



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

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December 1, 2021

## President's Message December 2021

### *President's Message*

### *Greetings HOA Members:*

*In talking with many of you, we are in agreement that 2021 was a blur. While we dealt with highs and lows concerning COVID, our Chapter continues to push forward and provide a value to our members, our community, and Society.*

*It's been a long time (March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to be exact) since we last hosted an in-person meeting. I'm excited to announce we are resuming in-person meetings in January! This will be a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual), and we'll be following local and Society standards for hosting meetings. Keep an eye out for the registration.*

*Instead of doing a big networking event in December, the Executive Committee decided to push this off until next year. With some of the money we're saving by not hosting an event, we have decided to make donations to Harvesters Food Network and Toys-For-Tots. Speaking of Harvesters, we still have a couple of open spots for our Sort and Pack, the afternoon of 12/16. Please contact Tom Metzner ([tmetzner@lockton.com](mailto:tmetzner@lockton.com)) if you can help.*

*Finally, we are still looking for members interested in taking a leadership role on our Board. We'll be having our election in 1Q2021, so now's the time to step forward and express your interest, especially if you'd consider running for the President Elect position.*

*Please take a couple of minutes and look through this newsletter. And as always, please let us know how we can support you.*

Tom Metzner

Heart of America President

## Officers List

### **President**

Tom Metzner CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

### **Vice President**

**OPEN**

### **Secretary**

Mindy Prichard, ASP

### **Treasurer**

Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM

### **Past President**

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### **Website/Social Media**

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Kristin Danner, CSP

### **Newsletter Coordinator**

Laurie Wolfe

### **Liaison for Student Sections**

Daniel Snyder, CSP, CHST, OHST  
Phil Shoemaker, CSP, CRIS, CHST

### **Members at Large**

David Hallerud, ALCM

## Safety Spotlight: Scholarship Recipient

### Samantha Decker



**What attracted you to the safety industry?** I have always been mindful of safety in the workplace and then discovered it was a field of study. So, through my employer's Eagle Picher Safety Committee as well as working closely with the EHS manager, I decided this was a career path I would enjoy pursuing.

**What are some of your professional goals?** My primary goals are to model an application of the knowledge and principles I have learned in a way that would best satisfy the guidance and instruction of my mentors and professor, as well as to personally strive to try my best in any situation I encounter.

**What positions do you envision yourself taking in the future?** I envision myself pursuing a directorship role in the private sector. Currently, I am a member of the Student Chapter of ASSP and am also on the Safety Committee Board at my current employer, Eagle Picher. I will also be seeking an internship at Eagle Picher within their EHS division.

**What is your greatest takeaway from the current school year?** Aside from further solidifying that my career choice is, without doubt, the correct one, I have pondered heavily on the sobriety of what being safe in the workplace entails and how it informs programs to ensure it. The team-oriented perspective of the subject and the ways it can contribute to implementing procedures and guidelines is profound and will most certainly impact the way I approach educating and assisting others in a successfully safe workplace.

**What are your favorite hobbies/leisure activities?** Some of my favorite hobbies and leisure activities include just driving my Miata Roadster with the convertible top down, spending time with my 3 dogs and honestly just being at work makes me happy.

**What quote would best describe you?** I am someone who is not afraid to be myself in any situation. I am not afraid to be wrong and ask questions, even if it's hard. I strive to always be a better person than I was yesterday. And I love to make people laugh.

**What philosophy will you take with you in your safety professions that you feel would be most helpful?** I am still very new to the industry and I am learning more and more every day. At the moment my philosophy is to always smile, be genuine and patient. And no matter what, always look on the positive side. Sometimes in safety it is easy to get lost in the stress of injuries, or compliance or trying to get that one person to understand why safety is important and the list goes on. But I choose to smile everyday and make my company just a little bit safer one day at a time and I am dedicated to keep this philosophy with me throughout my career in safety. As I complete my education in safety at Pittsburg State University, I assure you that I will continue to be dedicated to safety and I will strive to share my passion of Occupational Safety with my colleagues, and fellow students in the ASSP Student Chapter.

**Thank you for your thoughtful and generous gift.**

*Member Spotlight was coordinated by Laurie Wolfe, KDOL*

## Upcoming Meetings:

January 21, 2022 at noon. Suicide Prevention and Mental Health in the Workforce.  
Watch for the hybrid meeting invitation for January!

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## Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

December			
December	Safe Toys and Gifts Month	Prevent Blindness America	<a href="http://www.preventblindness.org">http://www.preventblindness.org</a>
December	Holiday Season Drunk Driving Campaign	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	<a href="https://www.nhtsa.gov">https://www.nhtsa.gov</a>
December 6-12, 2021	National Influenza Vaccination Week	National Today	<a href="https://nationaltoday.com/national-influenza-vaccination-week">https://nationaltoday.com/national-influenza-vaccination-week</a>

## **General Duty Clause- What employers need to know.**

Commonly known as the General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 is intended to give OSHA a means to address hazards for which no standard is on the books. Current examples include heat-related illnesses and workplace violence in healthcare and social services.

The inclusion of the clause into the act can be credited in part to former Arizona governor and National Safety Council President Howard Pyle, according to a 1983 paper written by Donald Morgan and mark Duvall and published in the Industrial Relations Law Journal.

Testifying before the House and Senate Select Subcommittees on Labor in 1969, Pyle “complained of the absence of a general duty clause in the (Occupational Safety and Health) bills then being considered. This testimony apparently influenced both subcommittees, since it appears in both the House and Senate Reports which accompanied the respective committee bills reported in 1970.”

A conference committee reached a compromise between the two chambers’ versions of the clause and the amended clause was included in the OSH Act.

(OSHA LOI 2003-12-18-1) To issue a General Duty Clause citation, OSHA must prove:

1. The employer failed to keep the workplace free of a hazard to which its employees were exposed.
2. The hazard was recognized.
3. The hazard was causing or was likely to cause death or serious physical harm.
4. A feasible and useful method to correct the hazard was available.

It is impossible to have a standard or regulation that will cover any and all hazards existing now or in the future, hence the General Duty Clause. The burden of proof is high and there is a lot of supporting documentation required for OSHA to cite under it. OSHA references other entities, such as ANSI, NFPA, etc. That is a good thing, as it requires a lot of thought, review and supporting information for OSHA to cite under the General Duty Clause, which means the agency has done its homework and the General Duty Clause is being used as it was intended to be used.


### **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](mailto:laurie.wolfe@ks.gov).

## Registration is Now Open

This year, for the first time, you can attend [SafetyFOCUS](#) in-person and online, giving you access to world-class safety education wherever you are. Achieve your professional development goals with the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), and find your FOCUS at [SafetyFOCUS 2022](#)

### ASSP Community Interest Group – Heart of America ChapterWISE

 <p>Contact Laurel Harris for more information: <a href="mailto:lharris@chubb.com">lharris@chubb.com</a></p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need for proper fitting personal protective equipment for women in the workplace</li><li>• Workplace violence against women, which is the number one cause of fatal injuries to women in the workplace.</li><li>• To bring awareness to women in leadership roles in safety and to mentor others to help them achieve their goals</li></ul> <p><b>ChapterWISE</b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:lharris@chubb.com">lharris@chubb.com</a></p> <p>Thank you, Laurel Harris</p>
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### Elect the ASSP Foundation for donations using Amazon Purchases.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select the American Society of Safety Professionals. It is the same site as Amazon, just their charitable support link.

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_se\\_dshb\\_lm\\_saas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_dshb_lm_saas)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

## New Members

**Please welcome:** David Pryor, Devoun Bledsoe, Morgan Atkinson, Andrea Koch and Casey Nelson.

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](mailto: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/>



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**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>

## **OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Campaign**

<https://www.osha.gov/heat>

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW ETS FOR EMPLOYERS WITH OVER 100 EMPLOYEES?**

<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2/faqs>

## Executive Committee

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



President – [president@kc.assp.org](mailto:president@kc.assp.org)  
Tom Metzner



Treasurer – [treasurer@kc.assp.org](mailto:treasurer@kc.assp.org)  
Ravi Narayan

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POSITION**

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Member Engagement  
Kristin Danner



Secretary – [secretary@kc.assp.org](mailto:secretary@kc.assp.org)



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair  
Dan Snyder