



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

Edition 83, Volume 3
October 10, 2021

President's Message October 2021

President's Message

Heart of America Chapter:

You may be wondering why the past president is writing the President's Message for the second month in a row. Due to health issues, Laurel Harris has made the difficult decision to step down and focus on her health and treatment plan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Laurel as you manage through this process.

The Bylaws state that the Vice President is next in line to succeed into the President's role. The pandemic has affected many businesses and individuals, and Melissa Eickleberry is working long hours helping with manufacturing and supply chain issues, while still helping assure a safe work environment. Accordingly, she felt it necessary to step down due to her job responsibilities and insufficient time to devote to ASSP.

Our Bylaws allow for the past president to step into the President's role, which I will gladly fill. However, if there are members who are interested in running for the President or VP position, we can organize a special election. Please reach out to me if you'd like more information.

On a more positive note, we are working on scheduling our Chapter meetings and lining up speakers. The Executive Committee is excited to host Dr. Dan Snyder discussing Influential Safety Leadership, scheduled for October 15th at noon. Dan will also touch on the upcoming Society vote concerning the House of Delegates.

Despite a slow start out of the gate, your HOA Executive Committee is committed to our members and providing value to our membership. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

Tom Metzner

Heart of America President

Officers List

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Safety Spotlight: Member Interview

Kristin Danner, CSP



The October Spotlight is Kristin A. Danner, CSP, Corporate Safety Manager, City of Kansas City, Mo.

Where did you go to school? Purdue University.

How long have you been in the safety industry? 9 years.

How long have you been in your current position? I have been the Corporate Safety Manager for the City of Kansas City, MO for 9 years.

What is your current position and from a safety standpoint what are your primary responsibilities? My position is similar to many in our field, I create and deliver safety training and initiate safety campaigns, perform ergonomic evaluations, and safety initiatives in addition to leading our small but mighty team of corporate safety professionals. I am the program manager for the city's video telematics program which is changing our safety culture, the way supervisors interact and recognize city employees and reducing our risk for the city.

What made you decide to go into safety? My road to the safety profession was not typical. My undergrad degree is in Aviation Technology from Purdue University. After 15 years of working at various airports around the country, including KCI, I made the transition to transportation, managing bus operators at KCI Airport. As the manager I had the opportunity to directly affect employee safety, test the power of employee recognition and institute changes that resulted in a reduction of preventable accidents by 45% in one year. A chance meeting with Eric Hallerud (past RVP for ASSP Region V) eventually led to a career change to safety in 2012 when I became the City's Assistant Corporate Safety Manager, working for Eric. I became the ASSP website coordinator for the HOA chapter and have been the chapter treasurer and currently the member engagement liaison.

What are some of your memorable experiences or accomplishments related to your time in the safety field? I'm most proud of our telematics program and elaborate recognition events we have developed. It's created relationships with our department leaders and employees that has led to successful safety initiatives. Other accomplishments include a seat belt and distracted driving awareness campaign that led more than 1,000 city employees to voluntarily take a pledge to drive cell phone free.

What are some of your hobbies or favorite activities? I enjoy speaking at conferences and doing webinars. Outside of work, I like to travel with my family to visit friends and family that are scattered around the country. I also really enjoy going on Disney Cruises.

What does your ASSP Membership do for you? It is more than just sharing best practices. It's about creating relationships with others who share the same challenges and passion for safety. I bet I reach out to another member nearly every week. Being able to collaborate with fellow safety professional to create a strong safety culture continues to be a great experience. From my first meeting, I noticed that there is a willingness to help each other and continues throughout my career.

Member Spotlight was coordinated by Laurie Wolfe, KDOL

Upcoming Meetings:

Heart of America ASSP Webinar

October 15 | 12:00 pm - 1:00

Topic: Influential Safety Leadership

Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

October			
October	National Substance Abuse Prevention Month	Office of National Drug Control Policy	youth.gov
October	National Crime Prevention Month	National Crime Prevention Council	http://www.ncpc.org
October	National Protect Your Hearing Month	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	cdc.gov
October 3-9, 2021	Fire Prevention Week	National Fire Protection Association	https://www.nfpa.org/
October 11-13, 2021	NSC Congress and Expo	National Safety Council	https://congress.nsc.org/

About Fire Prevention Week

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Do you know how loud is too loud?

Loud sounds in the environment can permanently damage or destroy the tiny and fragile hair cells within the cochlea—the small, snail-shaped organ for hearing in your inner ear—and diminish your ability to hear a range of sounds. This damage, called noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), can be immediate—from exposure to an extremely loud burst of sound, for example—or gradual, with sounds seeming muffled or conversations becoming more difficult to understand. Loud noise exposure can also cause [tinnitus](#)—a ringing, buzzing, or roaring in the ears or head. Tinnitus may be constant, occur occasionally, or subside completely after exposure to loud noise.

Noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus are preventable. During National Protect Your Hearing Month in October—and throughout the year—the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) offers science-based resources to help you maintain your hearing health.

Anyone can develop NIHL at any age. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 40 million U.S. adults ages 20 to 69 have NIHL, and a quarter of U.S. adults who report having good to excellent hearing already have hearing damage in one or both ears.

Children are also at risk for NIHL. [It's a Noisy Planet. Protect Their Hearing.](#)[®] is the NIDCD's public education campaign to increase awareness among parents of preteens about the causes and prevention of NIHL. Helping children practice healthy hearing habits is a major focus of the campaign.

Some hearing hazards may surprise you. If you find yourself in a setting where you are shouting to be heard over noise in the environment, chances are that your hearing, if unprotected, is at risk. Also, listening to music or other sounds at high volume through headphones or earbuds is hazardous. In general, the louder the sound, the faster NIHL can develop.

Sound is measured in units called decibels. Sounds at or below A-Weighted decibels (dBA) are generally safe. Long or repeated exposure to sounds at or above 85 dBA can cause hearing loss.

Here are some decibel ratings for common sounds:

- Normal conversation: 60-70 dBA
- Lawnmowers: 80 to 100 dBA
- Sports events: 94 to 110 dBA
- Sirens from emergency vehicles: 110 to 129 dBA
- Fireworks: 140 to 160 dBA

Decibel meters are one way to measure potential hazards to your hearing health. The [Sound Level Meter](#) smartphone app developed by the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is one example of a decibel meter app that helps workers evaluate sound risks in their environments so they can develop strategies to prevent hearing damage.

Protect your hearing by consistently and correctly wearing ear protection, such as earmuffs or earplugs, if you anticipate being exposed to loud noises. Keep hearing protectors with you, just in case the sound is louder than you expected. Turn the volume down when possible. And if you can't avoid loud sounds, try to move away from them.

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



WISE

Women in Safety Excellence

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:

- Clark Friesen
- Nathaniel Parke
- Stone Junod

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!](#)



Pittsburg
State
University

ASSP Community

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



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
MISSOURI
LEARNING TO A GREATER DEGREE

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/>

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
Tom Metzner



Treasurer – treasurer@kc.assp.org
Ravi Narayan

OPEN



Vice-President – vp@kc.assp.org

Member Engagement
Kristin Danner



Secretary – secretary@kc.assp.org
Andrew Dix



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair
Dan Snyder