



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF **SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

NEWSLETTER | Edition 87, Volume 9



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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

| Harold Rudd, STS

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

APRIL 2026



Hello to my fellow chapter members. This April has been packed with great news. I would first like to congratulate Shelly Higgins, CSP as our next president-elect (VP), and Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, MS, CSP as our next secretary! They along with President Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS will assume their new roles in July. Congrats, all!

A lesser-known accomplishment of our chapter began April 8th through the 10th as we hosted our Region V Regional Operating Committee (ROC) in KC. The ROC is attended by our region's chapter presidents and is held semi-annually at a host chapter's city. The visiting chapters got to see the best of KC as we welcomed them with a Boulevard tour accompanied by their safety manager, a great downtown hotel conference space, and a tour of a data center construction site. Both of our student chapters presented to the group and shared their accomplishments and ways for us to help. Thank you to all that made this a success!

Speaking of student chapters, our April 17th, student-professional speed-meet was a great event. Our chapter hosted eight students to interact with our professionals and the conversations were flowing well. Great job to Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP for being our emcee.

From my first newsletter as president, to my final one coming up, I have learned to be thankful for our amazing board, executive committee, and chapter. We have a great volunteer group here running this chapter, and I believe that it shows. Thank you, all, and I am happy I said yes to being your president.

Thank you,

Michael Carlson, CSP



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!



- **Rob Bennett**
- **Josh Threlfall**
- **Treneece Weber**
- **Jason Rathert, SMP**
- **Jaycee McIntosh**
- **Derek England**
- **Steve Chastain, CSP**



MEMBER AWARDS

Phil Shoemaker
CSP, CRIS, CHST, STS-C

Safety Excellence Award



Congratulations, Phil!



CHAPTER NEWS

Save the Dates:

| MONTH | DATE | TIME | HOST | LOCATION |
|-------|------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| May | 15th | 11:30-1:00 pm | Herzig Engineering | 8201 NW 97th Terrace, KC, MO 64153 |

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.

ELECTION RESULTS

President-Elect (VP)

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.



ELECTION RESULTS

Secretary

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

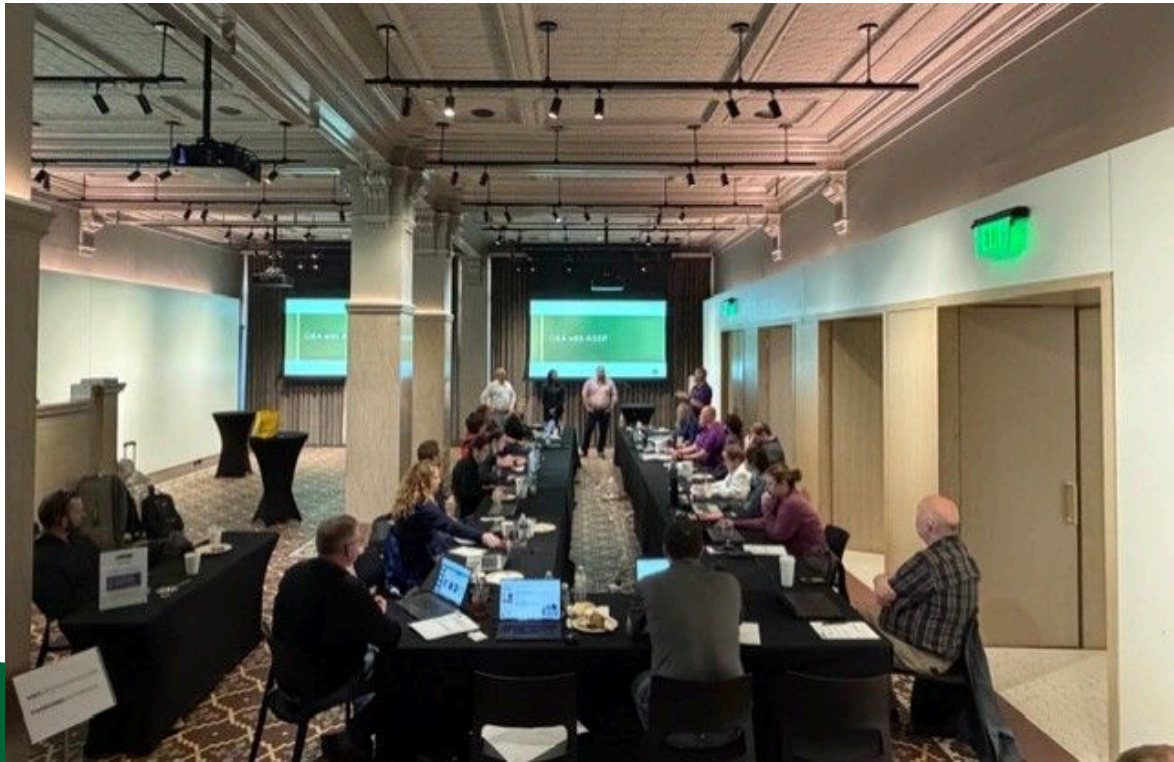
Student Speed Meet





CHAPTER EVENTS

Hosting the Region V Conference





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Hosting the Region V Conference





CHAPTER SPONSORS

THANK YOU!

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— LIKE A PRO

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US COMPLIANCE

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STRATEGOS

INTERNATIONAL



JOB OPENINGS

12

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.

Looking for a Job?

If so, then send your resume to
president@kc.assp.org

- [EHS-Specialist](#)
- [Safety Manager](#)

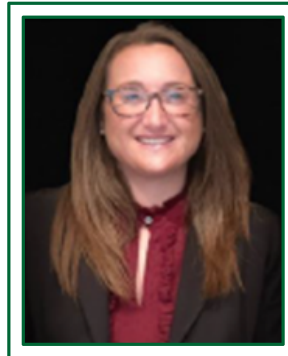


EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS



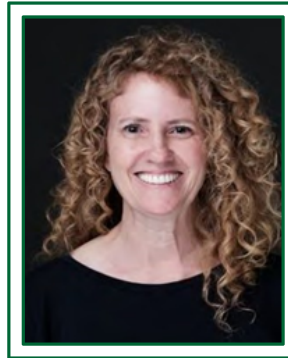
President
Michael Carlson
president@kc.assp.org



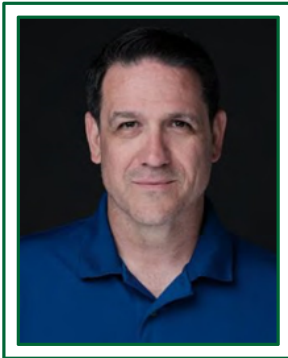
Vice-President
Ashley Parker
vp@kc.assp.org



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
Mike Combs



Promotions Chair
Shelly Higgins

