Hi there friend,

Take a look at what happened this month in the Northwest Chapter!

President's Message

Welcome to the 2015-2016 Northwest Chapter ASSE year! I look forward to the exciting opportunity to serve as the President in the new year. The MN Safety Council hosted the transition meeting of officers in late June. Thank you Cary Swenson & Tom Cone for your work in making this productive meeting happen! At this meeting, there was also a fantastic discussion about ways the NW Chapter can provide greater value to its members. Based on these suggestions, the NW Board is planning to focus on the following actions:
Member engagement:

1. Actively support our new Great Plains Section located in North Dakota
   - NW Board member to attend at least one onsite Great Plains Board meeting
   - At least one Great Plains Board member to attend our monthly NW Chapter meeting
2. Appoint new Membership Chair (Dean Sherman - Target)
   - Restructure Membership Committee platform
   - Focus on customer service during each Chapter meeting
3. Encourage committee involvement for events such as annual PDC; MN, SD, & ND Safety Council; & Duluth Days

Annual NW Chapter Professional Development Conference:

1. Date: February 9, 2016
2. Located: The Commons Hotel at 615 Washington Ave SE in Minneapolis
3. Restructured PDC to only one day and switch location to reduce workload of Board members along with reduction of costs

Outreach to Student Section:

1. Requesting Student Section Advisors and Student Section Officers to assist with the logistics of these meetings allows great networking along with engagement towards ASSE
2. Hosting Chapter meetings at both Student Sections will allow Students as well as the “out of towners” the opportunity to attend and participate
3. Anticipate conducting our monthly NW Chapter Board meeting along with Chapter meeting at both the UW Stout campus (November 10th) and UM Duluth campus (April 12th) student section this fiscal year

There are several new faces on the Board this year. We plan to “spot light” Board members each month this year by publishing their profiles along with pics within the newsletter to help members get to know the new faces. We aim to be inclusive in highlighting members and please reach out to me if you are interested in the spotlight.

Please feel free to email me at jharrell-latham@baywest.com at any time throughout this new ASSE year with questions, concerns, or interest in participating in any of our Chapter projects. I look forward to working with everyone!

Jamison – NW Chapter President 2015-2016
North Dakota Section Update

The Regional Operating Committee, made up of presidents in the Region, voted overwhelmingly to approve the section formation in North Dakota – the North Plains Section.

The next steps to becoming a section are the election of section officers. If you are interested in serving, based on the May meeting, we are looking for people to fill the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, 2 Member-at-Large.

Based on his experience in prior chapters, David Kniffen has been asked to serve as the Nominations and Elections chair. **If you are interested in running, please provide your bio and which position you are interested in to David at david_kniffen@oxy.com.**

If you would like additional information, please contact Diana Stegall at Diana.stegall@charter.net

Northwest Chapter Spotlight:
John Urban, President Elect

John is the President-Elect of the Northwest Chapter and is currently employed as a Senior Safety Consultant at Xcel Energy. He is originally from Wisconsin but currently resides in Lakeville, MN where he and his wife have two girls’ ages 10 and 12, and a boy who is 3 years old.

John graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a BS in Industrial Technology (1991) and a MS in Safety (1992). John started his career with Cheme Contracting at Flint Hills. After that, he went to work for Kiewit Construction Company in Niagara Falls, NY from there onto Boston, MA working on the “Big Dig”, then to Fishkill, NY for MW-Group building a cleanroom
for IBM, and then Frankfurt Oder, Germany before landing at Xcel Energy.

His proudest accomplishment was working at the Cable Stayed Bridge in Boston, MA (Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge) where there were very little accidents. Unlike most other projects on the Big Dig, they achieved outstanding safety performance and received many awards; they had a great safety process!

John was attracted to becoming involved with the NW Chapter as a Board Member because he felt it’s very important that we keep the safety/risk control profession pure. One way to do this is to collectively come together, network, share ideas, and talk about how to give members the best the Chapter can offer. Being involved help’s John stay focused in his career.

John’s favorites include: Spicy Thai food, corn on the cob, veiner schnitzel, and mustard. He enjoys listening to Maroon 5 and Train, his favorite movies include Inglorious Bastards and Avengers, and his favorite TV shows are Lost and Breaking Bad. John favorite activity is giant slalom racing. His top travel destinations have included Munich, Germany; Paris, France; and Saas Fee, Switzerland.

If John won the lottery and it was a really large sum of money, he would give 100K to several close friends/relatives to do what they want with it. He would also start a new business….perhaps a ski resort!

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**Northwest Chapter Spotlight: Chris Flegel, VP**

Chris is the Vice President of the Northwest Chapter and is currently employed as a Senior Loss Control Representative at The Builders Group. He is originally from Medina, North Dakota but currently resides in New Market, Minnesota where he and his wife Shannon have three girls’ Kendra (14), Erica (11), and Jenna (6). Chris graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BS in Occupational Safety and Environmental Health. Although Chris currently works with The Builders Group, his past employers have included Xcel Energy, Vic’s Crane and Heavy Haul Inc, EKS, Black & Veatch, TIC of Wyoming, Hardee’s, Red River Valley and Western Railroad, and the Polk County Ambulance Service in Crookston, Minnesota.

Chris is most proud of passing his Certified Safety Professional (CSP) examination as it was the hardest test he’d ever taken and is very glad he will not have to re-take it.
The excitement of the expansion of more membership involvement in the Northwest Chapter is what drew Chris to become a Board Member. He loves learning more about ASSE and how they can help develop their members through training, seminars, and various activities.

Chris’ favorites include: shrimp, steak, mushrooms, and his families famous homemade pickles! He enjoys listening to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, his favorite movie is Good Will Hunting, and his favorite TV show is The Amazing Race. His hobbies and favorite activities include being a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT, volunteering with the First Aid Team at Target Field, and supporting the Minnesota Twins as a family (they even went to Kansas City over the 4th of July to cheer on the Twins). With fishing and hunting being the other favorite hobbies, it’s no wonder North Dakota is Chris’ top travel designation.

If Chris won the lottery he would pay off all his debts and live and give like no one else. Specifically, he would love to travel back to Myanmar and work to help people get access to clean water.

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**Save the Date! MN OSHA Update**

Save the date for our annual Minnesota OSHA Update at the September Chapter Meeting! James Krueger, Director of Minnesota OSHA, will be presenting Tuesday, September 15th, 2015. Mr. Krueger will be providing updates on MN OSHA, their current focus, and what you should be aware of for your workforce.

The location will be at Grumpy’s in Roseville, MN with registration and networking starting at 11:30, lunch at 12:00pm, followed by the program from 12:15pm – 1:30pm.

Registration is not yet open, so save the date on your calendar! The Northwest Chapter will send registration information closer to the date!