



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF **SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

**NEWSLETTER** | Edition 87, Volume 8



# Table of Contents

**1** Officer List

**2** President's Message

**3** New Members

**4** Member Awards

**5** Chapter News

**6-8** Elections

**9** Chapter Events

**10** Sponsors

**11** Executive Committee



## **President**

| Michael Carlson, CSP

## **Vice President**

| Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS

## **Secretary**

| Mindy Prichard, MS, 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

## **Liaison for Student Sections**

| Phil Shoemaker, CSP, CRIS, CHST

## **Emerging Professionals Co-Chairs**

| Jessie Glenn, MS, GSP

| Anthony Gallagher, GSP

## **Members at Large**

| Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS

| Dave Hallerud, CSP

## **New Member Engagement**

| Mike Combs, COSS

## **Promotions Chair**

| Shelly Higgins, CSP

| Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS



# President's Message

March 2026

2



Hello to my fellow chapter members. It is an exciting part of our year this month as chapter elections are occurring. Please stay tuned to your email for your ballot and we welcome you to take part in this important process.

I, and our executive committee are very proud of the emerging professionals group led by Jessie Glenn, MS, GSP, Anthony Gallagher, GSP, and Anna Clevenger, GSP, AINS for hosting and delivering the winter clothing drive items collected at our February VR meeting to Shelter KC. Thank you to those who donated, it was quite the haul!

February's VR meeting was an innovative treat that delighted our attendees with hands-on experience with a VR system and all of its fun uses. VP, Ashley Parker presented and hosted with her VR set that has become quite handy with her organization's unique training portfolio. This was a great opportunity to learn about VR in general from a non-salesperson's perspective.

Our Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award was presented to Mindy Prichard MS, CSP at our VR meeting. Mindy has been the steadfast leader behind our chapter for many years now and her dedication to this chapter and the people she serves on a daily basis is profound. Please join us in congratulating Mindy!

There are many great people and organizations to be thankful for, and it is difficult to name them all, but our EC, host companies, sponsors, and members really do make the difference in how our chapter thrives and I cannot thank you all enough!

Thank you,

Michael Carlson, CSP



# NEW MEMBERS

## WELCOME!



- **Cain Stellings**
- **Jerry Lutjen, SMP, Consultant**
- **Logan E. Yoder**
- **Logan Black**
- **Jessica Dahlstrom, STS**
- **Kyle Klinge**





# MEMBER AWARDS

Mindy Prichard | MS,CSP

## Safety Professional of the Year



**Congratulations, Mindy!**



## Save the Dates:

MONTH	DATE	TIME	HOST	LOCATION
March	19th	11:00 am	UCM Mock Accident	UCM Quad Warrensburg, MO
March	27th	11:30-1:00 pm	JOCO Emergency Management	Downtown Olathe, KS
April	17th	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.



# ELECTIONS

## President-Elect (VP) Candidates

Shelly Higgins, CSP  
VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



I'm a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and Certified Safety & Health Official with more than 30 years in the Kansas City area and a strong commitment to advancing workplace safety.

In my role as a Field Safety Professional with Grainger Industrial Supplies, I partner with clients to assess facilities, identify hazards, evaluate risk based on probability and severity, and develop riskranked implementation plans. I provide product and program solutions that reduce injuries, strengthen regulatory compliance, and support safer working environments.

I'm an active member of ASSP, serving on the Heart of America Chapter Executive Committee and participating in the WISE Common Interest Group. I've also attended ASSP national conferences as both a vendor/exhibitor and a participant.

I'm passionate about servant leadership, collaboration, and influencing others to prioritize safety in every aspect of their operations.





# ELECTIONS

## President-Elect (VP) Candidates

Tommy Rebecchi, PhD, CSP  
VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



Tommy Rebecchi is an Environmental, Health, and Safety Professional with over 10 years of experience in environmental, safety, and emergency response programs, procedures, and regulations. Tommy's introduction into the environmental and safety fields began in 2008 when he served as the Hazardous Material Site Manager for the 8th Engineer Support Battalion (8th ESB) in the United States Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged from active-duty

military service, he attended the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC). He received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a double minor in Geology and Sustainability in 2014.

In 2022, he received a Master of Science in Occupational Safety Management from the University of Central Missouri (UCM), and in 2025, he completed Capitol Technology University's Occupational Health and Safety Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program. Tommy became a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) in 2023. His other awards and commendations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in 2009 and the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award in 2000.

Tommy is dedicated to finding new and practical solutions to preventing the most common causes of accidents and injuries, both in the workplace and in private residences. He firmly believes that one of the best ways to solve these issues is to focus on improving hazard awareness at the individual level. To accomplish this, we must first determine what that person knows about safety, how they behave, what they are exposed to, and what they observe daily. This data can then be used to provide each person with tailored information that they can use to lower the risk of accidents and injuries in their personal and professional lives.

For this purpose, Tommy developed the Rebecchi Individual Safety Consciousness (R.I.S.C.) Assessment, a qualitative and quantitative psychometric evaluation culminating in over a decade of knowledge, 3 years of dedication, and over 3,000 hours of research, consultation, and development. With the Assessment, Tommy hopes to teach each participant how to identify, avoid, and properly manage hazardous situations to prevent unnecessary accidents and injuries that can negatively impact a person's life. As each person improves their hazard awareness, safety will improve for everyone.

In addition to the R.I.S.C. Assessment, Tommy is also dedicated to accomplishing 3 specific goals. First, he wants to make safety more relatable so that anyone can understand how it impacts them personally. Next, he wants to provide practical solutions for issues facing current and future safety professionals to help them more effectively accomplish their goal of keeping people safe. Finally, he wants to simplify safety as best he can so that people can understand, remember, and recall the information they will need to avoid experiencing an accident or injury. These 3 goals were incorporated into the foundation of the R.I.S.C. Assessment, and Tommy hopes that with it, he can help transform safety into what it should have been all this time.



# ELECTIONS

## Secretary Candidate

Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, MS, CSP  
SECRETARY CANDIDATE



I am a dedicated Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) leader with over seven years of experience driving excellence across diverse industrial sectors. Currently, I serve as the Americas EHS Manager at TVH Parts Co. in Olathe, Kansas, where I manage and promote EHS standards for TVH Americas to ensure operational safety on an international scale.

My journey began with a fascination with the technical side, earning a degree in Chemistry before I found my true calling in Occupational Safety and Health. Through my career, I've learned that the best safety programs aren't just about compliance; they're about the people we're protecting. My background as a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and an ISO 45001 Lead Auditor has honed my eye for administrative precision and regulatory rigor.

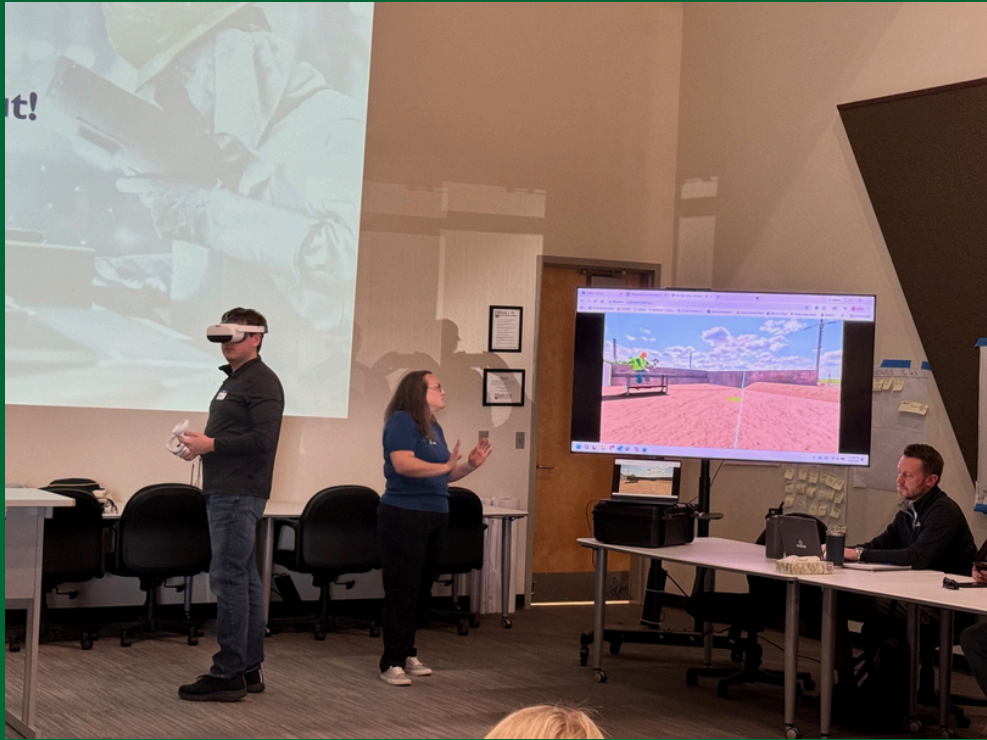
Organization and communication are at the heart of what I do. Whether I'm developing a safety program from the ground up, auditing an ISO 45001 system, or volunteering as an MS Ambassador—a cause I've been close to for over 20 years—I have always focused on being a bridge between complex information and the people who need it.

I am eager to leverage my blend of analytical skills and frontline safety leadership to serve the ASSP community and help our region in this role.



# CHAPTER EVENTS

## February's VR Meeting



**Thank you to those who brought clothing donations to our meeting!  
Great job to our emerging professionals group's leaders!**



**Jessie Glenn, MS, GSP, Anthony Gallagher, GSP, and Anna Clevenger, GSP, AINS**



# CHAPTER SPONSORS

## THANK YOU!

### Platinum Sponsors

**SafetyCulture**



**PROGRESSIVE  
SAFETY** WORK SAFE —  
— LIKE A PRO

### Gold Sponsors



**US COMPLIANCE**

### Silver Sponsors



**STRATEGOS**  
INTERNATIONAL





# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS



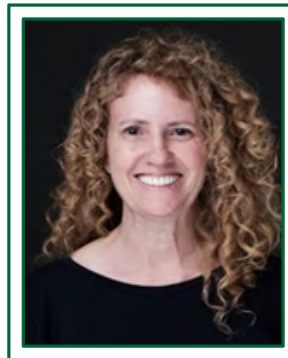
**President**  
Michael Carlson  
[president@kc.assp.org](mailto:president@kc.assp.org)



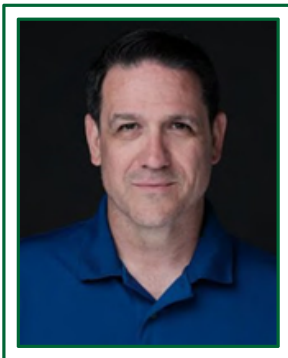
**Vice-President**  
Ashley Parker  
[vp@kc.assp.org](mailto:vp@kc.assp.org)



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



**Secretary**  
Mindy Prichard  
[secretary@kc.assp.org](mailto:secretary@kc.assp.org)



**Past President**  
Derek Farmer



**Members at Large**  
Tom Metzner



**New Member Engagement**  
Mike Combs



**Promotions Chair**  
Shelly Higgins

