

# American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



## The President's Message

Seasons Greetings from WPA ASSE!

<b>December 2008</b>	
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What nice cap to the 2008 year we had @ the Engineer's Society this past Friday. It was great to see so many people show up and share their good spirits. I tried to say Hi to as many people as I could and it was a pleasure meeting those folks I met for the first time.....Derek, John, Richard, Gene....Thanks to Pam for setting this up, and Mark for doing the logistics, collecting money, etc.....Although Gene and Jack from PMA could not make it due to their own company's holiday party, they did think of us and provided several raffle gifts. Thanks. *Guess I will have to wait one more year for the golf balls, Howard.* Speaking of which, we are looking forward to 2009 already. Mark your calendars for January 21 and February 20 as our meeting dates. See our website for additional details. We may try for a second meeting in February, and we are still working on our March meeting topic and date. Of course, the April all day

conference is set, and we are looking forward to that to continue to provide educational opportunities for our members and also get continuing education points. More details to come. June 12 is a long way off but that tentatively is the date for our golf outing. We will be looking for sponsors and golfers both, with proceeds to benefit IUP and SRU Safety Students in the form of scholarships.

With 2009 economic prospects still somewhat uncertain, the safety profession will be that much more important to protect our most valuable resources, our people! Here's hoping you have renewed enthusiasm and commitment to the safety profession in the 2009 year. We hope to see you at our meetings, and for those who have been regulars, we especially look forward to your continued support. Please give us your ideas on how we can serve you better.

Thaddeus M. Pajak, CSP, ALCM, MS

# Chapter Events Calendar

## January 21, 2009 Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud

The monthly meeting is being held at the Sheraton Four Points, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046, (724) 776-6900. The topic is Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud and our speaker will be Mr. Pierre Khoury, CIFI, FLCA, Special Investigator for Harleysville Insurance. Registration is at 11:30 am with Lunch at 12:00 along with the Presentation. The cost is \$20.00. Please RSVP by calling the ASSE hotline at (412) 282-1885.

## February 20, 2009 Construction Safety Symposium

A Construction Safety Symposium is being planned along with a job site visit to the arena construction project site for February 20, 2009. Topics will include:

OSHA Construction Update	Crane Safety
Work Zone Safety	Electrical Safety

The speakers are TBD

Even though plans are not finalized, some information is available and very tentative. It will be finalized and communicated as soon as possible. Tentatively, the seminar will begin with registration at 7:30 AM and conclude at 3:30 PM at the Marriot Center City, Chatam Place and include a Continental breakfast and light lunch, it will be limited to 100 attendees. CEU's are anticipated. The date is trying to be arranged for Friday February the 20<sup>th</sup> with the speakers TBD. Vendor sponsors are welcome. There could be space for vendor exhibition booths. The speakers and sessions will last approximately 45 to 60 minutes and allow time for attendees to visit vendors' booth in the morning, at lunch and before and after the tour. The anticipated cost would be around \$75.00 for the day. We have \$1000.00 in the budget for this project.

Assistance is needed with lining up the speakers and finalizing plans. Contact Fran Sehn or Carl Heinlein.

## February, 2009

A second meeting is schedule with more information is forthcoming.

## March, 2009

Information is forthcoming.

## April 30, 2009 Safety Expo

Shannon Safety Products and ASSE-WPA are once again partnering for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Expo at the Hilton Garden in Southpointe, Canonsburg, PA. We will be looking for vendors. More information is forthcoming.

## May, 2009

Information is forthcoming.

## June 12, 2009 Golf Outing

The chapter is completing plans for a golf outing. The plans are tentative and will be communicated in more detail later. For now, the plans include a scramble with a shot gun start in the morning. The outing is open to members and guests. There are sponsorship opportunities available. Prizes will be awarded. The location has yet to be firmed up.

## Future Program Ideas

It's not soon to begin thinking about topics for future programs, 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 Sponsors

Students enrolled in Safety Sciences are the future of our profession. The Executive Committee and Chairs are continuing the effort to develop linkages and outreach with the 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](mailto:nkachur@nevchem.com).

# Government Affairs Update

Contributed by Stive Tima

## **PA House Bill 1325, Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act.**

The PA House Labor Relations Committee held a public hearing on the topic of House Bill 1325 on September 10, 2007. Both advocates and opponents of this legislation were given the opportunity to present their views before the committee. Based on testimony provided, it is clear that this legislation has much support. However, since the 2007/2008 legislative session is coming to an end, there is not sufficient time for the House and Senate to consider this bill. It would have to be reintroduction under a new bill number next year, during the forthcoming 2009/2010 legislative session.

## **New ASSE Governmental Affairs Chair**

Jim Thornton has been appointed to chair ASSE's Government Affairs Committee. The appointment by Tom Lawrence, Vice President for Professional Affairs and member of ASSE's Board of Directors, comes after the recent resignation of Tom Cecich. Jim is the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Health, Safety and Environmental Division of Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, VA. Jim also chairs OSHA's Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) and served as the President of AIHA from 1999-2000, among his many accomplishments.

## **Florida ASSE Members Working to Achieve Public Sector OSH Coverage**

### **Update on Florida Public Task Force on Workplace Safety**

November 14, 2008 marked the second of three meetings scheduled for the Florida Public Task Force on Workplace Safety charged by the Florida Legislature with "developing findings and issuing recommendations regarding innovative ways by which the state may effectively ensure that each state department and agency and each county government and municipality located in the state complies" with federal OSHA standards. ASSE and its members in Florida were responsible for the legislation that established this task force, consistent with long-standing ASSE policy to achieve occupational safety and health coverage for all public sector workers.

More information about the task force is available at <http://www.floridaworkplacesafety.org/index.cfm> and an opportunity to make comments is available at <http://www.floridaworkplacesafety.org/comment.cfm>.

## **ASSE Calls for Extension on OSHA Crane Rulemaking**

ASSE has urged OSHA to give a 90-day extension of time for submitting comments on OSHA's Proposed Rule Cranes and Derricks in Construction published in the October 9, 2008 Federal Register. ASSE said the importance of ensuring crane and derrick safety in construction is an important safety issue for a large segment of our diverse and wide-spread membership. Providing an adequate response that reflects the wide experience and expertise of ASSE's members is a unique challenge in the face of the Proposed Rule's 240 pages of text and nearly 150 requests for comment. OSHA needs to build confidence in this rulemaking by giving an adequate opportunity to comment. ASSE's comment is available here:

<http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs/govtaffairs/docs/111808craneextension-e.doc>

## **ASSE Comments on MSHA Drug/Alcohol Rulemaking**

ASSE submitted a comment on MSHA's proposed rule aimed at achieving drug- and alcohol-free mines. While applauding MSHA for attacking the issue proactively, ASSE urged changes in the rulemaking to avoid undercutting existing effective substance abuse prevention programs. The proposal should apply to coal and metal/nonmetal mines, both surface and underground. MSHA's intention toward independent contractors performing work unrelated to extraction or mineral production needs clarification. Mines with more rigorous drug and alcohol programs – including "zero tolerance" for positive testing employees -- should be allowed to maintain those programs. And post-accident provisions needed to avoid the "law of unintended consequences" of employees underreporting injuries because to avoid post-accident drug or alcohol testing.

ASSE's comment is available here:

<http://www.asse.org/professionalaaffairs/docs/111008ASSEdrugalcoholstatement%20e.doc>

## **OSHA Revises its 2008 Site-Specific Targeting Inspection Plan**

OSHA has revised its 2008 Site-Specific Targeting (SST-08) inspection plan. The Directive can be found at [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive\\_pdf/CPL\\_02\\_08-07.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02_08-07.pdf).

### **EPA Notice Requiring TSCA Inventory Status of Carbon Nanotubes**

EPA has published in the Federal Register a notice stating the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requirements that are potentially applicable to carbon nanotubes (CNTs). In the notice, EPA says it generally considers CNTs to be chemical substances distinct from graphite or other allotropes of carbon listed on the TSCA Inventory. Therefore, many CNTs may be new chemicals under TSCA section 5. Manufacturers or importers of CNTs not on the TSCA Inventory must submit a premanufacture notice (PMN) or applicable exemption under TSCA section 5 where required under 40 CFR part 720 or part 723. In order to determine the TSCA Inventory status of a CNT, a manufacturer may submit to EPA a bona fide intent to manufacture or import under 40 CFR 720.25, EPA states. The notice can be found at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26026.htm>.

### **CPSC Issues Final Rule on ATV Standard**

The recently-enacted Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 establishes several requirements for all terrain vehicles (ATVs), including requiring the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to publish in the Federal Register as a mandatory consumer product safety standard the American National Standard for Four Wheel All-Terrain Vehicles Equipment Configuration, and Performance Requirements developed by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (American National Standard ANSI/SVIA 1-2007). CPSC is fulfilling that requirement through this final rule, which takes effect April 13, 2009.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26974.htm>

### **OSHA Asks Paperwork Comments on 3 Standards**

OSHA has asked for comments on its proposal to extend OMB approval of the paperwork requirements in its Asbestos in Shipyards Standard (29 CFR 1915.1001). Comments are due January 5, 2009.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26210.htm>

OSHA also has asked for comments on its proposal to extend OMB approval of the paperwork requirements of its OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Worker Safety and Health (OSPP). Comments are due January 13, 2009.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26981.htm>

And OSHA asks for comments on its proposal to extend OMB approval of paperwork requirements contained in its Standard on Permit-Required Confined Spaces (29 CFR 1910.146). Comments are due January 9, 2009.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26585.htm>

### **PHMSA Criteria for Pipeline Tech Assistance Grants to Communities**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has established criteria and competitive procedures to be used in awarding grants under its Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program. Subject to future appropriations, the TAG program will provide grants to local governments and community groups for engineering and other technical assistance related to pipeline safety matters. Also detailed are PHMSA's plans for awarding the three demonstration grants authorized under the TAG program. For further information, contact Steven Fischer at

[steve.fischer@dot.gov](mailto:steve.fischer@dot.gov).

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26506.htm>

### **MSHA Clarifies Asbestos Exposure Limit**

MSHA is amending and clarifying its existing health standards for asbestos exposure. The amendments make no substantive change to the existing standards, MSHA's enforcement of the standards, or the protection afforded miners under the standards. This technical amendment is effective November 7, 2008.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26440.htm>

### **MSHA Announces Safety Targets Training Program**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) unveiled a new safety initiative designed to highlight the leading causes of mine fatalities in the 21st century. The Safety Targets Training Program

was introduced in conjunction with the agency's annual Training Resources Applied to Mining (TRAM) conference held at the Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley before nearly 500 attendees.

MSHA's Safety Targets Training Program will focus on addressing and eliminating the most common causes of repeat fatal accidents that occurred from 2000 to 2008. Ten training modules are in development for coal and metal/nonmetal mines. These 20 topics account for 75 percent of the causes of fatalities that occurred in the targeted nine-year time period. The materials will reach the mining industry through outreach efforts, targeted mass mailings and the MSHA Web site at [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov).

### **DoT Report Says Cross-Border Trucking Operations Safe**

A 3-member independent panel that examined a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration pilot program for cross-border freight operations has determined that U.S. and Mexican motor carriers can safely take part in cross-border trucking operations. The panel's report, which was released on November 6, can be found at <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/PanelReport.pdf>. The panel found that more than 12,000 truck crossings into the US by more than 27 Mexican motor carriers occurred and that no crashes involving Mexico-based trucks participating in the project. FMCSA conducted 1,400 vehicle safety inspections, of which 130 (8.7 percent) resulted in out-of-service violations. Of 7,000 driver safety inspections conducted, less than 1 percent resulted in out-of-service violations.

### **EPA Final Rule on Emergency Planning and Hazardous Chemical Release Notification**

EPA has finalized changes to the Emergency Planning Notification, Emergency Release Notification and Hazardous Chemical Reporting regulations proposed June 1998. EPA proposed four major revisions and provided draft guidance on various reporting options that states and local agencies may wish to consider in implementing the hazardous chemical reporting requirements. This final action includes minor revisions to the Emergency Planning Notification, Emergency Release Notification and Hazardous Chemical Reporting regulations, codifying statutory requirements, and clarifying certain interpretations and policy statements that EPA has provided to the regulated community. This final action does not affect public access to any of the information provided under the Emergency Planning Notification, Emergency Release Notification and Hazardous Chemical Reporting regulations. Also, EPA has finalized the plain language format of the regulations. Each section is re-numbered and tables added for clarification. This final rule is effective December 3, 2008. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-25329.htm>

## **Local News and Events**

This section is for news and events of local importance and should be forwarded to the newsletter editor for inclusion.

## **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.

Welcome to Mr. Gene Orris, Jr., CMR who is the Health, Quality, & Safety Manager at FlagshipPDG in Pittsburgh, PA.

## **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.

### **Membership Information**

In order to keep our member information up to date, please notify Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson at [cwhleinlein@acig.com](mailto:cwhleinlein@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	Thad Pajak	<a href="mailto:tpajak@ffic.com">tpajak@ffic.com</a>
Vice President	Kim Morrison,	<a href="mailto:morrisonkl@upmc.com">morrisonkl@upmc.com</a>
Treasurer	Doug Noble	<a href="mailto:dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu">dnoble@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Secretary	Kiena Nutter	<a href="mailto:disnutt@aol.com">disnutt@aol.com</a>
Programs	Gene Mattis	<a href="mailto:gene_mattis@pmagroup.com">gene_mattis@pmagroup.com</a>
Programs	Gary Gillespie	<a href="mailto:ggillespie@harleysvillegroup.com">ggillespie@harleysvillegroup.com</a>
Special Projects	Fran Sehn	<a href="mailto:fran.sehn@hrh.com">fran.sehn@hrh.com</a>
Special Projects	Cathy Davis	<a href="mailto:cathdavis1@comcast.net">cathdavis1@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>
Government Affairs	Steve Tima	<a href="mailto:stima@portauthority.org">stima@portauthority.org</a>
Long Range Planning	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu">rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wayne Vanderhoof	<a href="mailto:wayne@rjrsafety.com">wayne@rjrsafety.com</a>
Public Affairs	Nick Kuntz	<a href="mailto:nkuntz@hdhgroup.com">nkuntz@hdhgroup.com</a>
Membership	Carl Heinlein	<a href="mailto:cwheinlein@acig.com">cwheinlein@acig.com</a>
Student Section	Nick Kachur	<a href="mailto:nkachur@nevchem.com">nkachur@nevchem.com</a>
Arrangements	Mark Barch	<a href="mailto:mbarch@ffic.com">mbarch@ffic.com</a>
By-Laws	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu">rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
Honors and Awards	Scott Keener	<a href="mailto:skeener@pawc.com">skeener@pawc.com</a>
Auditor	Bill Boots	<a href="mailto:bill.boots@hrh.com">bill.boots@hrh.com</a>
Foundations	Thad Pajak	<a href="mailto:tpajak@ffic.com">tpajak@ffic.com</a>
PDC Delegate	Rick Schultz	<a href="mailto:rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu">rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu</a>
PDC Delegate	Fran Sehn	<a href="mailto:fran.sehn@hrh.com">fran.sehn@hrh.com</a>
PDC Delegate	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>
Council on Practices and Standards Representative	Carl Heinlein	<a href="mailto:cwheinlein@acig.com">cwheinlein@acig.com</a>
Social (Holiday Party)	Pam Ferrante	<a href="mailto:pam@jcsafety.com">pam@jcsafety.com</a>

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.

### Twelve Gift Ideas for Boaters from the U.S. Coast Guard/Auxiliary

Contributed by Dave Zazac, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

As the holidays draw near, the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to offer some holiday gift ideas for boaters to help them stay safe all year long.

One of the best gift ideas for boaters is to sign them up for a boating safety course. Knowledge is power, and it has been statistically shown that boaters who have taken a safety class are far less likely to be involved in a boating mishap or fatality.

Course topics include basic boat handling, required and recommended safety equipment, navigational rules and dealing with boating emergencies.

To learn more, visit the USCGAUX Boating Safety Class page [http://nws.cgau.org/visitors/pe\\_visitor/class\\_finder/index.html](http://nws.cgau.org/visitors/pe_visitor/class_finder/index.html).

One of the most valuable gifts for boaters doesn't cost anything but time, such as scheduling a free vessel safety check (VSC) with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. An Auxiliarist will examine your vessel and ensure its compliance with federal, state and local safety requirements before getting underway. For more information or to schedule a VSC, visit: <http://safetyseal.net/> and click on "I WANT A VSC."

Ten other great gift ideas to help keep boaters safe include:

- \*Sleek, light-weight, and comfortable inflatable life jackets (personal flotation devices or PFDs)
- \*A carbon monoxide detector
- \*Emergency signaling kits -- flares, signal mirror or whistle
- \*Kill switch leash -- kills the engine if the boater falls overboard
- \*Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) unit
- \*Navigation tools and calculators
- \*Hand-held Very High Frequency or VHF marine radio with extra batteries
- \*Personal emergency position indicating radio beacons (PEPIRBs)
- \*Tool kit and spare parts for boats
- \*First-Aid kit, sun screen, sunglasses, food and water.

The price range for these items runs from under \$10, up to several hundred dollars, but giving the gift of safety to a friend or loved one is priceless.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed, non-military volunteers who assist the Coast Guard in all its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement.

## 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.

## Job Openings – Local

Current job openings can be sent to Pam Ferrante to post on the chapter website. Current job openings 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](mailto:wayne@rjrsafety.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, if not earlier.

Thank you,

Wayne Vanderhoof, CSP