make it happen.

With the PDC behind us the chapter isn't resting.

- Our next chapter meeting is March 10 "Near Misses to Meaningful Change: Harnessing HOP to Learn and Improve". Registration is now open.
- The Bylaws subcommittee is wrapping up their work and will be presenting to the Board some significant updates. Once the Board approves, approval of the bylaws will go out to all members for a vote.
- Nominations and Elections is finalizing the slate of candidates for our election. The slate should be announced in mid-March with voting opening in April.

- The marketing subcommittee developed chapter specific materials.
- The Board approved our 2026-2027 budget focusing on our priorities:
 - Increased outreach
 - Communication with members
 - Making meetings accessible (hybrid meetings and meeting bundles will be available again)

Chris Flegel (treasurer) and I are off to the Regional Operating Committee (ROC) meeting in early April. It is a chance to share best practices and learn about what other chapters in our region are accomplishing. Northwest Chapter gets to host the Fall ROC, with representatives from the 15 regional chapters coming to the Twin Cities.

We hope to see you in person or online at one of our last meetings of the chapter year.

Carol Keyes, CSP ASSP Northwest Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for our March 10th Chapter Program: From Near Misses to Meaningful Change

From Near Misses to Meaningful Change: Harnessing HOP to Learn and Improve by Nikki Knapp, CSP, Safety Business Analyst with ALLETE.

Register [here](#).

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 6180 Golden Hills Drive Golden Valley, MN 55416
December 8 th	What's that Smell? Industrial Hygiene Made Simple	Cathy Hovde, CIH, CSP, Resilient EHS	MN Safety Council Inc. 474 Concordia Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55103
January 20 th 11 am – 1 pm	<i>Joint Meeting with AIHA</i> Cleared for Safety: Guarding those Who Guard Us	Matthew Manjes, 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 Ailipour, 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.

ENGAGEMENTS

Northwest Chapter's 2026 PDC: "Connecting Today for a Safer Tomorrow"

The Northwest Chapter held the annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) on Tuesday, February 17 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel & Conference Center in Brooklyn Park, MN. With over 150 people registered, we had a great day of general sessions, breakout sessions, exhibitors, and networking. After an opening welcome by PDC Host Scott Huberty that featured a special animated video produced exclusively for the event, our Keynote Speaker, Ted Schick delivered a high-energy message featuring his "Ten Commandments of Safety Communication".

With a PDC theme; "Connecting Today for a Safer Tomorrow", everyone attending the PDC was encouraged and inspired throughout the day to meet other safety professionals and increase their networks. One way this was accomplished through an Exhibitor Bingo game. At the closing session of the PDC there was a drawing for prizes from those who completed their Bingo cards. We are very grateful for all the companies and organizations that were in the Expo Area. We also want to give our thanks and gratitude to all the companies that demonstrated their commitment to safety by participating as PDC Sponsors!

As part of the Lunch Program, Chapter President Carol Keyes led a business meeting that featured the announcement of Mark Nichols as the recipient of the 2025 Northwest Chapter Safety Professional of the Year. This award recognized the numerous ways that Mark has served the Northwest Chapter and the safety profession. Congratulations, Mark! The Lunch Program also featured a message from our Region 5 Area Directors, Rebecca Severson and Carrie Kolodji that included a fun exercise involving people coming up with short raps, poems, and even a salsa dance. Who knew there was so much talent in our Chapter?

Numerous Breakout Sessions throughout the day provided a wide range of speakers delivering presentations on a wide range of specialized topics. It was a challenge to decide which presentation to attend! At the end of the day the PDC was concluded with a Closing Session, followed by a Post Conference Reception.

Many of the people attending the PDC remarked that it was a great day to connect with others and sharpen their skills through the content in the various sessions. Couldn't make it to the PDC? We encourage you to mark your calendar and make it a priority to attend next year as soon as the date is announced. Watch for a "Save the Date" announcement in the months ahead; you won't want to miss out!



Thank you to your 2026 PDC Sponsors and Exhibitors!



2026 PDC Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



GHESS

Complete Health, Environmental & Safety Services



Second Harvest Heartland Says Thank You!

Second Harvest Heartland extends a huge thank you to ASSP Northwest Chapter for hosting a virtual fund drive over the holidays to benefit Second Harvest Heartland! The funds from this drive helps them provide **480 meals** to those facing hunger in our region. Great work!

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

Check Out the ASSP Duluth Student Section's Latest Newsletter

DEC 2025/ JAN 2026

ASSP DULUTH STUDENT SECTION



Open Poster Showing

We participated in our first Emerging Significant Safety Topic poster presentation on campus. This experience was an exciting opportunity to share our work, practice communicating complex safety concepts, and engage with the university community. We are truly grateful to everyone who took the time to attend, offer encouragement, and ask thoughtful questions about our posters. Their feedback and interest will help us strengthen our projects and better prepare for future showcases and professional presentations.



NRRI & Cirrus Tours

Our class toured Cirrus Aircraft with Professor Alanna Lee and the National Resource Research Institute in Duluth with Professor Jean Cranston. Thank you, Alanna, for a great semester, and we look forward to seeing Jean again this semester!

Saying Goodbye & Hello!

Our group had a successful first semester, and we want to thank everyone who supported us along the way. We are also saying goodbye to Caitlyn Hoh as she graduates, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Jameson Hill, Lexi Miller, and Gabriel Richardson into the program as they begin their first semester with us. We look forward to learning and growing together in the months ahead.



2026 Northwest Chapter ASSP Student Scholarships Deadline is Approaching: 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 our our [website](#) for all the details.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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



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