

American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



The President's Message

April 2008	
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Recent events at the Society level have caused me to revise my planned message for this month's newsletter. I have already alerted many of you to the proposed dues increase by the Society through our weekly emails, but I wanted to take the time to visit this issue again in the newsletter because it is an important one for all of us. Below is a partial quote from an email sent to the Society's Delegates earlier this month from Michael Thompson, President and House of Delegates Chair:

The request for a change in society membership dues would increase them from the current \$120 per year to \$149 per year, a \$29 increase. The Society's Finance Committee and your Board of Directors have unanimously approved this proposal and they urge you to do the same.

The needs of our members are outpacing our ability to raise revenue and reduce costs. We must strengthen the Society by enhancing members' professionalism and improving effectiveness and importance to their organizations. We must conduct additional research, expand the Future Leaders conference, increase support to the chapters and regions, expand efforts in government affairs and regulatory, expand technical and research areas, expand voluntary technical standards initiatives, grow electronic delivery of educational programs, develop speciality educational programs, develop new communication and networking tools, implement programs to increase awareness of the SH&E profession, expand services to global members, support the growth of NAOSH week and expand "Safety as good business."

In a recent weekly email message, I had asked for members to voice their opinions to the Executive Committee and Board Chairs of our Chapter. Here are some of the responses I received:

I would like to see more value if they are going to do this. I just went to the Business of Safety seminar which costs almost \$600 for a 2 day seminar. This was a good seminar but we can't have these increases on both sides (dues and seminars). I know these seminars take a lot to put together and bring speakers in for but could they possibly put some of these dues increases towards making these seminars more affordable.

The society is proposing a 24% increase in dues when salaries are limited to 3% to 5% increases over a 15-24 month frequency. And, timing of the increase comes when a recession is upon us and job loss is growing significantly. Terrible timing! So, now more people without jobs will need to pay out more. What is the benefit to them?

I believe it would be in the best interest of ASSE to keep membership prices to an absolute minimum and just plan for them to cover the costs of the Professional Safety Magazine,

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President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

the web-site, and other direct costs associated with the processing of membership cards and registration.

ASSE should be plainly defensible to the individual trying to get their employer to pay for their membership on the basis of what they are receiving for their membership due rather than what they have an opportunity "to get" or to support the profession. Most employers can't take the burden of supporting all professional organizations.

I would support an increase in prices somewhere else, but not an increase in membership prices.

Because of our Chapter membership numbers, we are entitled to three delegates to the House of Delegates meeting in Las Vegas in June. The delegates who will be attending and voting on this increase are Fran Sehn, Rick Schultz and I. As delegates, we believe our responsibility is to vote the will of the both the Executive Committee and the membership. So please take the time to voice your opinion. You can call or email me (pam@jcsafety.com; 412.414.4769) or email Fran (fran.sehn@hrh.com) or Rick (RSchultz@ehs.pitt.edu).

Be Safe!

Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM

President

Chapter Events Calendar

May 15, 2008

The annual awards dinner will be at the Library on the South Side (Across the street from the Carnegie Library on the South Side and the end of the Birmingham Bridge). In addition to the socialization, we will be honoring fellow Chapter members for their years of service. Registration starts at 5:30 and dinner begins at 6:00. Call the hotline to RSVP - 412.281.1885.

We are honoring our members with 25 years of service:

Darrick Bertig

Christopher Eastly

Robert Harper

Ronald Schafflhauser

Future Program Ideas

It's not too soon to begin thinking about topics for future program, so please give it some thought and let us know what you are interested in hearing about or provide us with ideas of speakers you have heard that you think would make for a good monthly meeting.

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 Elections

The Nominations Committee has completed the slate of candidates to vote on for the upcoming year. The candidates are listed below:

- President – Thad Pajak
- Vice President – Kim Morrison
- Treasurer – Doug Noble
- Secretary – Kiena Nutter
- Delegate – Pam Ferrante
- Delegate – Rick Schultz
- Delegate – Fran Sehn

If you would like to nominate someone other than those listed above, you can nominate someone by having a petition signed by 20 members. Send that petition to the Nominating Chair Scott Keener, Scott.Keener@amwater.com before the May meeting (May 15). Voting will be conducted at that meeting.

Special Report: ASSE to Raise Annual Dues

As our chapter President has reviewed in the President’s Message, the ASSE is proposing an increase in annual dues. The ASSE has sent out information on the proposed increases. Follow the links below to access the information that was sent:

- [Dues Increase – White Paper](#)
- [Dues Increase – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Please voice your opinions to our chapter delegates listed in the President’s Message.

Government Affairs Update

Contributed by Stive Tima

ASSE Urges Fairness for SH&E Professionals in NY City Environment/Health Monitor Rules
In a communication to the New York Police Department, ASSE urged fairness in proposed New York City rules, which if allowed to move forward unchanged, could unfairly limit safety, health and environmental (SH&E) professionals who live and work in New York City in their professional responsibilities in helping employers protect workers from occupational safety, health and environmental risks. The latest draft of New York City's effort to regulate biological, chemical and radiological devices provides an exemption to only one type of SH&E professional who would be impacted by these rules -- certified industrial hygienists (CIHs). ASSE's own membership includes many CIHs. However, this exemption, if adopted, would give an unfair professional advantage to CIHs over other highly qualified SH&E professionals who do the same work as CIHs in using biological and chemical measuring devices.

Combustible Dust Takes Center Stage

As a result of the recent sugar dust explosion in Savannah, Georgia, the issue of combustible dust is the latest occupational safety and health issue that has risen to prominence in the current Washington, DC, political debate. A bill (HR 5522) has been introduced by House Labor and Education Chair George Miller (D-WA), which can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. ASSE has not taken a position on the bill and is establishing a task force of members to determine just what regulatory approach should be taken to address this issue.

OSHA Rejects Significant Adverse Comment to Push Ahead Rulemaking Updating Standards Based on National Consensus Standards

In a January 14 [comment](#), ASSE has urged OSHA to withdraw its December 14, 2007, Direct Final Rule Updating OSHA Consensus Standards Based on National Consensus Standards. OSHA confirmed the effective date of its direct final rule to revise a number of standards for general industry that refer to national consensus standards. The direct

final rule stated that it would become effective on March 13, 2008 unless OSHA receives significant adverse comment on these revisions by January 14, 2008. OSHA determined that it received no adverse comments by that date and, therefore, has confirmed that the rule will become effective on March 13, 2008.

OSHA Announces Availability of FY '08 Harwood Training Grants

OSHA has announced grant availability for Susan Harwood Training Program grants. All information and forms needed to apply are available on the Grants.gov site. The program awards funds to nonprofit organizations to provide training and educational programs for employers and employees about safety and health topics selected by OSHA. Nonprofit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations that are not an agency of a state or local government are eligible. Also, state or local government-supported institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Grant applications must be received electronically by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., E.T., on Friday, May 23, 2008.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-6108.htm>

OSHA Publishes Ergo Guidelines for Shipyard Workers

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today announced the release of [Ergonomics for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders: Guidelines for Shipyards](#), an industry-specific guidance document. The guidelines emphasize various solutions that have been effectively implemented by shipyards across the country to decrease work-related musculoskeletal disorders. An "Implementing Solutions" section offers examples of ergonomic solutions that may be used to control exposure to ergonomics-related risk factors in shipyards. OSHA's free consultation service will be available to assist small businesses.

OSHA Enhances Web Info on State Programs

There is a new resource on OSHA's Web site that provides enhanced information on standards and directives issued by states that operate their own OSHA-approved job safety and health programs. [There are 22 states and territories operating complete state plans \(covering both the private sector and state and local government employees\) and four that cover public employees only.](#) The new [State Plan Standards and Policies/Directives](#) page can be found at http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/std_fpc.html. It includes summary charts on each state plan's response to every new OSHA standard and directive issued since June 2006. For a listing of states with OSHA-approved job safety and health programs, see <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/index.html>.

OSHA Launches Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign

OSHA will launch its *2008 Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign: Build a Safe Work Foundation* on April 21. OSHA's regional and area offices are also holding kick-off events on April 21 (and throughout the summer) to support the Campaign. OSHA's five-year *Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign* initiative is designed to focus attention on the importance of occupational safety and health among teen workers during the summer months when many teens enter the workforce. OSHA's goal is to make sure that teens learn safety and health practices during their initial work experience and integrate safety principles into their work culture. The Campaign is designed to bring teens, parents, educators, employers, government, unions, and advocacy groups together to ensure young workers have safe and rewarding work experiences.

House Ed and Labor Committee Posts Map of Workplace Deaths

At <http://edlabor.house.gov/issues/workerdeaths.shtml>, the US House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor has established a map showing where workplace deaths are occurring. According to the committee, the map represents only approximately 10% of deaths that have occurred in U.S. workplaces during 2007. Details are provided for each fatality listed. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 5,703 people died at work during 2006 (<http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm>).

EPA Makes \$50 Million Available to Clean Up Diesel Engines Nationwide

EPA is announcing the availability of almost \$50 million in grant funding to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines. The unprecedented sum, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and funded for the first time this fiscal year, will be administered by EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC) and its network of seven collaboratives, made up of EPA regional offices and public and private sector partners. State, local, regional and tribal governments can apply for the grants, as well as non-profits and institutions with transportation, educational services and air quality responsibilities. The grants are

targeting school or transit buses, medium and heavy-duty trucks, marine engines, locomotives and nonroad engines. Grant recipients can use a variety of cost-effective emission reduction strategies, such as EPA-verified retrofit and idle-reduction technologies, EPA-certified engine upgrades, vehicle or equipment replacements, cleaner fuels and creation of innovative clean diesel financing programs. More information about NCDC and funding opportunities is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel>.

OSHA Seeks Comments on Standards' Paperwork Requirements

OSHA has asked for comments on its proposal to extend OMB approval of the information collection (paperwork) requirements in its Powered Industrial Truck Standard (29 CFR 1910.178). The information collection requirements addresses truck design, construction, and modification, as well as certification of training and evaluation for truck operators. Comments are due May 6, 2008

(<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-4478.htm>). Also, OSHA has also asked for comments on the paperwork requirements for its Respiratory Protection Standard, comments for which are due May 23, 2008.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-5837.htm>

PHMSA/FRA Propose Improved HazMat Safety of Railroad Tank Cars

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) are proposing revisions to the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations to improve the crashworthiness protection of railroad tank cars designed to transport poison inhalation hazard materials. Comments are due June 2, 2008. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-6563.htm>

PHMSA Warns of Ice Build-Up on Gas Distribution Systems

PHMSA has issued an advisory bulletin warning that recent events on natural gas distribution system facilities appear to be related to either the stress of snow and ice or malfunction of pressure control equipment due to ice blockage of pressure control equipment vents by ice. The bulletin advises owners and operators of gas pipelines of the need to take steps to prevent damage to pipeline facilities from accumulated snow or ice.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/08-999.htm>

PHMSA Proposal to Increase Max Pressure for Gas Transmission Pipelines

PHMSA is proposing to amend its pipeline safety regulations to prescribe safety requirements for the operation of certain gas transmission pipelines at pressures based on higher stress levels. The result would be an increase of maximum allowable operating pressure over what is currently allowed in the regulations. Comments are due May 12, 2008. <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-4656.htm>

Local News and Events

Boy Scout Camp Inspection

Fran Sehn and Cathy Davis want to thank those fellow Chapter members who joined them last Saturday morning to assist the Boy Scouts in performing a safety inspection of their camp in Uniontown. A good time was had by all, as they say.

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/societyupdate/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>

ASSE Future Safety Leaders Conference Sponsorship

The ASSE sponsors a Future Safety Leaders Conference every year for students attending the various safety sciences programs throughout the country. It is a wonderful event that brings together the future of our profession for two days of seminars and networking. This coming year the conference is scheduled to be held in Louisville, Kentucky on November 6-8, 2008. ASSE is offering members and their various organizations the opportunity to be sponsors for this event. There are varying levels of sponsorship which allow you the opportunity to put your company in front of the students. If you or your organization might be interested in a sponsorship, please contact Mary Goranson, Foundation Manager at 847-768-3412 or mgoranson@asse.org.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFERS BOAT SAFETY COURSE

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8, is offering America's Boating Course on Saturday, May 31, at Jeffries Landing Marine Repair Shop, Riverside Drive, Bridgewater, PA from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost for the course is \$30 and includes lunch.

The boat and water safety course topics include:

- Boating Law: boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.
- Boat Safety Equipment: personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.
- Safe Boating: bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe Personal Water Craft handling; general water safety.
- Navigation: the U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; Personal Water Craft "tunnel vision."

Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete America's Boating Course. This beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states, including Pennsylvania.

America's Boating Course is a joint project between the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons.

For more information, please contact course instructor Mr. James Feeny at 412-269-1892.

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 wayne@rjrsafety.com .)

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
	Fran Sehn	fran.sehn@hrh.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	wayne@rjrsafety.com

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

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

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 wayne@rjrsafety.com .)

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 wayne@rjrsafety.com .) Positions can be viewed on the chapter web site on the [Job Page](#).

Editorial Note: The monthly newsletter will be published electronically – posted on the chapter website – during the third week of each month. Therefore, all material to be placed in the newsletter for the month needs to be in the email mailbox of this editor at wayne@rjrsafety.com by the 15th of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,
Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP, WSO-CSS