



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF **SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

NEWSLETTER | Edition 87, Volume 3



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| Anthony Gallagher, GSP

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| Dave Hallerud, CSP

New Member Engagement

| Eric Hallerud, MS, CSP

Promotions Chair

| Shelly Higgins, CSP

| Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS



President's Message

October 2025

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Hello to my fellow members of the ASSP Heart of America Chapter. We are on the move towards a great year with phenomenal team on our board and executive committee. The world welcomed our son, Elliot on my birthday, so I took a short leave, and feel that I missed so much action here!

Our emerging professional's kick-off event and Oktoberfest at Weber, Inc. drew praise and rave reviews. Special thanks to our VP, Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS for her leadership as well as Jessie Glenn, MS, GSP and Anthony Gallagher, GSP our co-chairs for emerging professionals.

Our multi-year president and current EC member with his steadfast dedication to the chapter has achieved a top regional award from our national society. Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS was presented with the Region V Excellence in Safety Award, a first of its kind for our society. When you see him next, please congratulate him and ask to see his challenge coin!

While I encourage you to be an active member in our and other organizations, Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP, Arianna Bailey Howard, Rebecca Schilling, and Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, CSP were expert panelists on EHS systems at the recent Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference. Congratulations to our members that go above and beyond!

Do you have a member in mind for our Heart of America Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award? It is that time of the year where you may nominate a professional for this chapter award. The awarded member may be eligible for a further regional award and even a society-level award. Click this [SPY AWARD APPLICATION](#) to nominate someone today!

A special thanks is deserved for Harold Rudd, STS and Weber, Inc. They sure do know how to host an event, and especially an Oktoberfest. With nothing but rave reviews, I look forward to your survey comments on this one!

In remembrance of the late actress, Patricia Routledge, starring on the hit show, Keeping Up Appearances, I hope that our chapter is providing value to you with more than just keeping up appearances. I truly hope you are along for the ride, and a safe one at that!

Michael Carlson, CSP



State of Missouri Chapter

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME!!!

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Darrell Ray Shanholtzer II, CSP



Hunter Schmidt



Casey Nelson, SMP



Ernest Obeng Quarshie



State of Arizona Chapter

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME!!!

3



Divine Sseruwagi



Steve McCall



Ms. Lovia Agyeiwaa



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh | CSP



As EHS Manager for TVH Americas, I'm proud to share that safety has always been a core value here. In 2025, we launched an exciting, global initiative that is completely reshaping how our entire organization thinks about it.

Our global safety team, in alignment with executive leadership, saw an opportunity for a fresh, unified approach to not only protect our team but also elevate our safety standards across the industry. Our campaign is "Be Safe, Be Responsible." This initiative cuts right to the chase with a clear, personal message for every single one of us: "I am responsible for our safety."

This campaign isn't about adding rules; it's about starting meaningful conversations. I want to engage every employee in discussions so we all truly understand the "why" behind our safety standards. When we focus on that "why," safety stops being a checklist and truly becomes a shared responsibility—a living part of our culture.

The results are already significant: increased participation in safety committees, proactive hazard reporting, prioritizing safety in start-ups, and expanding our train-the-trainer employee program. Establishing a platform for employees to speak up about safety has been instrumental in fostering genuine safety culture growth. We're breaking down barriers between our different countries and locations, fostering a much more unified, open, and hazard-conscious approach across the Americas.

In recent fun endeavors, we had a 'Spot the Hazard' & At-Home Fire Safety Coloring Contest for NFPA Fire Safety Week. The spot the hazard contest, similar to iSpy, allowed employees to identify hazards from hypothetical scenarios in various locations, such as the office, warehouse, and customer-facing locations. Our coloring contest promoted talking safety at home while working with children on emergency preparedness in case of a fire.

Ultimately, our goal is simple: I want every TVH employee to understand the critical importance of safety in their daily work. By doing this, we are able to create a safer work environment for our team, our partners, and the entire community we serve!



Save the Dates:

MONTH	DATE	TIME	HOST	LOCATION
November	21st	11:30-1:00 pm	Faith Technologies	Olathe, KS
December	TBD	11:30-1:00 pm	Harvesters	Kansas City, MO
January	23rd	11:30-1:00 pm	Midwest Public Risk	Independence, MO
February	20th / 27th	11:30-1:00 pm	Safety Culture	Kansas City, MO
March	27th	11:30-1:00 pm	JOCO	Olathe, KS
April	17th/ 24th	11:30-1:00 pm	Scheels	Overland Park, KS

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.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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TOM METZNER



Honored to receive the ASSP Region V Excellence in Safety Award, presented by Mike Carlson, President of the ASSP Heart of America Chapter.

What makes this recognition especially meaningful is that the award criteria extend beyond workplace initiatives to include contributions to safety in our broader communities. I'm proud to be part of this important work, both on and off the job.



HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

HISTORICAL SUMMARY



Chartered:
March 24, 1939

10th chapter of the American
Society of Safety Professionals



First President:
Col. W. W. Williams
(1939-1944)



1940s-1950s
Key role connecting safety
professionals across the Midwest



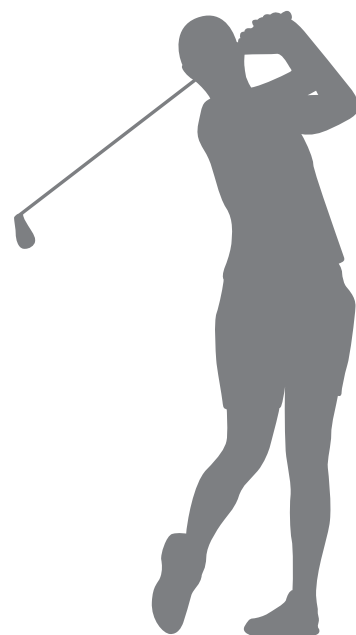
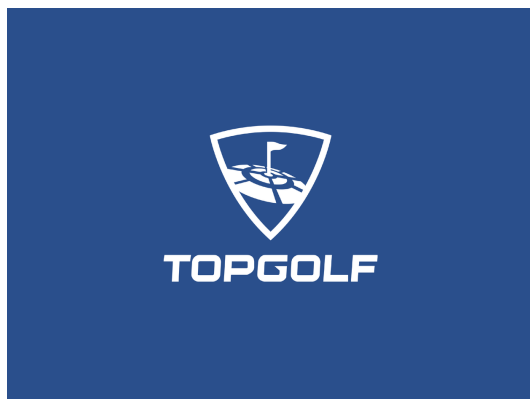
Later decades
Hosted regional safety
conferences, supported certification



CHAPTER EVENTS

Emerging Professionals

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CHAPTER EVENTS

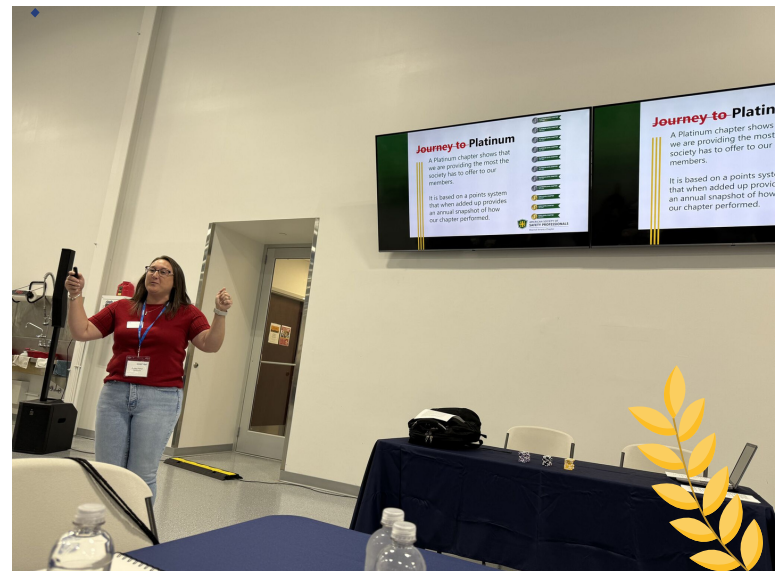
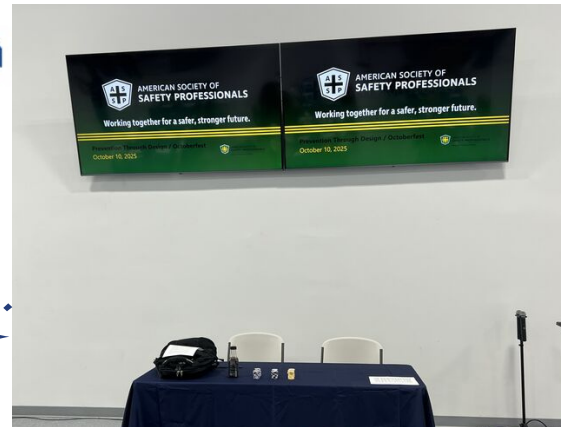
Chapter Meeting at Weber Inc.

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Oktoberfest

weber





CHAPTER EVENTS

Chapter Meeting at Weber Inc.

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Oktoberfest

weber





CHAPTER SPONSORS

THANK YOU!

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SafetyCulture

Gold Sponsors



US COMPLIANCE

Silver Sponsors



STRATEGOS
INTERNATIONAL



JOB OPENINGS

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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.

1) Safety Coordinator

Looking for a Job?

If so, then send your resume to

president@kc.assp.org



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

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President

Michael Carlson
president@kc.assp.org



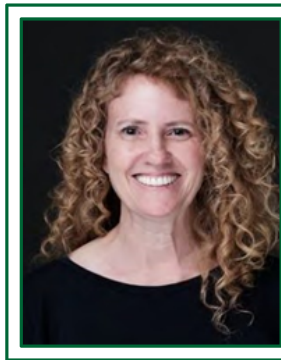
Vice-President

Ashley Parker
vp@kc.assp.org



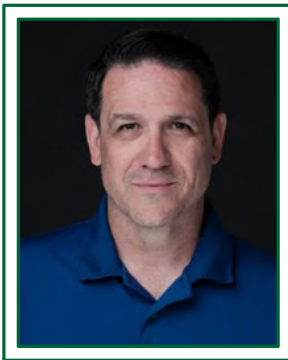
Treasurer

Ravi Narayan
treasurer@kc.assp.org



Secretary

Mindy Prichard
secretary@kc.assp.org



Past President

Derek Farmer



Members at Large

Tom Metzner



New Member Engagement

Eric Hallerud



Promotions Chair

Shelly Higgins

