



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF **SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Heart of America Chapter

NEWSLETTER | Edition 88, Volume 2



Table of Contents

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Officer List |
| 2 | President's Message |
| 3 | New Members |
| 4 | Chapter News |
| 5 | Sponsors |
| 6 | Job Openings |
| 7 | Executive Committee |



Officer List

1



president@kc.assp.org

President

| Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS



vp@kc.assp.org

Vice President

| Shelly Higgins, CSP



secretary@kc.assp.org

Secretary

| Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, MS, CSP



treasurer@kc.assp.org

Treasurer

| Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM



Past President

| Michael Carlson, CSP



President's Message

AUGUST 2026

2



It was great to see so many people connecting, networking, and simply enjoying time together outside of the workplace. Events like these remind us that one of the greatest benefits of ASSP membership is the opportunity to build relationships with others who share a passion for advancing safety and health.

As we move into the fall season, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who joined us for our recent Member Appreciation Event at Chicken N Pickle. We had a fantastic turnout with members representing every stage of their professional journey, from students and emerging professionals to new members and long-time ASSP members. The Heart of America Chapter continues to be strengthened by the diversity of experiences, perspectives, and friendships within our membership.

As we look ahead, I am excited about our upcoming lineup of professional development opportunities. From September through November, we have an outstanding series of speakers and educational programs planned for our monthly meetings. We are pleased to be offering **0.1 CEUs** for these sessions, providing members with additional opportunities to earn continuing education credits while expanding their knowledge and professional network. Increasing access to CEUs has been a priority for our chapter this year, and we are committed to delivering relevant, high-quality content that helps our members grow professionally.

I am also excited about the continued growth of our Emerging Professionals Group. Their leadership team has been exploring new ways for members to connect, engage, and contribute to our chapter and community. As we move closer to the holiday season, watch for announcements regarding volunteer and service opportunities. Giving back is an important part of who we are as safety professionals, and these activities will provide a meaningful way for us to support those in our communities while strengthening connections among our members.



President's Message

2

Have you heard about SBUGs (Standards Based User Groups)? As an ASSP member, you have the opportunity to participate in these groups and collaborate with safety professionals who have a shared interest in specific ASSP standards. SBUGs provide a valuable forum for discussing implementation challenges, sharing best practices, and networking with others who are passionate about advancing workplace safety and health through consensus standards. If you are looking for another way to become engaged within ASSP and expand your professional network, I encourage you to learn more about the SBUG program and consider joining a group that aligns with your interests. Learn more about SBUGs on the [ASSP Standards Based User Groups](#) page.

Thank you for your continued support of the Heart of America Chapter. Whether you are a student, a new member, a long-time chapter supporter, or somewhere in between, your involvement helps make our chapter stronger. I look forward to seeing many of you at our next monthly meeting on **September 25** and continuing to build a vibrant and engaged safety community together.

Stay safe, stay connected, and thank you for being part of the ASSP Heart of America Chapter.

Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS
President, ASSP Heart of America Chapter

Welcome TO ASSP



ASSP
Heart of America
Chapter

NEW MEMBERS

CONNECT • LEARN • GROW

We are excited to welcome these professionals to the
ASSP Heart of America Chapter!

NEW MEMBERS		NEW MEMBERS	
	Tyrone Herring		Bailey Bradshaw
	Francis Heiman		Conor McElligott
	Tate Coe		Payton Goth
	Ayden McKain		Owen Polly
	Justice Lonon		Kelci Locke
	Brody Baker		Ty Normandin
	Cody Luckenbach		Savannah Rodriguez
	Keon Engeman		Megan Lelli
	Christopher Norton		Jean Sanchez

Thank you for joining a network of safety professionals
dedicated to protecting people, advancing careers,
and strengthening our profession.



CHAPTER NEWS

Achieved Platinum Chapter AGAIN 2025-2026!!!



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2024-2025



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2023-2024



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2022-2023



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2021-2022



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2020-2021



PLATINUM LEVEL CHAPTER
2019-2020



CONGRATULATIONS



*Save
THE
Date*

★ UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS — NETWORK • LEARN • CONNECT —



MONTH	DATE	TIME	HOST	LOCATION
 SEPTEMBER	25th	 11:30–1:00 pm	 John Knox Village	 1001 NW Jacob Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64081
 OCTOBER	30th	 11:30–1:00 pm	 Black & Veatch	 11401 Lamar Ave, Overland Park, KS 66211
 NOVEMBER	13th	 11:30–1:00 pm	 Select Physical Therapy	 4001 Indian Creek Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66207



ASSP
Heart of America Chapter



**GET INVOLVED.
MAKE AN IMPACT.**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION!**

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.

BASIC TOOLS TO IMPLEMENT, TRACK & HOLD LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE FOR SAFETY

FEATURED SPEAKER:

STEVE BELL

EMPLOYERS HEALTH & SAFETY, LLC



**29+ YEARS
EHS EXPERIENCE**

KEY FOCUS: SELLING SAFETY



SUPPORT & NETWORKS



IMPLEMENT & TRACK TOOLS



Q&A



SEPTEMBER MEETING



SEPTEMBER 25 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



0.1 CEU ELIGIBILITY



LOCATION:
JOHN KNOX VILLAGE,
1001 NW JACOB DRIVE,
LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64081
(MANHATTAN ROOM)



FREE TOOLS
PROVIDED BY EHS

RSVP NOW



CHAPTER NEWS

Scholarship Winners



CELEBRATING OUR 2026

ASSP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ella Morris

Pittsburg State University

Bachelor's Degree |
Environmental and
Safety Management

“ My goal is that people should go home from work in a better condition than when they came in.



Funded by ASSP Heart of America Chapter



Nhien Le

The University of Kansas

Doctorate Degree |
Civil Engineering
(Construction Engineering
and Management)

“ I hope to contribute to a future where every construction worker can return home safely at the end of the day.



Funded by ASSP Heart of America Chapter

— ✨ Congratulations, ✨ —
ELLA AND NHIENT!



ONE PASSION.



ONE PROFESSION.



ONE ASSP.



2026 Charity Golf Event

YOU'RE INVITED!

Benefiting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation



PROUD
SUPPORTER
OF THE

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

T2T.ORG

OCTOBER 12, 2026

MILLWOOD GOLF AND RACQUET CLUB



GOLF4CHARITY@JOHNSTONCOMPANIES.COM



HEART OF AMERICA
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE 2ND ANNUAL

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

This season, let's make a difference by participating in our Winter Clothing Drive. Donate your gently used clothing and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months!

WE ARE ACCEPTING ANY SIZE OF THE FOLLOWING:

WINTER COATS

HATS

GLOVES

SWEATSHIRTS

SWEATERS

SCARVES

BLANKETS

BOOTS

**DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED AT CHAPTER
HEART OF AMERICA MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER.**

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 1,

2026



CHAPTER SPONSORS

5

THANK YOU!

Platinum Sponsors



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

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors





JOB OPENINGS

6

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.

- ON-SITE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL

Looking for a Job?

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

MEMBERS

7

Newsletter

| Harold Rudd, STS

Student Section & Scholarships

| Phil Shoemaker, CSP, CRIS, CHST

New Member Engagement

| Mike Combs, COSS | Tommy Rebecchi, PhD, CSP

Vendor Promotions

| Shelly Higgins, CSP | Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS

Website Update & Job Postings

| Dave Hallerud, ALCM

Social Media & Communications

| Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, MS, CSP

Events Coordinator & Catering

| Mindy Prichard, MS, CSP

Professional Development Workshops

| Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS | Mindy Prichard, MS, CSP

Emerging Professionals Group

| Jessica Glenn, MS, CSP | Anthony Gallagher, CSP | Eric Hallerud, CSP

Election Committee

| Derek Farmer, MBA, CSP, CRIS | Tom Metzner, CSP, ARM-P, CFPS
| Mindy Prichard, MS, CSP