



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

March Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Northwest Chapter Election & Special Election: Why voting matters

The Nominations & Elections Committee has put together a great slate of candidates for Chapter positions. The actual ballot will be emailed to you in about a month, and you will have two weeks vote.

Please vote. It matters. Your vote helps shape the chapter leadership for the coming year. Our chapter can do great things, but it starts with five minutes of your time to actually vote. We have eight open positions: President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Members-at-Large (3) and Society Advisory Group (2 seats). Unfortunately, Paul Gamalgaard, our current VP, will not be able to move on to President-Elect, which adds this special election.

You might wonder what these positions do:

- **President-Elect:** plans all of the chapter meetings and programming. Assists with the PDC and moves to President the following year.

- **Vice President:** helps with the chapter programming and PDC planning. Moves to President Elect and then President.
- **Treasurer:** maintains all of our books, helps plan and maintain the budget, pays the bills and makes sure we have the money to do that. Along with keeping us in compliance with Society.
- **Members-at-Large:** they may assume chair or co-chair positions or assist on different committees (membership, awards and honors, marketing, bylaws, scholarships, PDC planning).
- **Society Advisory Group:** represent the chapter at quarterly meetings, helping to guide the activities on a Society-level basis

Our chapter runs on volunteers. I have greatly appreciated all of the work of our chapter volunteers in making this a very successful, productive chapter year. Please take a minute and vote when the ballot comes out.



Chapter Updates

There is no moss growing under our Board. We continue to work on the bylaws to bring them up to date and truly make them a guidance document for how the chapter operates. Once the Board approves the bylaws, we will publish them for 30 days prior to voting. Assuming the changes are passed by our membership, our Regional Vice President, Jim Nelson, must approve them. Please reach out if you have any questions about bylaws.

We finished up chapter-specific marketing materials so are ready for some trade shows and networking. Where you will find the Northwest Chapter:

- West River Safety Day (South Dakota) (March 18)
- Safety Day at Northwood Tech College (April 9)
- ASSP Region V Operating Committee (April 8-9)
- Minnesota Safety Conference (May 5-6)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings -- Support the Students

Our April 14 Chapter Meeting will be held at the newly remodeled TBG (The Builders Group). Students from UMD and UW-Stout have been invited to give presentations on their research. UMD students will also have poster

presentations. This is a great opportunity to hear about current projects and to support the students (and maybe connect with your next hire). [Registration is open.](#)

May 12 Kam Alipour will be presenting on electrical safety (Stay Current: NFPA 70E Essentials for a Safety Workplace)

As always, you can reach me at President@northwest.assp.org

Carol Keyes, CSP

Northwest Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Program Meeting: Student Paper Presentations from Chapter Student Members from UW-Stout & Duluth

- **Date:** April 14
- **Time:** Registration & Meal 11:30am-11:50am | Chapter Announcements 11:50am-noon | Presentations noon-1:00pm
- **Location:** The Builder's Group | 2919 Eagandale Boulevard, Suite 100; Eagan, MN 55121
- [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 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 Eagan dale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121
April 14 th	Student Paper Presentations	Chapter Student Members UW-Stout & Duluth	The Builders Group 2919 Eagan dale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121
May 12 th	Stay Current: NFPA 70E Essentials for a Safer Workplace	Kamron Allpour, QSSP	The Builders Group 2919 Eagan dale Blvd Ste 100, Eagan MN 55121

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

CHAPTER ELECTION

2026-2027 ASSP Northwest Chapter Election Candidates

This is your first preview of our candidates that are running in our upcoming election. Voting will open on April 21st, 2026.

We will be having an election for the following positions:

- President Elect (1): Special Election
- Vice President (1): Please note an additional VP will be elected to replace our current VP, who is unable to fulfill their duties.
- Treasurer (1)
- Member at Large (3)
- Society Advisory Group Member (2)

Check out the candidate bios below or on our [website](#).

President Elect Candidates (One Open Seat)

Whitney Larson



Whitney Larson is a passionate safety professional committed to promoting integrity, collaboration, and strong safety cultures across the workplace. She serves as a resource for both the physical and psychological safety of jobsite personnel, building collaborative partnerships with team members at every level of an organization. Whitney previously served the ASSP Northwest Chapter as both Government Affairs Chair and Member-at-Large, supporting member engagement and advocacy for workplace safety. Through these roles, she developed a strong appreciation for the impact of chapter leadership and member collaboration. Whitney is now seeking to further her service and leadership within the chapter as President-Elect, continuing her commitment to supporting members and advancing safety across the profession.

Vice President Candidates (One Open Seat)

Tyler Murphy



Tyler Murphy is a Certified Safety Professional with 15+ years of experience dedicated to strengthening the safety cultures within the organizations he's been employed by. Being a part of the ASSP Northwest Chapter since a student of UW-Stout's Risk Control program in 2008, he has attended

monthly meetings to continue learning, and compliments how the Northwest Chapter has allowed him to build relationships and network with other safety professionals! He previously was a Member at Large (2022-2024), actively attending the chapter's board meetings (before each monthly chapter meeting). He's held his CSP since 2013. Tyler resides near New Richmond, WI with his wife and two children (12 & 8).

Curt Schroeder



Curt has spent the past 10 years in the safety industry, including eight years with 3M's Personal Safety Division. For the last two years, Curt has led the safety division at Acme Tools, overseeing operations across 12 locations in three states.

Curt has completed his QSSP certification and have supported numerous customers through safety standdowns, product evaluations, and PPE program development. Curt's focus is ensuring that workers are equipped with the right protective solutions so they can perform their jobs safely and return home at the end of each day.

Treasurer Candidates (One Open Seat)

Chris Flegel



Chris Flegel has served as the NW chapter treasurer for several years and has been on the ASSP NW Chapter board and served as the NW Chapter President during the chapter's 75th anniversary celebration. Chris is willing to continue his duties to help preserve the chapter finances.

Member at Large Candidates (Three Open Seats)

Joel Ferguson, CSP



Certified Safety Professional with 10+ years of experience leading environmental, health, and safety programs across the food and beverage, manufacturing, and oil and gas industries. At W.W. Grainger, Joel is responsible for performing safety inspections across 500+ facilities in MN, IA, WI, ND, and SD, serving as a regional safety subject matter expert for 200+ employees, and delivering training and consultation that help organizations reduce injuries and strengthen EHS programs.

Scott Huberty



Scott has been very involved with the Northwest Chapter since first joining ASSP in 2005. He has served several terms as Chapter Treasurer and President. During his first term as Chapter President during 2009-2010, the Northwest Chapter was named the Society's Large Chapter of the Year. Scott has also been active in organizing past Chapter PDC's, the Annual Summer Boat Cruise for EHS Professionals, and other Northwest Chapter events. He has been the PDC Planning Committee Chair for 2024, 2025, and 2026. In his "day job", Scott is a Safety Specialist at The Builders Group (TBG); a workers compensation self-insurance group for Minnesota building contractors.

Andrea Peterson



Andrea has worked as an EHS professional for 15 years, primarily in manufacturing. She is currently the HSE Director for Trystar, a manufacturer of custom electrical system solutions, based in Faribault, MN. She holds a B.S. of Global Security & Intelligence Studies from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master of Science in Public Safety & Emergency Management from Capella University.

As a member of ASSP since 2011, Andrea has attended many local and national events over the years. She has served as Member at Large for the Northwest Chapter from 2024-2026, and would like to continue providing support to the board and the regional members. Andrea is also an active member of the Steele County Emergency Response Team, and has been an instructor for the new CERT Member classes for the last 10 years. She is passionate about learning and development, for herself, safety professionals, and community members.

Megan Rooney



Megan Rooney has been in the safety field for almost 25 years. She currently works at Target supporting stores safety (just celebrated her 14 year anniversary!) and is known for collaboration among cross-functional groups from safety to operations to assets protection. She got her start at IEA, Inc., a local EHS consulting organization, where she worked in the field as a technician, managed client accounts, and finally led her own division of EHS professionals.

Megan joined ASSP in 2007 to connect with other safety professionals in similar careers. She was Treasurer of the board for 2 years in 2008-2010, served on the PDC planning committee from 2012 to 2017, was a Member at Large 2016-2018, and was a delegate for several years.

Eric Toth



Eric R. Toth, CSP is a Director of Safety and Health with Cordia, a utility provider of heating, cooling, and electrical generation to major metropolitan US cities. Eric is responsible for health and safety program development, hazard and risk identification, compliance, and management system practices. Based in Minneapolis, at the Cordia Energy Center, a MNSTAR facility, Eric has been a dedicated member of the Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals since 2005. His career began in 1988 with Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) in waste-to-recovery and fossil fuel electrical generation, then transitioned to NRG Energy, becoming an EHS Manager for NRG's European division for over four years in the UK, Czech Republic, and Hungary. Eric holds a BS degree in Industrial Technology Engineering from the University of Minnesota–Duluth and is also a licensed aviation pilot.

[Society Advisory Group Member Candidates \(Two Open Seats\)](#)

Kate Carlson



Kate Carlson is a Certified Safety Professional with more than 15 years of experience advancing safety and health performance across complex, multi-site organizations. Kate currently serves as a Senior Manager of Safety with Target Global Supply Chain, where she partners with operations and leadership to strengthen safety culture, reduce risk, and deliver measurable performance improvements.

Kate's career has centered on building and sustaining high-performing safety management systems aligned with OSHA regulations and nationally recognized standards, including ANSI and ISO 45001 principles. She has led enterprise-wide initiatives focused on hazard recognition, serious injury and fatality (SIF) prevention, regulatory compliance, and data-driven risk reduction. Her work consistently integrates leading indicators, behavioral insights, and operational metrics to improve both safety outcomes and business performance.

Known for her collaborative leadership style, Kate excels at engaging frontline teams while influencing senior leaders to drive meaningful, sustainable change. She has successfully led cross-functional efforts that

strengthened accountability, enhanced training effectiveness, and improved audit readiness across geographically dispersed operations.

Kate is passionate about advancing the safety profession through practical innovation, knowledge-sharing, and mentorship.

Jamison Latham



Jamison is currently a Senior Regulatory Compliance Engineer at Amazon Robotics. His scope of work includes evaluating various types of automation and robotic applications to ensure safe design with industry standards such as Machinery Directive (EU), ANSI B11 (NA), NFPA 79, CE marking, (EU) NRTL (NA), and ISO 13849. Jamison actively serves on A3 (Association for Advancing Automation) Technical Advisory Committee's for both ANSI R15.06 Industrial Robots and Vice Chair of R15.08 Industrial Mobile Robots. He is the A3 project lead for the OSHA Alliance team that updated OSHA's Technical Manual on Robot Safety requirements for OSHA Enforcement Officers. Jamison received his Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Murray State University. He is a Certified Safety Professional, Certified Machinery Safety Expert (TUV-NORD) and ANSI B11 Licensed Machinery Safety Specialist. Jamison has been an active ASSE/ASSP member for 25+ years and former past president for Northwest Chapter.

ENGAGEMENTS

The Northwest Chapter Supports Safety in Wisconsin

Did you know that the geographic boundaries of the Northwest Chapter includes many counties in western Wisconsin? Stretching from Superior, Wisconsin to the north and reaching almost to LaCrosse, and as far east as counties including Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, we have a lot of Chapter Members in Wisconsin. On Thursday, April 9 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM the Northwood Technical College will be holding their annual Safety Day at their New Richmond campus, and Members of Northwest Chapter are encouraged to attend. Check out the following link for details on the event and to make your registration: <https://www.northwoodtech.edu/event/safety-day/>

The Northwood Technical College Safety Day is a great way to build on your EHS knowledge base, learn more about OSHA in Wisconsin, and enjoy opportunities for networking. Plans are in the works for a social meet-up immediately after the conference that is a joint effort between the Northwest Chapter and the Western Wisconsin Safety Council. Details on that event will be coming very soon and everyone is invited to that, whether you attend the Safety Day or not!



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

Region SPY Awarded to Alanna Lee from Northwest Chapter!

The ASSP Regional Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award acknowledges the dedication and outstanding contributions of a member to Region V (Midwest). The judging criteria takes into consideration a nominee's technical expertise, contributions to chapters and the region, professional contributions to advance the safety profession, leadership, and a number of other criteria. There are 15 chapters in Region V, covering Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Alanna Lee, CSP, is being awarded the Region SPY award this year. Alanna is the Director of Environmental Health & Safety for Cirrus, an aircraft manufacturer in Duluth. While President of the Northwest Chapter, she helped the chapter achieve Platinum status and ensure hybrid meetings could reach more members, especially as we came out of COVID. Along with developing leaders within the chapter and within Cirrus, Alanna is an Adjunct Professor at UMD for the Masters of Environmental Health & Safety. She also serves on the Minnesota Safety Council Board of Directors.

The Region V SPY will be awarded at the April Chapter meeting. Congratulations to Alanna! Not only is this a great achievement, but a well-deserved recognition of how Alanna has contributed to our profession.

A Final Look at the 2026 Northwest Chapter PDC

Each week seems to go by so quickly, so before we get too far into Spring, let's take a moment to recall some of the takeaways from the Northwest Chapter PDC that was held February 17 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel and Conference Center. The theme for the day was "Connecting Today for a Safer Tomorrow", and the day was dedicated to building our EHS skills and expanding our EHS networks. With a special opening animation created by The Whiteboard Video Company, we had a look at what the PDC theme was all about. Our Keynote Speaker, Ted Schick offered a high energy message on the Ten Commandments of Safety. If you want a little more of Ted, check out this link to his website where you will find a way to sign up for his newsletters. <https://schickcorplearning.com/>

Numerous breakout sessions provided a great way to expand our knowledge base and an Expo Area was filled with a great number of companies with the latest in EHS products and services. Of course, the PDC could not happen without the generous support of our PDC Sponsors. Gold Sponsors were Cintas, Cirrus Aircraft, IEA Inc., Minnesota Safety Council, and ProAct EHS.

Bronze PDC Sponsors were C.H.E.S.S., Grainger, and Marsh McLennan Agency.

The 2026 PDC may be in the history books, but be sure to make a note to be part of the 2027 Northwest Chapter PDC that is expected to take place Tuesday, February 9, 2027!



The March Chapter Meeting Explores HOP Concepts

The Northwest Chapter is grateful to the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota for hosting the March Chapter meeting that took place Tuesday, March 10 at their recently-remodeled training room. Those in attendance and participating virtually were treated to a special presentation by Nikki Knapp, CSP from Allette, Inc. titled, "From Near Misses to Meaningful Change: Harnessing HOP to Learn and Improve". Nikki is a Senior Safety Business Process Analyst for the Duluth-based energy company.

Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) is a safety philosophy recognizing that people make mistakes, and systems should be designed to be error-tolerant rather than blame-focused. It shifts the focus from punishing individuals to learning from failures and understanding the operational context that drives behavior. Nikki reminded us of the five HOP Principles: (1) error is normal, (2) blame fixes nothing, (3) learning and improving is vital, (4) context drives behavior, and (5) leadership's response to failure matters. As a way to demonstrate HOP concepts, Nikki led some engaging interactive exercises for those in attendance.

The Northwest Chapter thanks Nikki for traveling to the Twin Cities from northern Minnesota to lead the presentation; it was great to have your expertise! Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 14 when the Northwest Chapter meets at The Builders Group (TBG) in Eagan to celebrate our EHS students and listen to presentations based on their research papers. The Student Day event is always a special gathering that you won't want to miss! Incidentally, this is the first Chapter meeting at TBG

since that organization completed a remodeling and addition to their training facility. Meeting registration is now open at the Northwest Chapter [website](#).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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



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

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