Hi there friend,

Happy new year! Take a look at what happened this month in the Northwest Chapter.

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President's Message

Ready for a vacation but not able to make the beach? How about attending the ASSE Professional Development Conference (PDC) on February 9th at The Commons Hotel? February is the best time of year to stay indoors and recharge, learn, and network with local professionals. What is on tap for this the PDC in 2016?

- A new one day format to pack in everything needed without wearing anyone out.
- Topics tailored to the safety challenges facing professionals in this market. Learn more and earn your
continuing education credits (0.6 CEU’s, 6.5 COC’s, and 1.0 ABIH CM).

- Need new options or want to assess availability in the market? Make sure to check out the 30+ exhibitors at the PDC who probably have your needs covered.
- Networking opportunities with local safety professionals throughout the day. Make sure to stay for the reception after the conference.
- Keynote speaker, Todd Conklin. Todd speaks all over the world to executives, groups and work teams who are interested in better understanding the relationship between the workers in the field and the organization’s systems, processes, and programs.

Make sure to register for the PDC! This will be a great conference and the NW Chapter greatly appreciates all of the support from our fantastic sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and the PDC Committee members.

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

Come for the CEUs, Stay for the Experience!

Looking for an interesting and affordable way to obtain those necessary CEUs? The ASSE’s Northwest Chapter PDC conference has what you need! February 9th, The Commons Hotel Minneapolis.

- Earn – Receive 0.6 CEUs for attending this one day Professional Development
Conference (or 6.5 COC’s and 1.0 ABIH CM’s).

- Network – Connect with 100’s of safety professionals and exhibitors representing over 130 different organizations from our region.
- Learn – Hear up-to-date information on current and emerging practices and challenges in our field from local, national, and internationally renowned experts.
- Save – For a tank of gas, you have access to three attorneys, an OSHA officer, an expert on MSHA, several CEO’s, and thought leaders from across the country.

Registration is open on the ASSE Northwest Chapter website, so come for the CEUs and experience all the great things the ASSE Northwest PDC has to offer….right in your own backyard!

Click here to learn more and register

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Are you Going to Raise Your Hand This Year?
There are still positions open!

Hello members, this is the time of year when we seek nominations of Northwest Chapter members to run for the various leadership offices in our chapter. There are still open positions for the 2016 Northwest Chapter Elections. Volunteering with ASSE not only supports and advances the organization, but as a Volunteer your professional network will grow, you will benefit from access to professional development opportunities, and gain insights to trends and innovations in the OSH Profession.

Please consider getting more involved in the Northwest Chapter and nominate yourself
or someone you know would be good for the position. If you are unsure about running for an elected position, please consider volunteering your time on the many committees that support bringing value to our chapter membership. As one of the largest chapters’ within ASSE, there are plenty of opportunities to strengthen our chapter by committing to volunteer to serve on a committee. Qualifications to run are simple, you must be a chapter member in good standing and you must be an ASSE member for a year. So, if you know of some member that you would like to nominate to run for office or if you wish to put your name on the ballot, or if would like to learn more about the opportunities available or to, contact Tom Cone (tom.cone@wnins.com) as soon as possible.

Current positions up for election are:
Vice President (per our bylaws, this position automatically ascends through President-Elect and then President in successive years)
Treasurer (2 year term)
Member at Large (4 positions)
Delegate (3 Positions)

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**Board Member Spotlight: Leslie Cloonan, Member at Large**

Leslie is a Senior Project Manager at IEA, Inc., an environmental, health, and safety consultant located in Brooklyn Park, MN.

Hometown/Current Location:
I guess my hometown would be Indianapolis where I lived the longest while I was
growing up. We moved a lot. I went to four different elementary schools. I always wanted to move back to Minnesota where I lived from 2-4 years of age. I finally did this in 1992 when I moved from Pennsylvania to Minnetonka. I now live in St. Louis Park about a mile from where I lived when I was little.

Family: I have a daughter, Jana, who currently lives in Plymouth and a dog (a Schnoodle).

Education:
B.S. Science & Environmental Change and Biology from UW-Green Bay
M.S. Environmental Studies from University of Montana
MPH Environmental & Occupational Health from University of MN

If I won the lottery, I would take care of family members’ needs and wants, donate money to my favorite nonprofits, then set up a foundation to provide grants to worthy public health causes. I, of course, would travel around the world to research the various worthy causes.

Favorite foods: Tomatoes, kale, and anything else fresh from the garden, hummus, rice & dal

Favorite band: So much great music these days, it’s hard to choose. However, my old standbys are the Rolling Stone, Bonnie Raitt, Talking Heads, and Sting.

Favorite Movies: The Usual Suspects, the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (the original), the Departed, the Intouchables, and Happy

Activities/Hobbies: Biking, skiing, hiking, yoga, pilates, & volunteering.

Favorite travel destination: Any remote scenic place in the woods, on a mountain, or by a body of water where there is no cell phone reception.

Past jobs: My first job was detassling corn. Since then, my more interesting jobs include working as a back country National Park Service ranger and as a research assistant studying the effects of air pollution on old growth forests and the effects of climate change on sea level rise.

I was interested in becoming a board member to contribute to the organization and get to know more about ASSE and its members.
Board Member Spotlight: David Abrams, Member at Large

David is a Member-at-large for the NW Chapter and is the President of ARS Environmental Health, Inc. He lives in Minnetonka with his wife (Audrey) and two daughters (Rachel and Sally). David’s hometown is Westport, Connecticut and is a big believer in Land Grant Schools and received his BS from the University of Connecticut followed by his MSPH from the University of North Carolina. David has flipped burgers, taught swimming and boating, driven a school bus, and sold IH equipment….he’s been in IH ever since 1979 and he’s still having fun! He was attracted to becoming a NW Chapter Board member because it was a chance to give back, or pay it forward….hard to say which is which. As a member, he is constantly amazed at the success of our PDC and the smooth manner with which we handle our budget and our governance over the decades. Most of all though, it is the charitable work (like supporting students) that we do with our surplus funds. David’s favorites include:

- Food: hard to say…he likes so many of them!
- Music: There isn’t much he doesn’t like, to quote Nathan Lane, “as soon as I mention one, another one comes to mind.”
- Movies: Inside Out, The Third Man, Brooklyn, the first three Star Wars (he has yet to see the latest), annual animated short festival, mostly stuff by Hitchcock… as with music, the list goes one.
- TV Shows: Right now definitely Grace and Frankie. NCIS comes in at a close second.
- Activities: Reading, cycling, skiing (both kinds), sailing, gardening, and napping.
- Travel Destination: The ocean or the mountains; it’s especially nice if they work together.
If David were to win the lottery he would fund a Family Endowment with a very big chunk of change and definitely relax about the cost of those ocean and mountain vacations!