



NORTHWEST
CHAPTER

August Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings ASSP Northwest Chapter! I'm excited to start another chapter year and honored to be serving as your president.

We have a lot of exciting things in the works for you this chapter year, starting with our virtual kick off meeting on September 21 featuring an OSHA panel discussion. If you'd like to purify yourself in the waters of Lake Minnetonka, I suggest you check out our boat cruise on September 29. We will be joined by the Upper Midwest Section of AIHA, the North Star Chapter of AHMP, and the Minnesota Safety Council. We also extended an invitation to our friends at the MN Association of Occupational Health Nurses (MAOHN).

I hope to connect with you soon, please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the other chapter board members if you have any thoughts or suggestions on the upcoming chapter year.

Stay safe and be well,

Jen Ellinwood

BOAT CRUISE REMINDER

EHS Boat Cruise September 29 from 2pm to 5pm...register now!

After a scheduling glitch that developed in August, the annual Boat Cruise for EHS Professionals is on track for a special cruise date in late September! Make your [registration](#) right away before the event sells out. Like past years, the Boat Cruise for EHS Professionals is a combined effort with the local units of the ASSP, the AIHA, the AHMP, and the Minnesota Safety Council. Invite a friend, spouse, or "significant other" to come along for a great afternoon of socializing and networking on beautiful Lake Minnetonka.

Please note: We recognize that the pandemic is still impacting our world so we respectfully request that people attending are COVID-vaccinated or will adhere to appropriate control practices.

PROPOSAL TO UPDATE ASSP'S GOVERNANCE

By now, you may have heard that there is a proposal to update ASSP's governance.

Earlier this year, a board-level task force examined industry research, trends and association best practices to develop at a recommended proposal that has been approved by the Board of Directors. This proposal calls for ASSP to transition the House of Delegates to an at-large advisory group. This shift would align with legal guidance and association best practices, emphasize inclusivity and position the member-driven advisory group to inform and influence the Board. In addition, this agile infrastructure would allow ASSP to protect and effectively manage our assets, while the versatility in daily operations would safeguard our long-term viability.

You can find more information on this recommendation and its anticipated impact on our members, our member communities and the Society on ASSP's [governance webpage](#). This site contains a variety of background information as well as these key documents:

[Task Force Report](#)
[Governance Fact Sheet](#)

[FAQs](#)[Governance Presentation](#)

The documents provide many details about the change, but I'd like to emphasize three key points:

1. **Member voice will always be vital to ASSP.** The proposed at-large advisory group would be open to all members. With no limits or requirements on participation, the process would maximize inclusion to strengthen the Society's decision-making process. The group's input, along with market research, focus groups, member town halls and community events, would ensure member voice informs our decisions. Members would also retain the authority to vote on key issues, including electing officers and changes to the articles of incorporation (e.g., name change).
2. **ASSP communities retain strong representation and voice.** Our elected leaders and various councils would continue to guide their respective communities. Today, our chapters go to their area directors and regional vice presidents, not their delegates, when seeking to influence changes. This would not change under the proposal.
3. **Greater diversity of thought improves ASSP.** Since participation in the at-large advisory group is open to all members, we would create a more inclusive path for meaningful member engagement and contribution. We believe this will allow us to hear voices we haven't had access to before.

SEEKING CHAPTER AND REGION SPY NOMINEES!

To nominate someone for the ASSP Northwest Chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY), please review and complete the forms linked below and return to the Chapter's Awards & Honors chairperson, Abby

Ferri awards@northwest.assp.org

Chapter SPY forms:

<https://northwest.assp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/454/2019/09/assp-chapter-spy-packet.pdf>

To learn more about the history of the SPY program and past honorees, please visit:

<https://northwest.assp.org/awards-honors/>

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