



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

Edition 85, Volume 7

April 21, 2024

President's Message April 2024

Spring has sprung and temps are finally getting back north of freezing, hopefully for good. In case you didn't get the chance to join us for our "Meet Up" in July last year at Boulevard Brewery, we are putting together two more this summer. The first one will be in June and announced real soon on our LinkedIn, website, and email. You don't have to be a member and we are inviting other safety related associations from the metro to join, so be on the lookout for those announcements!

May 10 is our last technical meeting until August, the information for that is located later in this newsletter and registration is already open on our website. We just had our April meeting at Garmin in Olathe, KS last week where Michael Carlson and the rest of the EHS team gave a great presentation covering the scope of the company and their journey to ISO certification. Travis Miller, Senior Safety Manager with McCownGordon Construction, presented on how he implemented flight safety plans for Drones. Michael Carlson also is currently running for President Elect, who would be your VP starting in August. The ballot was sent out of all emails last week.

While the early bird pricing is gone, it's not too late to register for Safety 2024 in Denver, CO. We always have a great showing there from our chapter and try and have a networking night. If you are going this year, send me an email and I'll add you to the list.

Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP

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David Hallerud, ALCM

Precedence for Presidents by Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP

I recently had the privilege of sitting down with Dick Erickson, a distinguished safety pioneer and former President of ASSP - Heart of America Chapter in Kansas City, MO (1979-80). With a career spanning from the 1950s through the 1980s, Dick provided invaluable insights into the evolution of workplace safety over the past several decades.

Our encounter took place at a recent ASSP Chapter meeting hosted at a Senior Living Community, where Dick, a resident, graciously stopped by for a chat. Intrigued by his extensive experience, which stood in stark contrast to my own in the 2020s, I was eager to learn from his wealth of knowledge. Over coffee, myself and another Past President of our 85-year-old chapter, Ravi Narayan, had the privilege of delving into Dick's fascinating journey.



Dick shared with us his early exposure to safety, recounting how his father, the safety officer at the US Cartridge plant in St. Louis, instilled in him the importance of safety from a young age. He vividly recalled, "My father had me pose with safety glasses from his work. It was my first introduction to the world of safety."

Despite his initial aspirations in coaching during college at Baker University, financial constraints and an early death of his father led him back to Kansas City, where he pursued his education and eventually found himself as the Safety Chairman at Hallmark. Reflecting on the early days of OSHA, Dick emphasized the challenges of implementing new regulations and programs to protect employees. He recalled, "I was on the front lines of implementing new regulations and programs to protect employees." Alan Stewart, was our (KC) first compliance officer and he picked Hallmark to investigate". Dick told me that in the beginning there was no judge or jury, you were issued a citation and had to pay. You could appeal but no mediation or discussions with the Regional Director per se like today.

Entering the interview, I expected to learn about the many technical and philosophical differences in how we manage risk now versus the past. However, I learned that we had much more in common than we did in difference. Dick emphasized that "selling safety through motivation and communication was key, as people will naturally prioritize other goals if not convinced of safety's value." I couldn't agree more - the best safety professionals are the ones who can gain buy-in from all levels.

Our conversation also touched upon Dick's pioneering efforts in establishing vanpool programs, which laid the groundwork for modern carpooling initiatives. He shared, "Hallmark ended up with about 50 vans, driving employees to work in Kansas City to begin in Lawrence. This helped save fuel and resources back when commuting options were more limited." Dick was on the forefront of sustainability and emissions reductions for his company.

His willingness to give back through professional associations also resonated deeply with me, serving as a testament to his commitment to supporting the next generation of safety professionals. "I've given you a lot of information," Dick humbly remarked, reflecting on his journey. His pioneering work continues to shape the field in ways that leave a lasting impact, and I am grateful to have not only learned from his experiences but also forged a meaningful connection with him that day

I learned more than history, challenges, and tribulations that Dick and Safety Professionals experienced then; I made a friend that day.

President Elect – Voting Open



Michael Carlson – Environmental Health and Safety Specialist

Garmin International, INC

Michael Carlson, GSP is an Environmental Health and Safety Specialist employed by Garmin International Headquartered in Olathe, KS. He received his Bachelor of General Studies Degree from the University of Kansas in Economics in 2013 and Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health from the University of Central Missouri in 2017. Michael served as social chair of ASSE's UCM chapter during his senior year. He also attended ASSE's national convention in 2016, at the Omni in Atlanta, GA while interning for Ash Grove Cement.

In addition to his work for Garmin, Michael has experience working in the electrical power generation field, managing crane and excavation work in substations as well as being a contractor,

and later an intern for a nuclear power facility's operating corporation.

Michael's close work with the current executive committee in hosting ASSP's April meeting at Garmin has led him to run as a candidate for the Vice President's position. He would like to further the chapter's involvement with engaging monthly meetings and hopes to draw more emerging professionals to be career-long members in our chapter.

Detailed professional experience may be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelwarrencarlson/>

March Chapter Meeting: Anatomy of Post-Incident Injury Care – Panel Discussion



Our March Meeting at Lockton Companies was a great turnout which included our panel speakers, Kristi Speak, Char Duffy, Erin O'Neal, and Cathy DiGiacinto. They did a great job informing us of work-related injury management, medical care for injury cases and workers compensation process and insurance considerations.

Women In Safety Excellence (WISE) met in March to discuss Women's PPE and see the newest samples available.

The WISE group met in person for their March meeting to discuss PPE that is now made specifically for women. There were several samples available to try on, and even some freebies to take home. Items like: FR (Flame Resistant) Workwear, Safety Vests, Jackets, Shirts, Gloves, Glasses




Representatives from Bulwark FR and National Safety Apparel were on hand, and the Bulwark folks provided a great presentation on FR clothing. Many thanks to Shelly Higgins for coordinating this awesome meeting. Special thanks to the following companies who provided samples.

April 15th-19th is National Work Zone Awareness Week

For 25 years, National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) has heralded the start of the spring construction season. This April, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and its stakeholders are sponsoring activities to bring nationwide attention to this topic. This week is an annual reminder that work zone safety and mobility for all road users—including motorists and vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and highway workers on foot—continues to be a relevant issue. Work zones and highway workers are integral to upgrading and maintaining our transportation system.



ASSP Community Interest Group – Heart of America ChapterWISE

 WISE Women in Safety Excellence Contact Karen Santoyo for more information: karen.santoyo@examinetics.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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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Upcoming HOA Chapter Meeting Calendar – Save the Date!

Friday, April 19, 2024	Garmin 11:30am – 1pm 1200 E. 151st Olathe, KS	<u>Garmin International EHS introduction; best management practices with ISO 14001 & 45001, how to develop a Drone Safety Plan by McCown Gordon</u>
Friday, May 10, 2024	UCM Innovation Campus 11:30am – 1pm 1101 NW Innovations Pkwy, Lee's Summit, MO	<u>AI Safety: Redefining Workplace Risk Management at Owens Corning</u> Speakers include Geoff Walter (Owens Corning); Keith Bowers (Bowers AI).

ChapterWISE – Women in Safety Excellence

Monday, April 29th, 2024	Hybrid Meeting 1:00pm-2:30pm Grainger Distribution Center 11200 MO-210 Kansas City, MO	<u>Monthly Meeting</u> <u>Speaker: Vivek Kulkarni</u> Vivek Kulkarni is the founder of ARIN Technologies a leading location-based solutions company. Vivek has designed and built the best-in-class products for safety around mobile industrial equipment (ARINAlert) and real time location systems (ARINTrack).
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April Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

April			
April	Distracted Driving Awareness Month	National Safety Council	nsc.org/justdrive
April 15-19 th	National Work Zone Awareness Week	American Traffic Safety Services Association	atssa.com
April	Workers Memorial Day	American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations	aflcio.org

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New Members

Please welcome:

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/>

Executive Committee

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



President – president@kc.assp.org
Derek Farmer



Vice-President – vp@kc.assp.org
Christian Howell



Treasurer – treasurer@kc.assp.org
Ravi Narayan



Secretary - secretary@kc.assp.org
Mindy Prichard



ChapterWISE - Karen Santoyo



Past President – Tom Metzner