



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Northwest Chapter Members,

We've had an outstanding start to our chapter season! Our September OSHA Roundtable and October Return-to-Work presentation with Lisa Peirson were both well attended, providing valuable insights and continuing education opportunities for our members. It's especially exciting to see so many new faces joining us this year, and we hope you'll continue to participate in the months ahead.

Registration is now open for our November and December events, which are posted on the Chapter website. Members can also take advantage of our **Meeting Bundle**, offering substantial savings and access to seven Chapter events for just \$75 in person or \$40 virtually. **It's a great way to stay connected, earn CEUs, and engage with fellow safety professionals** throughout the year.

Chapter Updates

This season, we are proud to support **Second Harvest Heartland** through our Chapter Food Donation Drive. Across Minnesota, 1 in 5 families faces food insecurity and may struggle to afford the groceries they need. Your contribution can help provide nutritious meals and much-needed stability for our neighbors in need.

Donate here: [Virtual Fund Drive FY27: Megan Navarre - Second Harvest Heartland](#)

Please look for the Save the Date for our upcoming Professional Development Conference (PDC). The PDC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th, 2027, at the Saint Paul College. This will be a full day of learning, networking, and professional growth. Visit the ASSP Northwest Chapter for more details and mark your calendar.

Schedule Reminder

Our next Chapter meeting will be held on **November 10** at **Builders Group in Eagan, Minnesota**. Join us for lunch and an engaging presentation, **"Equity in PPE: Protecting Every Worker, Every Time,"** led by the dynamic and knowledgeable **Nikki Knapp**.

Plan Ahead for Your 2027 EHS Professional Development

It's budget season! Once again, we are entering the time of year when many organizations and departments are determining budgets for 2027. If you work at a place where you are asked to submit budget request items, don't forget to include budget money for professional development! This would include things like ASSP dues, the Northwest Chapter PDC in February, and ASSP's Safety 2027 in New Orleans scheduled for June 7 -9, 2027.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the Northwest Chapter.

Sincerely,

Megan Navarre

President, ASSP Northwest Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 10: Equity in PPE

[Register here.](#)

OSHA's updated personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements reinforce that workplace safety goes beyond a one-size-fits-all approach. Proper fit, functionality, and accessibility are essential to protecting workers and creating a safer, more inclusive workforce.

This session explores how organizations can move beyond regulatory compliance to develop PPE programs that improve employee safety, engagement, and retention. Attendees will gain practical strategies for identifying and addressing PPE fit challenges, closing equity gaps, and strengthening their existing safety programs.

Drawing on findings from The Safety Rack's 2025 PPE Equity Report, this session will highlight the often-overlooked safety risks and productivity impacts of ill-fitting PPE. Real-world examples and an organizational case study will demonstrate how aligning PPE policies with OSHA requirements can drive meaningful improvements in workplace safety and inclusion.

Participants will leave with actionable insights to help build PPE programs that meet regulatory expectations while supporting a safer, more inclusive workplace for everyone.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information and to register.

Chapter Meeting Bundle Discount

We're continuing to offer our popular meeting bundle program. For just **\$75 (in-person)** or **\$40 (virtual)**, members receive access to 7 chapter meetings throughout the year. The January Joint Meeting with UMS-AIHA and the February Professional Development Conference are not included in the bundle. Please remember that registration and attendance are still required to receive CEUs.

You can purchase this bundle with your November program registration [here](#).

PDC Save the Date

Check out our [website](#) for more information and to register.



SAVE THE DATE



**ASSP Northwest Chapter's
Professional Development
Conference**
Tuesday, February 9, 2027
Saint Paul College
235 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55102

Mark your calendar for a full day of learning, networking, and professional growth. Join fellow safety professionals for our Annual PDC Event on February 9th, 2027. This event is designed to bring together professionals dedicated to workplace safety, compliance, and continuous improvement.

Website with more details and registration information will be coming soon.
Be on the look out at: <https://northwest.assp.org/event/>



PDC Call for Speakers

Check out our [website](#) for more information.



CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Safety is about people. Their ideas, experiences, challenges, and solutions. We want to hear yours!

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Saint Paul College

235 Marshall Ave, St Paul, MN 55102

We're excited to announce our Call for Speakers for the upcoming ASSP Northwest Chapter Professional Development Conference!

We're looking for one-hour sessions that bring safety to life through practical ideas, real-world experiences, lessons learned, and fresh perspectives. **Nominate yourself, a colleague, or someone whose voice deserves the stage.** If nominating someone else, please confirm their interest first.

DEADLINES:

🕒 Speaker Nomination Deadline: November 5, 2026

📅 Speakers Selected By: November 28, 2026

TOPIC:

Safety-related (examples: leadership in safety, emerging regulations, risk assessment, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, mental health in the workplace, or innovative safety practices)

AUDIENCE:

Safety professionals, EHS managers, supervisors, and industry leaders

DURATION:

1 hour (including Q&A)

HOW TO APPLY:

Please submit your proposed session title, a brief description, and speaker bio at <https://northwest.assp.org/call-for-speakers/> or scan the QR code



OTHER NEWS TO SHARE

2027 Safety Professional of the Year Award - Nominations Open!!

Do you know an outstanding safety professional? The ASSP Northwest Chapter is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the Chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award for 2027. This award recognizes an outstanding chapter member for their significant contributions

to the occupational safety and health (OSH) field and to our chapter community.

How to submit a nomination: For more information or to submit a nominee, send an email to awards@northwest.assp.org.

Who is eligible? To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be a member in good standing with both the ASSP and the Northwest Chapter.

What are the criteria? The ideal nominee is a safety leader who has demonstrated excellence in the OSH field and has actively advanced the profession. The individual's achievements will be evaluated in several categories, including but not limited to Leadership, Contributions, Mentorship, Activities, Innovations, and Demonstrated Expertise.

Nomination deadline: November 15, 2026

For a full list of criteria and to access the official nomination form, please visit <https://northwest.assp.org/awards-honors/>

UMD MEHS Newsletter - October 2026

UMD MEHS Newsletter

October 2026



3M Fall Protection Presentation

We spent the evening with representatives from 3M and learned all about fall protection. We were able to try on harnesses, learn about anchors and connections, and see in real time the impact that falling even just a few feet can have.

Northeast Regional Safety Day

We attended the Northeast Regional Safety Day at Black Bear. There were presentations on safe driving, AI, OSHA updates, mental health, nutrition, and more. This was a great opportunity to meet and hear from other safety professionals!



New Elections for Duluth's Student Section of ASSP

President: Grace Dahm
Vice president: Gabe Richardson
Treasurer: Jameson Hill
Secretary: Alissa Smith
Fellow cohort members: Kenneth Dammer, Lexi Miller, Kailer Wenzel, Tyler Platt

Student Scholarships Are Coming!

Be on the lookout as the Northwest Chapter is kicking off the 2027 Student Scholarships on November 15th!

In addition, the 2027 ASSP Foundation Academic Scholarship application opened October 15 and closes February 15, 2027. [Learn more here](#). Through one application, students are considered for more than 100 scholarships made possible by donors. This year's recipient of the **ASSP Foundation Scholarship, in memory of Cary Swenson for \$1000** is **Holly Johnson**, a Master's degree student studying Environmental Health and Safety at University of Minnesota - congrats!

Remembering a Longtime Chapter Member

Scott Huberty recently shared this news: Those of us who have been around the Twin Cities' EHS Community for a while will probably remember David Volker. He spent many years as a safety consultant for Lovegreen Industrial Services, providing machine guarding consulting services for clients around the U.S. and internationally. Dave was a longtime member of ASSP and was a big supporter of Northwest Chapter. On different occasions he was a speaker at Chapter meetings and Chapter PDCs, and was easily recognized by his handlebar mustache and never-ending smile.

After retiring from Lovegreen, he moved to the south Texas town of Weslaco, where he enjoyed travels around the U.S. in his motorhome and loved watching rocket launches from the SpaceX Starbase launch facility which was close to where he lived. He made summer trips in the motorhome back to the Midwest, and would spend weeks fueling his passion for aviation at the EAA's AirVenture convention and airshows at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Dave was a "straight-shooter"; probably due to his early years as an Air Force B-52 pilot in Vietnam. I remember asking him why he moved to Texas and still chuckle at his reply, "I am sick of Minnesota winters, taxes, and politics!"

A couple of years ago Dave was diagnosed with cancer. He went through aggressive treatments and had a very positive attitude and outlook. Last February, while enjoying my own brief winter escape to south Texas, my wife and I had lunch with Dave and his wife at a local restaurant. We enjoyed several hours of stories and laughs, but it was evident that the cancer was taking a toll on him. I am sad to report that Dave passed away this past July 17, 2026. He was 79 years young and will be missed.

Here's a photo of Dave when he was a presenter at a Northwest Chapter meeting back in February, 2006:



ENGAGEMENTS

Engagement at Career Days

The Northwest Chapter is engaging in career days at various high schools and at times at colleges 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.

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.

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