



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

**Edition 82, Volume 6
January 8, 2021**

President's Message

January 2021

Greetings, and Happy New Year, Heart of America Chapter.

As with many of you, I was excited to ring in the new year and be done with 2020. It was a difficult year for many, and 2021 shows signs of promise with the COVID vaccine helping get life as we know it back to some sort of order.

As a Chapter, I'm proud of our efforts to promote safety and provide support within our community. 2020 wasn't all bad. Some of our more notable actions include:

- Increasing our two student scholarships from \$1,000 to \$1,500, each. Thank you to everybody who reached out in support of this investment.
- Monetary contributions to Toys for Tots and NourishKC in December, in lieu of a Chapter networking event.
- A donation to Convoy for Hope food kitchen.
- And we're currently working on obtaining quotes to furnish PPE to a rural school district.

If you identify an opportunity for our Chapter to assist an organization with safety needs, please contact a Board member.

Also of note, although virtual, the Board had the opportunity to present Pat Flynn with the 2020 Safety Professional of the Year award in December. Congratulations Pat on this well-deserved award, and enjoy your retirement.

As we start this new year, we'll look forward to the opportunity to meet again in person.

Tom Metzner

HOA Chapter President

Officers List

President

Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

Vice President

Laurel Harris, CSP, ARM

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Andrew Dix, GSP, CRIS, ASHM

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Shelly Killingsworth, CHMM, CSP

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Chris Cygan, CSP

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Newsletter Coordinator

Laurel Harris, CSP, ARM

Liaison for Student Sections

Shelly Killingsworth, CHMM, CSP

Members at Large

Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM

David Hallerud, ALCM



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

New Members

There are no new members, but the Heart of America Chapter would like to welcome recent transfers to our Chapter:

- James Trail, from the Quad Cities Chapter
- Megan Gorrow, from the Southern Nevada Chapter

Please take a moment to reach out and connect through ASSP Community.

If you know someone who would like to join ASSP Heart of America Chapter please direct them [HERE!](#)

Job Openings

Please check out our website for recent job postings. <https://kc.assp.org/>

Looking for a Job?

If so, then send your resume to president@kc.assp.org



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Connect with ASSP:



Next Meetings

January 22 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (WebEx) Are your employees Fit for Duty? (see page 4)
February TBD
March 19 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (WebEx) Machine Guarding Review and Update
April TBD

Newsletter Articles and Whitepapers

The newsletter committee is always looking for helpful links, articles, and white papers. If you have a document that's appropriate for this format, please present your suggestions to our Newsletter Coordinator Laurel Harris. lharris@chubb.com

OSHA Holiday Workplace Safety

As the nation enters a very different holiday shopping season, employers must ensure that all workers are trained to recognize and prevent job hazards, and incorporate safe work practices to prevent exposure to the coronavirus. OSHA has resources to help keep workers safe at every step along the way in getting gifts from the warehouse to your home.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ASSP Community Interest Group – Bringing ChapterWISE to the Heart of America



ASSP’s Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) is a common interest group that advances ASSP members and the safety profession through education, mentorship, networking, collaboration, research, and innovation. With over 2,000 members, WISE provides member and community support and collaborative opportunities within the profession. WISE works to bring awareness to the following industry topics:

- The need for proper fitting personal protective equipment for women in the workplace
- Workplace violence against women, which is the number one cause of fatal injuries to women in the workplace.
- To bring awareness to women in leadership roles in safety and to mentor others to help them achieve their goals

ChapterWISE

The WISE member community has a Chapter level group known as ChapterWISE to help coordinate WISE events, including networking functions, technical talks, community and student outreach and local mentoring. The Heart of America Chapter has many WISE members (both women and men), but we do not have our own established ChapterWISE group. As incoming President-Elect/Vice President, I would like to start a ChapterWISE group within our Chapter. Every safety professional has the opportunity to impact safety within their organization, including those issues that impact women directly in the workplace. If you are a member of WISE or would like to join the WISE community interest group, please help me establish a chapter level group that can continue to educate, support and to take action within the Heart of America. If you are interested in helping to establish our local ChapterWISE, please reach out to me at lharris@chubb.com

Thank you, Laurel Harris

Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

January			
January	National Radon Action Month	Environmental Protection Agency	epa.gov

January Virtual Presentation: Are your employees Fit for Duty? Beyond the obvious

January 22, 2021 12:00 PM to 1:00 pm CST

Speaker: Karen Kono, RN, COHN - Manager, Medical Services at Examinetics, Inc.

Most employers think of impairment by drugs or alcohol when referring to fitness for duty. Or perhaps, has that nasty ankle sprain resolved enough for my employee to return to work at full duty?

Though this is common, it is a dangerously limited way to address fitness for duty. There are many things which can negatively impact an employee's ability to work safely.

We will explore some of the less obvious factors that may be overlooked in your workplace.

- Are you prepared to deal with all potential fit for duty issues?
- Would you rather just steer clear of addressing personal issues for fear of litigation?

This thought-provoking presentation will get you thinking more broadly about this topic and help you to be prepared to address these issues proactively. Attendees will be provided with some guidance around how to respect your employee's privacy, and remain compliant with regulations, while still keeping them safe.

Cost: FREE

To attend this virtual meeting, please RSVP here: [LINK](#)

COVID-19 Links

OSHA Interim Recording Keeping Guidance: In a May 19, 2020 Enforcement Memo, OSHA provided updated interim guidance to Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) for enforcing the OHA Record Keeping requirements of 29 CFR Part 1904 with respect to recording cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The following is a link to the Interim Guidance.

[LINK](#)

National Safety Council Guidance regarding Safe Actions for Employee Return (SAFER): NSC created a platform for COVID-19 guidance referred to as the SAFER Collection. The task force that supports the collection of information is made up of industry experts from a diverse group of organizations including ASSP, AIHA, NIOSH- CDC, ISSA, BCSP, health professionals, nonprofits, businesses and many more. For updated information to health employers safely return to work, please follow the link below:

[LINK](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): The CDC offers a resource page to keep up with current information regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019. For evolving news regarding the virus, precautions for adults, forecasts, cleaning and disinfecting, and pandemic planning scenarios, please follow the link below:

[LINK](#)

Executive Committee

Executive Committee contact information. We always welcome questions, comments and suggestions.



President – president@kc.assp.org
Tom Metzner



Treasurer – treasurer@kc.assp.org
Shelly Killingsworth



Vice-President – vp@kc.assp.org
Laurel Harris



Member Engagement CoChair
Kristin Danner



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