



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Northwest Chapter!

Northwest Chapter Election & Special Election: Please vote

You should have received an email with the subject "ASSP Northwest Chapter Election." That is your unique link to vote for Chapter officers. Please take the time to cast your ballot. We have great candidates running to be on the Board and two of the five positions have more candidates than seats, so you will have to make a decision; this is not an automatic election.

Minnesota Safety Conference

The MSC is May 5-6 at [Mystic Lake Conference Center](#). If you are going, please come find the Northwest Chapter booth to say hello.

Chapter Bylaws

As I've mentioned before, the Bylaws Committee has been working on major revisions to our Chapter bylaws. This was driven by several factors: our

bylaws were out of date, in some cases they did not follow Society rules, and we wanted the bylaws to be a better guidance document for chapter operations. The changes took many revisions, with input from the Board, Society, and our Region leadership. We're putting together a summary of the changes and hope to post the proposed bylaws around mid to late May. Members of the chapter will then be asked to vote on approval of the bylaws.

Chapter Meetings

May 12 Kam Alipour will be presenting on electrical safety (Stay Current: NFPA 70E Essentials for a Safety Workplace) at our last chapter meeting until September.

The joint boat ride will be coming back in August, so you don't have to go the whole summer without an ASSP event.

Preview for the next chapter year: we will be offering the meeting bundles again (half price for virtual or in-person meetings). Stay tuned for that and our 2026-2027 Chapter Meeting Schedule, and watch for the postcard reminder in August.

Safety 2026

Let me know if you're speaking at Safety 2026, so we can put in a plug for your session. Hope to see you in Anaheim.

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

Carol Keyes, CSP

Northwest Chapter President

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Chapter Program Meeting: Stay Current NFPA 70E Essentials

- **Date:** May 12, 2026
- **Location:** The Builder's Group or Virtual

- **Timing:** Registration and Meal 11:30am-11:50am | Chapter Announcements 11:50am-Noon | Program Noon-1:00pm
 - [Register here](#)
-

Northwest Chapter is Exhibiting at the MN Safety & Health Conference

Are you planning to attend the Minnesota Safety & Health Conference on May 5 -6 at the Mystic Lake Center? This is the premier gathering of safety professionals from all around Minnesota and the Midwest. As is our tradition, the Northwest Chapter will be in the Expo area throughout the conference. Be sure to stop by and say by and say hello to Chapter Leaders who will be there!



Going to Safety 2026 in Anaheim?

ASSP will hold Safety 2026 - the annual Professional Development Conference; from June 15 - 17 at the Anaheim Convention Center in California. Many Northwest Chapter members will be attending and there are a number of our Members who were selected to speak. If you made a registration to go, keep your eyes open for details on a Northwest Chapter group photo at Anaheim as well as a Meet-Up out there.



CHAPTER ELECTION

2026-2027 ASSP Northwest Chapter Election Candidates

Have you voted yet? Voting opened April 21st and will close May 8.

We have 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 has 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

Northwest Chapter Holds Meet-Up in Wisconsin

On Thursday, April 9th the Northwest Chapter teamed up with the Western Wisconsin Safety Council for a social and networking Meet-Up in New Richmond, Wisconsin. The event took place right after the Northwood Technical College Safety Day wrapped up, and was a great way for conference attendees to relax and connect after a busy day at that

conference. The event took place in the Event Center at the 45th Parallel Distillery, just a few minutes' drive from Northwood Technical College, and we had a turnout of 18 people. Of course the event featured socializing, appetizers, and beverages, but we also had fun with the "Guess the Number of Earplugs in the Jar" game. The winner was Jessica Miller from Core Products in Osceola, and she received a Kwik Trip gift card. Her guess of 600 earplugs came closest to the actual number of 632! The group also engaged in a lively discussion about safety-related topics, such as safety challenges, safety successes, and safety "war stories". We hope to do another of these in the future, but we do not yet have a date set; so stay tuned for that!



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

Alanna Lee Recognized as the ASSP Region V Safety Professional of the Year

The ASSP Northwest chapter is pleased to announce that member and past chapter President, Alanna Lee, has been selected as this year’s ASSP Region V Safety Professional of the Year (SPY).

This prestigious award is bestowed by the American Society of Professionals to recognize members who show exceptional dedication, leadership, and outstanding contributions to the safety profession and their local chapters within Region V. Region V covers a nine-state area that includes Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Alanna Lee is the Director of Workplace Safety, Security and Environment at Cirrus Aircraft in Duluth, MN. She is responsible for ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, managing employee safety and health, driving continuous improvement in safety performance and metrics, and leading the organization in operational safety and cultural excellence.

Beyond her work at Cirrus, Alanna is a dedicated leader in the EHS community. Alanna is an adjunct professor for the Masters of Environmental Health & Safety program at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she educates the next generation of safety professionals.

As the recent President and Past President of the Northwest chapter, she led the organization to Platinum status. During Alanna's presidency, safety professionals from the region were brought together to learn and network. She organized professional meetups, mentored incoming leadership, and serves as a member of the MN Safety Council's Board of Directors. In recognition of her significant contributions to the chapter and the profession, she was honored with Northwest chapter SPY award last year.

Alanna played a pivotal role in revitalizing the ASSP Northwest chapter following a decline in membership due to COVID-19. By combining a high-quality speaker line-up with hybrid meeting formats, she expanded regional reach and boosted engagement. She was instrumental in reaching out and strengthening chapter connections with schools and students in the region. The relationships she created have been paying back even today with students acting as chapter liaisons and presenting projects to chapter members.

Please join us in congratulating Alanna on this well-deserved honor. Her tireless commitment to the safety profession and her visionary leadership continue to inspire our members and shape the future of the Northwest Chapter. We are incredibly proud to have her representing our region as the Safety Professional of the Year!



MARCH, 2026

ASSP DULUTH STUDENT SECTION



IH Equipment Experience

We want to thank Vinny Lamovec and Scott Norman for taking the time to visit our MEHS class and share their expertise with us. Their demonstration of air sampling techniques, sound level meters, gas meters, and the latest advancements in this technology was incredibly informative and engaging. We truly appreciate the effort they put into giving us hands-on exposure to real-world equipment that we may use in our future careers.



ERC Regional Symposium

Three students from our program attended the 2026 ERC Regional Symposium at the University of Michigan, where we had an incredible experience connecting with professionals in the field and discussed current industry practices. We were grateful to connect with representatives from the University of Minnesota Occupational Health Program.

Ford Rouge Factory Tour

Some students had the opportunity to tour the Ford Rouge Factory Tour in Detroit, and it was an unforgettable experience. The facility was both beautiful and incredibly impressive, showcasing the scale and innovation of modern manufacturing. Seeing the production process up close gave us a new appreciation for the technology, efficiency, and craftsmanship behind the automotive industry.



ASSP Northwest Chapter – Government Affairs Update (MN OSHA / Federal OSHA) April 2026 (Past 60 Days)

Federal & ASSP Advocacy Activity

- ASSP submitted/input supported **ongoing OSHA rulemaking priorities**, including **PPE standard alignment with ANSI consensus standards** and continued advancement of **Hazard Communication (HazCom) updates**.
- Continued ASSP engagement with policymakers to reinforce the role of **consensus standards in regulatory modernization**.

Federal Agency Funding & Direction

- Advocacy efforts supported **FY26 funding stability for OSHA, NIOSH, and CSB**, maintaining focus on enforcement, research, and incident prevention.
- Recent updates indicate **continued stabilization of NIOSH operations**, supporting research and guidance development.

Regulatory Focus Areas (Last 2 Months)

- Increased federal emphasis on:
 - **Heat illness prevention rulemaking progression**
 - **HazCom alignment with GHS updates**
 - **Serious Injury & Fatality (SIF) prevention initiatives**

Minnesota (MNOSHA) Implications

- MNOSHA expected to **mirror federal direction**, particularly:
 - PPE and HazCom updates
 - Continued focus on **high-hazard industries and heat-related risks**

Key Takeaway

- Short-term trend: **Incremental regulatory updates + sustained federal support**, with ASSP continuing to influence alignment between **OSHA rules and modern consensus standards**.

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.