



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

President's Message May 2025

Hello to my fellow members of the ASSP Heart of America Chapter. This month we held a riveting election for the Vice President's position between three candidates. I want to thank our members for their participation in this election and can now welcome our new VP, Ashley Parker! I know Ashley's experience and welcoming presence will be an invaluable asset to our chapter. A special thank you is deserved for our candidates, Shelly Higgins, CSP and Mike Combs, COSS, who ran, and we look forward to having them on our Executive Committee.

Our latest meetings saw great success with our professionals in attendance. Vaughn Baker, Owner of Strategos, presented on active assailant preparedness, held at Terracon's modern office space noted nothing but astounding feedback. We are looking forward to seeing him in Orlando as a key presenter. Derek Farmer of Progressive Safety hosted a contractor management presentation at the Builders AGC and saw great participation with an experienced presenter.

I would like to note the value of our membership in having available to us presenters that are highly qualified and well sought after. You may want to bring on a presenter you have seen through our meetings to your organization. This is a great sampling not only for your professional development, but for your organization.

I am also pleased to announce our new newsletter coordinator, Harold Rudd, STS. Harold brings great modern tools and experience to this position, and we thank him for stepping up to volunteer!

In closing, the state of our chapter is strong and as you can see, we have new members and new Board and Executive Committee members. I am looking forward to having our next summer networking event at Boulevard Brewing on June 27th.

Thank you,

Michael Carlson, CSP

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May 27th, 2025

Officers List

President

Michael Carlson, CSP

Vice President

Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS

Secretary

Mindy Prichard, CSP

Treasurer

Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM

Past President

Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP

Website/Social Media

Dave Hallerud, ALCM

Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP

Newsletter Coordinator

Michael Carlson, CSP

Harold Rudd, STS

Liaison for Student Sections

Phil Shoemaker, CSP, CRIS, CHST

Members at Large

Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

Dave Hallerud, ALCM

New Member Engagement

Eric Hallerud, CSP

Promotions Chair

Shelly Higgins, CSP

Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS

Event Photos

Meetings Most Attended Award



Contractor Safety Management Presentation



Active Assailant Meeting



Strategos Presenting "Shots Fired" Video



Active Assailant Preparedness: Key Points

- The common active shooter mitigation strategies have been studied and tested, and the results may surprise you.
- If your strategy involves a linear response such as "run, hide, fight," there is a better strategy that our presenter shared in detail.
- Normalcy bias is prevalent in the untrained person's response. The natural human thought process is to think that the shots are fireworks or that it is a training drill. You need to overcome this and be prepared.

Upcoming HOA Chapter Meeting Calendar – Save the Date!

Friday, June 27th	Boulevard Brewing 2501 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108	Summer Networking: A Combined Safety Group Event
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2025 Upcoming Safety & Health Events to Remember

July 22-24	Safety 2025 Conference and Expo	ASSP	Orange County Convention Center Orlando, FL
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Our Platinum Sponsor



Our Silver Sponsor





New Members

Joseph Burris, CSP, CHST // Joseph Rosser, GSP // Micheal Peters, CHST
// Suzanne McRae // Tabitha Reno // Courtney Thompson, CSHO // Alexis
Taylor Baxter, GSP

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!](#)



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 as we may have a connection.

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



President – president@kc.assp.org
Michael Carlson



Vice-President – vp@kc.assp.org
Ashley Parker



Treasurer – treasurer@kc.assp.org
Ravi Narayan



Secretary – secretary@kc.assp.org
Mindy Prichard



Past President – Derek Farmer



Tom Metzner – Members at Large



New Member Engagement –Eric Hallerud



Promotions Chair – Shelly Higgins