

American Society of Safety Engineers

Western PA Chapter



The President's Message

November 2007	
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By the time you read this, the recent news from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will be old, but the message is still important. In October the BLS released its report of worker fatalities for 2006 and noted, with some fanfare, that the total was the lowest recorded number since the BLS began keeping track in 1992. The good news, according to the BLS, was that *only 5,703 workers died on the job in 2006*. The BLS news release suggested that the reduced numbers demonstrated that safety programs were working.

Now don't get me wrong; any ethical safety professional is happy that the numbers have continued to decline and I count myself as one of those. I believe we all can share some of the spotlight and we all deserve a pat on the back for our tireless efforts on behalf of working men and women. But that total number of fatalities means that approximately 16 workers died every single day of the year 2006. It also means that every hour and a half of every single day of that same year one worker didn't go home to his/her family or loved ones. In about

the time it takes for you to read this newsletter, someone died on the job.

And despite the overall reduction, deaths in the *mining industry more than doubled*; they went from 22 in 2005 to **47** in 2006. In the aircraft-related industry, they *rose by nearly 50%* from 149 deaths in 2005 to 215 in 2006. Despite a brief reduction in 2004, *total deaths among Hispanic workers went up again last year*, although it should be noted that the overall fatality rate among Hispanic workers went down from 4.9 in 2005 to 4.7 in 2006. Finally, *construction industry fatalities rose 3%* and this sector continues to lead all others in the number of deaths, as they have for many years.

If all of that were not bad enough, many of you read the story in the *Post Gazette* on October 10th where it was reported that deaths in Pennsylvania rose in 2006 by 7%. And not only did the total number of fatalities rise, but they represented *the highest fatality rate in the state since 1997*. Sadly, Pennsylvania had the fourth highest total number of fatalities in the country, just behind Texas, California and Florida.

The numbers don't lie and while I certainly believe that any reduction is a good thing, we as safety professionals need to continue to beat the drum with our message of safety first, safety last, safety always. We have a long way to go and I hope you will all keep doing what you do every day because the safety profession needs each and every one of us working diligently every day. I thank you for all you do, I honor your commitment, and I urge you to double your efforts.

Only 5,703 indeed.

Yours in safety!
Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM
Western PA President
pam@jcsafety.com
412.414.4769

Chapter Events Calendar

December 7th – 11:30am

The annual Holiday Luncheon will be on Friday December 7th starting at 11:30 at the Churchill Valley Country Club. The cost to the Chapter for the lunch will be slightly over \$30, at our Executive Committee/Board Chairs meeting we voted to hold the cost for attendance at just \$25.00. Our Chapter is in good shape financially at the moment so we thought it was a good idea to cover a portion of the cost for each member. This event is always one of most highly attended so make sure you get your RSVP in quickly. You can call the hotline at 412.281.1885. **Deadline for reservations is Friday November 30th – don't wait to call – do it now.** Also, remember that vendors typically attend this event. So if you have a favorite representative, please invite them to join us and don't forget to bring a prize for the raffle.

Friday January 18th

Our monthly meeting will be at the zoo. This will be a luncheon meeting held in the new polar Bear Exhibit. More details to follow soon.

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Thank you,
Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP, WSO-CSS

Government Affairs Update

PA Legislative Activity

Government Affairs Update information was unavailable at the time of publishing.

Local News and Events

Thank You

“Thank you!” goes out to those members listed below for sponsoring students at the joint meeting with IUP in October. In fact the Chapter only had to pay for 5 student meals.

Kim Morrison	Tony Klausher
Nick Kachur	Jerry Burkhart
Kevin O’Leary	Fran Sehn
David Dyott	That Pajak
Doug Noble	

And an extra big “Thank you!” to Mark Barch who alone sponsored five students.

Community Service with the Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America

Cathy Davis and Fran Sehn participated in the post camp safety and health inspection at Heritage Reservation last Saturday, October 27th. Over the past 10 years WPA ASSE members have participated in these inspections as part of our community service. Fran Sehn recently accepted the chairperson for the Risk Management Committee for the Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America for the next two years. The inspections of the camps/reservation and related risk management/safety activities will continue to provide opportunities for the ASSE-WPA chapter to give of our expertise in a worthwhile cause, the safety and health of the many aspects of society involved in Scouting. A recent fatality occurred in Harrisburg when a totem pole collapsed and crushed a nine year old scout in view of his family. Our inspections may identify a life saving situation in the future.

Fran Sehn will provide the dates of these inspections in the future and any and all participation of our membership is welcome.

Upgrading ASSE-WPA Website Opportunities

We are looking to upgrade our website sometime this year and hopefully make it easier for representatives of the Executive Committee and Board Chairs to upload content. We are hoping that one or more of you have the talent and expertise to help us with this project and to help keep the site current, rather than having to look at paying for a designer to do it for us. Barry Gibson is our current website coordinator and he would love to have the help. So.....if anyone out there can do this kind of work, here’s your chance to give back to the Chapter. Please let me know by calling or email.

Practice Specialty Cost to Increase

The Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) would like to inform you that effective January 2008, the cost to join a practice specialty will increase from \$15 to \$20 (per practice specialty).

In the nearly 14 years since the last price increase, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) and CoPS have worked hard to keep practice specialty membership fees affordable, even during several postage rate hikes and increasing printing and publication costs. The nominal increase will be used to address rising costs needed to support the 13 different technical publications and to provide our current high-caliber products and services. It will also position the practice specialties for future growth and improvement.

Local News and Events (cont.)

Practice Specialty Cost to Increase (cont.)

Thanks to practice specialty members article contributions, we are pleased to see that the technical publications have increased in quality and page length. Most of the technical publications now average between 16 and 24 pages of content, compared to the average length of four to six pages in 1995. And since CoPS' mission is to give practice specialty members only the best product possible, the small change in price will allow us to continue to offer you the superior resources you depend on and deserve. We appreciate your support and understanding.

If you have questions regarding the price increase or require further information, please contact Tim Fisher at tfisher@asse.org or Rennie Heath at rheath@asse.org

ASSE Membership Changes

As a member of ASSE you should be aware of changes in membership criteria that were approved by the House of Delegates at the Society's Annual PDC in Orlando this summer. The changes affect the requirements for the various membership status and categories, specifically what is required to become a Professional member of the Society. Those who are already Professional members will not be affected, but it is important to note that there is a one-year grace period currently in place until July 2008, to obtain Professional membership status under the old criteria. Once the grace period closes, you will need to abide by the new criteria. For information on the changes follow the links below:

Link to *Society Update* which describes the changes and new criteria in detail -

http://www.asse.org/societupdate/0708_HOD_Votes.php

Link to reclassify your membership status during the grace period -

<http://www.asse.org/cartpage.php?link=additem&PID=MEMBERRECLASS&QTY>

Welcome to New Members

– (This section is for welcoming new ASSE-WPA members. Information on new members should be sent to Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson.)

Membership Personal Notes

(This section is for ASSE-WPA membership personal notes such as recent promotions, recent certifications, personal achievements, links to articles and papers published by chapter members, etc. Please send related information to this editor at wvanderhoof@netzero.net .)

Membership Information

In order to keep our member information up to date, please notify Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson at cwheinlein@acig.com with corrections, deletions, revisions, or additions to member contact information especially the email address. If you know of a member that is not receiving chapter information by email, please let Carl know. Also, questions about chapter membership should be directed to Carl.

National membership questions can be answered, in general, on the ASSE website at <http://www.asse.org/membership/> .

ASSE-WPA Executive Board

Title	Member Name	Email Address
President	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com
Vice President	Thad Pajak	Tpajak@ffic.com
Secretary	Scott Keener	Scott.Keener@amwater.com
Treasurer	Doug Noble	dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu
Programs	Fran Sehn	fran.sehn@hrh.com
	Kim Morrison	morrisonkl@upmc.edu
Membership	Carl Heinlein	cwheinlein@acig.com
Foundations	Jim Feeny	birdog704@aol.com
PDC Delegates	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com
	Rick Schultz	RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu
	Del Kubeldis	delkubeldis@ergsafe.com
Honors & Awards	Pam Ferrante	pam@jcsafety.com
By-Laws	Rick Schultz	RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu
Webmaster	Barry Gibson	barry.gibson@basf.com
Government Affairs	Steve Tima	stima@portauthority.org
Social	Josh Shaw	joshshaw@ergsafe.com
Arrangements	Kiena Nutter	disnutt@aol.com
Auditor	Bill Boots	Bill.Boots@hrh.com
Student Section	Nick Kachur	NKachur@nevchem.com
Council on Practices and Standards Representative	Carl Heinlein	cwheinlein@acig.com
Long-Range Planning	Rick Schultz	RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu
Special Projects	Cathy Davis	cathdavis1@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Vanderhoof	wvanderhoof@netzero.net

Feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board with ideas, questions, comments and concerns.

2007-2008 Budget Approved - The Executive Committee has approved the 2007-2008 budget. Last year, for a number of reasons, we spent more than we earned. It wasn't significant and we are working on several initiatives to reduce costs this year, but the Executive Committee and Board Chairs also voted to increase Chapter dues by \$5.00 per year. This dues increase will not take affect until next March and only after approval by the Society. We believe that the small increase more than pays for itself given the programs and services we will be providing this year. It should also be noted that our Chapter has not raised it's dues in over 8 years. Please feel free to call or email an Executive Committee member if you have any questions. Members will be notified of the dues increase via email as soon as it is approved.

Student Section Sponsorship Opportunities – The Executive Committee and Chairs this year are working to develop linkages and outreach with two Student Sections at IUP and Slippery Rock. The current policy is to allow Student Section members from either school attend our monthly technical meetings for free. The chapter absorbs this cost in our operating budget. You can help the chapter by sponsoring a student or two and pay their meeting fee. If you or your company would be willing to do this, please get in touch with Nick Kachur at nkachur@nevchem.com.

Chapter Incorporation – As mentioned in previous newsletters, the national ASSE is requiring all Chapters to incorporate by the end of the calendar year. There were two options – one was to pay to incorporate in Pennsylvania and be responsible for all yearly paperwork and fees. The other was to join in with the Society at large in a group incorporation, with each Chapter retaining it's own individual status. The latter option is free to us and the Society will handle all current and future paperwork. At the Executive Committee/Board Chairs meeting on Thursday November 15th, the vote was unanimous to incorporate using the Society's assistance. The necessary paperwork will be sent to the Society in the next week or two. Sometime after the first of the year, we will let you know when things become official.

General Safety Articles (This section is for links to articles published by ASSE-WPA members. Please send related information to this editor at wvanderhoof@netzero.net .)

WINTER STORAGE TIPS FOR BETTER BOATING SAFETY

Submitted by Dave Zazac Public Affairs, Flotilla 7-8, 412-881-4037

So you have put up your boat for the winter and everything's winterized. Now you have nothing to worry about until spring, right? Wrong!

Let's say this is an "in the water storage." Ice and snow loads on the covers can raise the waterline to the point where water can back up through the cockpit drains, bilge pump lines, or even exhaust pipes (i.e., the wooden plug may have worked loose). Chafing of the lines is a constant worry; not only yours, but those of the boat in the slip next door which can then be blown to chafe your vessel. If you depend on electric power to keep the cabin dry, are the fittings and cord still in good connection and properly energized? Did the slip manager check the shore plug on your boat to see if it was a little warm, indicating a corroded or loose connection?

Storage on shore eliminates a few of the above possibilities. However, snow and ice loads can still damage covers and let melting snow or ice enter the boat and re-freeze, doing much damage. Snow puts an unintended load on jacks and blocks under the hull, which could cause them to buckle or slip. Perhaps there's no obvious damage, but if the snow or ice is followed later by high winds, the supports can work loose and let the boat roll off. A thorough inspection is in order.

If your boat is close enough to home or work, a weekly drive by can ease your mind. If that is more than you can arrange, perhaps you or a nearby friend can make a thorough monthly check. Maybe a kind word to the yard superintendent and a little trip around the yard wouldn't hurt to make sure your next boating season "will start off right."

Other Societies Event

(In cooperation with other professional organizations, this section, at the discretion of the Executive Board, may be utilized to list events from other organizations such as, but not limited to, the ABIH, ACHMM, RIMS, CPCU, etc. Please send related information to this editor at wvanderhoof@netzero.net .)

Job Openings – Local

(This section is to list any local job openings in the safety fields for membership. Please send related information to this editor at wvanderhoof@netzero.net .) Positions can be viewed on the chapter web site on the [Job Page](#).

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