

# American Society of Safety Engineers -Western PA Chapter



## The President's Message

### March 2009

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Can you believe that Spring is here? It is time to clean up the firewood, put away the snow shovels, and get out the lawnmower. For those of you who do not like mowing their lawns, sorry about your luck.

WPA ASSE and Spring can only mean two things: Safety Expo on April 30, and first annual WPA ASSE Safety Scholarship Golf outing on June 12.

### Spring Safety Expo

The Safety Expo in partnership with Shannon Safety is a terrific opportunity to network, have a great lunch, and for a mere \$ 25.00 earn .5 CEU's. For those of you like me whose CSP cycle is approaching five years, I am looking for those points. Thanks to our member-presenters, and other fellow WPA ASSE members for stepping up and volunteering

their time and expertise to make this a great local event. See you at Southpointe on 4/30.

### Scholarship Golf Outing

Our first annual WPA ASSE golf outing is scheduled for June 12 @ Hillcrest Country Club. 10:00 am start time.

Our goals for this event are to:

- Raise enough \$ for two \$ 1500.00 scholarships. These will support safety students @ IUP and SRU.
- Register 18 foursomes \$ 75.00 per person
- 18 hole sponsors \$ 100.00 per hole
- Provide skill and door prizes (Prize donations accepted)
- Have Fun!!

If you have been looking for an opportunity to get involved with WPA ASSE here is a fun and worthwhile event to participate!!

Kim Morrison is organizing this event; please give her your support.

Thaddeus M. Pajak, CSP, ALCM, MS  
President

# Chapter Events Calendar

## March 24, 2009 Lunch Meeting

Jeffrey Witte of PNC is going to discuss PNC's green and sustainability efforts as it relates to indoor air, safety, building design, productivity, energy savings, environmental consciousness, reduced absenteeism etc. The meeting will be held at the PNC Firstside Center. Lunch and a short tour of the LEED certified Firstside Center building will be part of the meeting. As PNC is a leader in green and sustainable buildings, hopefully there can be some applications we can all adopt. The hotline is now open for this meeting. 412-281-1885

## April 25, 2009 Boy Scouts Pre-Camp Inspections

The Risk Management Committee of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the Boy Scouts needs assistance with the Pre Camp Inspection of the Boy Scouts Camp. It will take place at Heritage Reservation on April 25, 2009 at 8:30 AM until noon. This is a great opportunity to help the scouts in this important project and it is always a great way to see nature up close and personal.

Please contact Fran Sehn at 412-645-8584 or email [fran.sehn@willis.com](mailto:fran.sehn@willis.com) if you can help. We will meet at 7:30 AM for pre inspection breakfast at the General Braddock Inn (100 feet east of the late General's grave on Rt 40).

Thanks for your in advance for your interest in safe scouting.

## 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. The information is on the chapter website at [www.wpa-asse.com](http://www.wpa-asse.com).

## May, 2009

Information is forthcoming.

## June 12, 2009 Golf Outing

The golf outing will be at the Hillcrest Country Club on Friday, June 12, 2009 with a 10:00 am start time. The outing is open to members and guests. There are sponsorship opportunities available. Prizes will be awarded.

## Future Program Ideas

It's not too 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).

## ASSE Student Sections

Students enrolled in Safety Sciences are the future of our profession. The Western PA Chapter has been making efforts to reach out to the Student Sections at IUP and Slippery Rock throughout the Chapter year. Students have been attending our monthly meetings on a regular basis. We are also planning for members of our Chapter to make a presentation at IUP and Slippery Rock this Spring.

We do not charge students to attend any Chapter meetings, so we have asked our members to consider sponsoring students to help defray the cost to the Chapter. Our members continue to respond in a very generous way to further the professional development of students.

We would like to thank Michele and Rick Slinkard of CIH Services, Inc. and Mark Barch of Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. for recently sponsoring Slippery Rock students to attend our construction seminar.

## Government Affairs Update

Contributed by Stive Tima

### **PA Passes Crane Operator Licensing Law**

The Bill was signed into law October 9, 2008 (see Pa. Bulletin No. 38, page 5945).

According to the publication in the Pa. Bulletin, the law went into effect immediately – with exceptions. According to the House Bill, although signed on 10/9/2008, the effective date was 60 days from signature, except for Sections 501, 503, 702 and 706, which do not go into effect until 24 months from the signing date. Under Section 501(b), an individual, corporation, partnership, firm or other entity shall not employ an individual to operate a crane or allow or direct an individual to operate a crane unless the individual is licensed under this act.

See House Bill No. 647 at the following URL:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0647&pn=4519>

### **Solis Confirmed as DoL Secretary**

The Senate confirmed Representative Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor.

### **Federal Appeals Court Upholds Multi-Employer Citation in Summit Case**

A federal court of appeals has upheld OSHA's multi-employer citation against Summit Contractors, ruling that general contractors are responsible for safety violations committed by subcontractors as OSHA's policy requires. The court's decision can be found at <http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov/opndir/09/02/072191P.pdf>.

### **Federal Appeals Court Upholds OSHA's HexChrome PEL**

OSHA won on almost all counts in a decision issued Monday by a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel of judges weighing challenges to the hexavalent chromium permissible exposure limit set in February 2006. The decision can be found at <http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov/opinarch/061818p.pdf>

### **EPA Proposes to Reduce Air Toxics from Stationary Diesel and Gas-Fired Engines**

For the first time, EPA is proposing to set emission limits for formaldehyde, benzene, acrolein and other air toxics from certain stationary diesel and gas-fired engines. In 2008, over 1 million of these engines generated electricity, powered equipment and operated during emergencies at industrial, agricultural and other facilities.

To meet the proposed emissions requirements, owners and operators of these engines would need to install "after treatment" controls, such as filters or catalysts, to engine exhaust systems.

EPA estimates that this rule would reduce air toxics emissions by 13,000 tons per year, particle pollution by 2,600 tons and carbon monoxide emissions by 510,000 tons, when fully implemented in 2013.

The public comment period will be open for 60 days upon publication in the Federal Register. More information:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3fs.html>.

### **OSHA Posts New Maritime Online Resources**

Slips, trips and falls, fire and falling overboard are among the safety topics addressed in two new online publications designed to protect maritime industry employees. The Deck Barge Safety guidance document and Spud Barge Safety fact sheet identify the connection between proper controls, procedures and training, and also raise awareness of the hazards and proper solutions to prevent injuries and fatalities.

### **Latest Liberty Study Finds Disabling Work Injuries Cost \$48.6 Billion in '06**

The estimated direct U.S. workers compensation costs for the most disabling workplace injuries and illnesses in 2006 were \$48.6 billion, according to the 2008 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index.

Produced annually, the Workplace Safety Index identifies the leading causes of the most disabling U.S. workplace injuries based on data reported from 1998 (the baseline year for Workplace Safety Index data) through the most recent year for which data are available – in this case 2006. The 2008 Index also captures cost trends for the overall and

leading causes of the most disabling injuries from 1998 through 2006, with “most disabling” defined as those injuries that cause an employee to miss six or more days from work.

From EHS Today at <http://ehstoday.com/health/ergonomics/disabling-workplace-injuries-3807/>

### **PHMSA Seeks Comment on Fed Preemption over Gas Cylinder Specification**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has published a public notice and invitation to comment on an application by AMTROL, Inc., for an administrative determination on whether federal hazardous material transportation law preempts state common law tort claims alleging that the manufacturer of DOT specification 39 compressed gas cylinders should have designed the cylinders to resist rusting over time and/or provided additional warnings of the potential rusting over time, beyond requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) for the manufacture, marking, and labeling of these cylinders. Comments are due March 16, 2009, and rebuttal comments on April 30, 2009. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-1993.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.

## **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.

### **Chapter Delegate Needed**

Our Chapter is allocated three delegates to the Annual Delegates Meeting held in conjunction with the Professional Development Conference(PDC). This year, the delegate meeting will be held in San Antonio Texas on Sunday June 28th. As a delegate you will represent our Chapter including any and all business that may require a vote. Typically, there is a luncheon followed by the meeting, generally from about 11:30 AM until 3:30 PM. It is a very worthwhile experience to see the inner workings of National ASSE.

I have represented our Chapter at most of these meetings over the last 20 years and was asked to do so again this year. Unfortunately, I will not be attending the PDC this

year, so we need an alternate delegate. If you are planning on attending the PDC this year and would be interested in being a delegate serving your Chapter, you can either contact Thad and let him know, or contact me (Rick Schultz) at [rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu](mailto:rschultz@ehs.pitt.edu) I will fill out the necessary paperwork.

### **Membership Information**

In order to keep our member information up to date, please notify Carl Heinlein, Membership Chairperson at [cwheinlein@acig.com](mailto: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   | 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@willis.com">fran.sehn@willis.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.

### COAST GUARD AUXILIARY OFFERS BOAT SAFETY COURSE

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8 is offering a safe boating course from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at Craftonian Hall, 48 Division Street, Crafton.

The fee for America's Boating Course is \$30 and includes lunch.

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

## 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.

### **NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SAFETY & HEALTH EXPO MAY 20, 2009**

This event is sponsored by the Northeastern PA Labor and Management Council, Northeast PA Chapter of the ASSE, and others. More information is available on the ASSE-WPA website.

## 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