Hi there friend,

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

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President's Message

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the last few days of summer! The Minnesota State Fair, apple season and the return of football are fast approaching. It also means that it is time to kick off the NW Chapter regular monthly meetings.

Jim Krueger, Director of Enforcement for MN OSHA, will discuss important MN OSHA updates on September 15th at Grumpy's in Roseville. Find more details for this meeting and other activities of the NW Chapter here.

Chapter Board met via web meeting on August 11th to discuss a few key topics below:

- PDC Committee – Diana Stegall
Date: Feb 9th at The Common Hotel in Minneapolis (1 Day conference)

- Approved Todd Conklin as Key Note Speaker

- Professional Certification – Katie Schofield
  - Establish CEUs (0.1) for monthly meetings; setup via Chapter registration (thanks Rick Johnson)
  - MCOHS (Chris Western) to provide CEU certifications after the monthly meeting to those who request via registration

- Revision of Chapter Bylaws – Jamison
  - Revision sought due to new areas assigned within Region V Chapters
  - Region V RVP (Diana Stegall) is working with ASSE headquarters to obtain additional counties within Southwest MN and section of South Dakota (Sioux Falls) to be part of our Northwest Chapter membership
  - Members will have an opportunity to review changes after the revised bylaws are approved by the Board. Board will review proposed changes at the September 15th meeting.

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.

Jamison– NW Chapter President 2015-2016

Member Survey Results

During the Month of July, all NW Chapter members were emailed a link to participate in the Annual Chapter Member Survey. The results of these surveys are used to develop
programs and services that will benefit our members. The survey is our best opportunity to solicit feedback from all of our members. Unfortunately very few of our 800+ chapter members chose to participate in our most recent attempt to gain this information. However, the results may be of interest as it is the information provided by participating members that will be used to develop ongoing chapter programs.

Of the 67 responses to this year’s survey, the following information was obtained.

1. Chapter membership: 28% of respondents have been members for 5-10 years, 25% have been members for 10-20 years, 22% have been members for 20 plus years.
2. Chapter sponsored items: 52% of respondents find the monthly meetings to be the most beneficial service, 51% find the Annual PDC to be beneficial. 22% appreciate the newsletters and 18% like the information on the website. Interesting to note: 10% of the respondents had not attended a meeting, a PDC, read a newsletter, attended a joint meeting or participated in a technical tour.
3. 93% of respondents found email to be a sufficient mode of communication.
4. 78% were aware that monthly meetings are recorded and posted on the website.
5. 78% had viewed a past meeting on the website.
6. 54% of respondents visit the website monthly, 30% visit the website rarely.
7. 76% of responding members find the website information moderately useful and topical. 12% indicated they had not visited the website in the past 2 years.
8. As to which social media portals members use, 42% use LinkedIn, 32% use Facebook, 12% use Twitter, 5% use Instagram. Amazingly 7% of responding members do not use social media.
9. In addition to email, chapter members report they would like the chapter to use the following communications methods: 27% LinkedIn, 19% Facebook, 10% Twitter. 39% indicated that email was sufficient.
10. Following that inquiry the question was how often do members use the social media sites? 46% indicate they rarely use LinkedIn, 37% said they never use LinkedIn.
11. 66% of respondents indicated they had attended a PDC in the past 3 years.
12. 57% skipped answering the reasons why they had not attended. Of those that did answer 18 members said their employers do not support the cost of continuing education, and 17 members said they did not know about the conferences. (This information is posted on the website and multiple emails were sent to members last year. It was also discussed at monthly meetings and posted regularly in the newsletter.)
13. There were 18 choices of possible topics offered for future PDC’s with a ranking of 1-10 for desirability. Lockout Tagout rated an 8.3 on the high end, with Developing return on investment rating a 2.63 on the low end. Most of the other suggested topics were pretty much in the middle.
14. The survey provided opportunity for members to suggest topics and there were 7 suggestions provided. (This information will be forwarded to the PDC committee)

15. Most respondents skipped the opportunity to suggest speakers for upcoming PDC’s.

16. 45% of respondents had attended a chapter meeting within the previous 12 months.

17. Of those who answered no to attending monthly meetings, the most frequent reason was a lack of support for continuing education at their employer, followed by the cost and the time of day.

18. With those answers in mind 72% of respondents continue to indicate that the weekday luncheon is the best time.

19. As to the days of the week for having meetings, Tuesday continues to rate highest at 28%, followed by Wednesday 24%, and Thursday at 22%.

20. The most requested topics for a monthly meeting on a scale of 1-10 are: Lockout/Tagout 8.35, NFPA 70E 7.09, Scaffolding 6.97 and workers Compensation at 6.48.

21. Members did suggest a number of possible topics and possible speakers and these will be considered by the program committee.

22. There was an opportunity to indicate specific aspect s of the chapter that might be improved and 51% of respondents chose to skip that question. (The items were forwarded to the chapter president for review with the Board of Directors.)

23. Overall membership satisfaction by responding members indicated that: 73% are satisfied, 21% extremely satisfied.

Members were provided a space to make additional comments related to membership and to request contact by a chapter officer. This information was passed on to the current chapter board.

For those who chose to participate in this year’s survey we thank you for your feedback.

- Tom Cone

NW Chapter Board Member Spotlight:
Jenn Olson, Secretary

Jenn is the Secretary of the NW Chapter and works as a Division EHS Engineer for 3M’s Distribution Centers in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Born and raised in Hastings, Minnesota, Jenn pursued both her undergraduate and
graduate work at the University of Minnesota Duluth. With her MS in Environmental Health and Safety in hand, she traded the hills of Duluth for the plains of Iowa, where she began her career with 3M at the company’s manufacturing plant in Knoxville. Upon returning to Minnesota, Jenn worked at 3M Headquarters and 3M Cottage Grove in research and development, pilot plant operations, and manufacturing.

Jenn desired to serve on the ASSE Northwest Chapter Board because she loves serving her constituency and working with the other board members to provide meaningful development and technical experiences for all ASSE members.

Jenn is most proud of her education, professional certifications, and experiences dabbling in a variety of technologies; all while maintaining a fabulous work-life balance.

Although she is passionate about her career, she takes advantage of every moment she can outside of the office to explore the outdoors. Jenn enjoys coaching for the Special Olympics, skiing, canoeing, camping, biking, gardening, collecting lake glass, baking, and listening to Fleetwood Mac on vinyl.

If Jenn won the lottery, she would buy land in Ely, Minnesota, build a sustainable house, and move North! She’d spend her time tending to a large amount of animals (including dogs, barn cats, chickens, and goats), gardening, and exploring the outdoors. She would also share her good fortune with her family.

Jenn currently resides in Lowertown St. Paul with her fiancé Larry, where they care for Honey the cat and have plans for a puppy soon! She loves the life she lives and regularly reminds her friends and family that "Safety Never Takes a Vacation".
Tara is the Treasurer of the NW Chapter and is currently employed as a Corporate Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Medivators. She currently resides in her hometown of Eden Prairie, MN with her husband, Garrett.

Tara graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies and then graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a M.S. in Environmental Sciences. In both undergraduate and graduate school, Tara researched mercury cycling in Lake Superior and mercury accumulation in Massachusetts lakes. After graduate school, she started her career as a Consulting Safety Officer at Safety Partners in Lexington, MA. Since then, she has worked at Admiral Merchants Motor Freight and Olympus Surgical Technologies America.

Rather than having a single proud moment, Tara enjoys celebrating the small wins like when they have 100% participation at a training event, complete a successful safety stand down, or identify a safety risk before an injury occurred. She is looking forward to celebrating the launch of her company’s first home grown, site-specific, safety training module this fall!

Chapter involvement was what drew Tara to becoming involved with the NW Chapter
as a Board Member. She enjoys working on strategies to strengthen the Chapter and enhance the membership experience. She also enjoys meeting new members and sharing best practices.

Tara’s favorites include: Vietnamese spring rolls, pizza, raspberries, cheese of any kind, sushi, sour patch kids, and gnocchi. She enjoys listening to Mumford and Sons, Coldplay, Taylor Swift, and Bob Dylan. Her favorite movies include Almost Famous, Pretty Woman, and Pitch Perfect, and her favorite TV shows are Game of Thrones, Moder Family, and How I Met Your Mother. Tara’s favorite activities include yoga, gardening, cheering on the Timberwolves, pottery, and cooking new recipes. Her top travel destinations have included Paris, Prague, Boston, and San Francisco.

If Tara won the lottery, after traveling around the world, she would donate a portion of the money to charities including the Lupus Foundation, Jeremiah Program, ASSE Foundation, and the Ocean Conservancy. Tara would also keep working in the EHS field and start a passion project on the side like opening a yoga studio!