



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

**Edition 83, Volume 1
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President's Message September 2021

On behalf of your President, Laurel Harris asked me to send out the September Message:

ASSP's Safety 21 was held in Austin and it was sure neat to be around other safety professionals again. ASSP presented hybrid in-person/virtual sessions, and will keep the online sessions open for a couple of weeks for those who registered. Society also had a great showing of vendors and did a nice job filling up the expo center.

When the Society bylaws were written, the House of Delegates provided oversight for the Board of Directors. Over the years, this structure has been phased out from businesses and associations for several reasons, including delays in voting on important measures and legal considerations. (Each Chapter is permitted one delegate, and then another for every 250 members. Our Chapter qualifies for three House of Delegate Representatives.)

There will be an upcoming vote to do away with the House of Delegates structure, and instead it will be replaced by advisory and oversight committees. If you have questions or concerns about this vote, please contact Dave Hallerud, Ravi Narayan or myself.

In terms of resuming in-person meetings, we are planning to stay with the virtual meeting format, but are discussing opportunities to meet in person, i.e. proof of vaccination/negative COVID test, limiting capacity, etc. Stay tuned and keep an eye out of the October meeting.

*Tom Metzner
Heart of America Past President.*

Officers List

President

Laurel Harris, CSP, ARM

Vice President

Melissa Eickleberry, GSP

Secretary

Andrew Dix, GSP, CRIS, ASHM

Treasurer

Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM

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Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

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Newsletter Coordinator

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Shelly Killingsworth, CHMM, CSP

Members at Large

David Hallerud, ALCM

Safety Spotlight: Member Interview

The September Spotlight is Tom Metzner, Vice President, Senior Loss Control Consultant



Where did you go to school? I received my Bachelors in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University.

How long have you been in the safety industry? I'm in my 26th year as a fire protection and safety consultant, all within the insurance industry.

How long have you been in your current position? It'll be 19 years this November working as a Senior Loss Control Consultant with Lockton Companies, an insurance broker headquartered in Kansas City.

What is your current position and from a safety standpoint what are your primary responsibilities? My job can be described as doing a field trip every day. I work with a variety of clients, from healthcare to manufacturing, to hospitality and municipalities, and each client is unique in their exposures and how I can assist them. My approach is heavily reliant on data analytics and evaluating how and where companies have been experiencing injuries and claims. I try to cater my consulting toward preventing injuries while having an impact on the total cost of risk.

What made you decide to go into safety? It's safe to say I stumbled in to the safety side. Through high school and into college, my ambitions were to work for a fire department, in the Fire Marshal's office. As an intern with the Fayetteville Fire Department, one week I got assigned to assist the insurance carrier for the University of Arkansas conduct fire pump tests. This was my first introduction to the insurance industry. Upon graduating, I was hired by the insurance company I had worked with during my internship.

What are some of your memorable experiences or accomplishments related to your time in the safety field? One of the most gratifying, and memorable, experiences occurs after conducting a training session. A participant comes up and says my message really connected with them. It's when I can relay a safety concept and put it into words that hit home. These are the times when you feel like you've impacted somebody's life.

What are some of your hobbies or favorite activities? In September I'll celebrate my 24th year serving the City of Overland Park, working as one of three volunteer firefighters. Between my "day job" trying to prevent injuries, vehicle crashes, and fires, my "night job" experiences what happens when things go wrong. It's a humbling experience when you're able to respond and help somebody on one of their worst days. In addition to scuba diving, I'm also a home brewer. It's fun designing a beer recipe, creating a water profile to mimic a certain geography, and the science behind making yeast do its thing. It's especially rewarding when the beer turns out drinkable.

What does your ASSP Membership do for you? ASSP is a great platform for continuing education. As safety professionals, we owe it to everybody we support to be a student of learning and continuing to be innovative in the safety discipline. Equally important are the professional relationships and friendships I've developed over the years through being involved with ASSP. I'm fortunate to have a network of safety subject matter experts, across the country. Even though I might not have an answer to a question, chances are I know exactly who to contact.

Member Spotlight was coordinated by Laurie Wolfe, KDOL

Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

August			
September	National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	recoverymonth.gov
September 13-15	ASSP Conference	ASSP	https://safety.assp.org/
September 17	Concussion Awareness Day	Brain Injury Association of America	http://nationalconcussionawarenessday.com
September 19-25	National Farm Safety and Health Week	National Highway Traffic Safety Assoc. National Education Center for Agricultural Safety	http://www.necasag.org

Farm Safety

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

Creating a safety culture at your workplace requires a proactive safety attitude. Consider these tips to get workers onboard.

1. Talk about safety. The more you talk about the importance of safety, the more awareness you will generate.
2. Encourage Safety Suggestions. Listen to workers and encourage them to share ideas.
3. Act promptly to correct hazards. If you don't fix safety problems right away, employees will think you don't care about safety.
4. Provide ongoing training. Make sure employees have the knowledge and understanding they need to work safely.
5. Reward safe performance. Make safety a part of employee performance appraisals.
6. Set positive examples. Make sure supervisors set a positive example and demonstrate safe behaviors themselves.

SAVE THE *Date!*

71st Annual SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE

October 5-8, 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton - Wichita, KS

#KSSafetyCon2021



“Safety is not an object nor something you can measure! It’s a culture, a value.”

- *Public Sector*
- *10 Hr. Construction*
- *Industrial Hygiene*
- *Management/Medical*
- *10 Hr. General Industry*
- *Safety*
- *Fall Protection Competent Inspector Training*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Agenda and registration forms will be online summer of 2021 at
www.dol.ks.gov/ISHConference

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, Laurie Wolfe at laurie.wolfe@ks.gov.

ASSP Community Interest Group – Heart of America ChapterWISE



Contact Laurel Harris for more information:
lharris@chubb.com

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 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



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

New Members

Please welcome:

Dale Kettler
Lance Erickson
Linda Lawrence
Matt Cowell
Tim Hammerstone
Ty Flandermeyer
Ellie Carlisle
Tommy Rebecchi

Many of us are members of associations and groups that involve safety, health, environmental protection, and risk management advancement. As we engage with our member organizations, remember to network and share the opportunities and benefits available within the Heart of America Chapter of ASSP for members, non-members, and our community.

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

ASSP Community

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

Job Openings

If you or someone that you know in the safety profession are looking for employment, jobs openings are posted on our Chapter website. 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

Upcoming Events

The Chapter website provides information regarding upcoming events and training held by our Chapter, other ASSP Chapters, ASSP, and from other organizations with safety, health, environmental and risk management topics that may interest you. Please visit the website regularly to view upcoming events that may not be specifically listed in the newsletter. <https://kc.assp.org/>



Pittsburg
State
University



Connect with ASSP:



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.

<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recording-cases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

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:

<https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/safe-actions-for-employee-returns-safer>

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:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/whats-new-all.html>

Covid-10 Healthcare ETS

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets>

Executive Committee

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



President – president@kc.assp.org
Laurel Harris



Treasurer – treasurer@kc.assp.org
Ravi Narayan



Vice-President – vp@kc.assp.org
Melissa Eickleberry



Member Engagement
Kristin Danner



Secretary – secretary@kc.assp.org
Andrew Dix



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair
Dan Snyder