



St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



In This Issue

- [Chapter Meeting](#) - December 11
- [Membership Appreciation Meeting](#) - January 18
- [WISH/WISE Update](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Mid Missouri Section News](#)
- ["Safety Metrics"](#) - Bill Kincaid, from the archives
- [MO Common Ground Alliance Summit](#) - Dec 6 & 7
- [WC Update](#) - Brad Young
- [Professional Development Conference](#) - March 4
- [Online Ethics Training](#)
- [Chapter Board Contacts](#) & [Committee Chairs](#)

Important Links

- [Chapter Website](#)
- [Chapter Documents](#)
- [Current Job Postings](#)
- [Like Us on Facebook](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter](#)
- [Connect on LinkedIn](#)

Be sure to check out this month's [job openings](#)! Several new jobs in insurance, field safety, and management available!

Next Chapter Meeting - Monday December 11

Topic: Annual OSHA Update

Speaker: Maryanne Martin & Bill McDonald

Learn about the latest trends Nationally, Locally, and in Region 7.

Where: Syberg's, 2430 Old Dorsett Rd, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

When: Registration @11, Lunch @11:30, Presentation @12

Register for Meeting:

<https://stl.assp.org/events/december-lunch-meeting-osa-update-3/>

Next Chapter Meeting - Member Appreciation Dinner - 1/18/2024



Where: Bristol Seafood Grill
11801 Olive Blvd, Creve Coeur, Missouri, 63141, United States
When: 6-8pm

Register for Meeting: <https://stl.assp.org/events/membership-appreciation-dinner/>

Women in Safety and Health

On 12/1/23 our WISH group had the very BEST date. Host Mary Beth Proost invited us to her family farm where we wined, dined (soooo much food), explored, hiked, laughed, talked, got to know each other better and just absolutely filled our cups. Our hearts and bellies were full. And yes, there was a bonfire and s'mores. We all cannot wait to be invited back!!!





Member of the Month

STL ASSP and WISE member, Domini Montgomery has been awarded the 2023 WISE Member of the Month! As Patte Ackermann wrote in her nomination of Domini, "To say you all got it right by accepting my nomination for Domini for WISE MOTM is the understatement of the year. She is a remarkable safety pro, woman, and friend/ally. My heart is full! Thank you for recognizing her."

Domini is getting things done in both the ASSP and AIHA St. Louis Chapters, with the St. Louis Safety Council, and at the St. Louis Zoo where she works. Domini is a willing volunteer, a consistent contributor, an approachable leader, a lifelong learner, and a fighter of those proverbial workplace fires. Her friendship, sisterhood, support and mentorship is continuously demonstrated in varying arenas, and is greatly appreciated by many ... including those she doesn't even know.

Domini, for being an ambassador, an advocate, and the safe separation between animals and humans - and more! - you are our WISE October 2023 Member of the Month! Congratulations once again, DOMINI!

Congratulations



Domini Montgomery

**WISE Member of the Month
October 2023**



[Calendar of Events](#)

Take a look at what's coming up! Mark your calendar now.



ASSP 2024 EVENTS

Sybergs on Dorsett (unless stated otherwise)

Doors open at 11:00 | Lunch Served 11:10-12:00 | Presentation 12:00-1:00



Member Appreciation Dinner - *Bristol's*

January 18th

11801 Olive Blvd. | Creve Coeur, MO



Monthly Meeting - Work Comp 101

How Safety and Insurance Work Together

February 12th | Sheila Schmidt & Dan Bembower to Present



ASSP/AIHA PDC

March 4th

Liuna Event Center | 4532 S. Lindbergh Blvd. | St. Louis, MO



Monthly Meeting - Safety Bloopers

If I Knew Then What I Know Now

April 8th | AJ Gajdosik to Present



Monthly Meeting - QR Codes in the Workplace

How QR Codes can be Used to Improve Communication & Safety Culture

May 13th | Joe Shyroch to Present



Annual Golf Tournament

June 7th

St. Peter's Golf Course | 200 Salt Lick Rd. | St. Peters, MO

Always find the latest events at <https://stl.assp.org/>

Mid-Missouri Section

The Mid Missouri section provides networking and training opportunities for the professionals working in and around Jefferson City and Columbia.

-12/13/23 at D Rowes, "The Ineffective Safety Program: Complacency Built In"
Presentation by Mark Woodward, Sr. Safety & Risk Trainer @ MO Employers Mutual

Beginning in January, Mid-MO will meet on the third Friday of the month.

January 19th - Back Injury Prevention

February 16th - Legal Update on Marijuana and the Workplace

If you are interested in participating in these meetings or joining the Mid-MO mailing list, please reach out to [Paul Krewson](mailto:Paul.Krewson@assp.org) or opt-in here: <https://mailchi.mp/b33f8ed3f931/assp-midmo>

Last Month, Mid-MO met for a tour of the [DANA Inc.](https://www.dana.com/) Columbia, MO facility.

Senior Management Commitment Through Safety Metrics

~From the Archives of Bill Kincaid, who has retired from providing monthly safety articles. If you have some insight, wisdom, or pet-peeve to share, please email the newsletter editor at dan.bembower@usi.com

This month's article is on Safety Metrics, and appropriate topic for the end of the year as we look to what we may have (or have not) accomplished this year.

Since everyone looks up to their supervisor for guidance as to what is important, the commitment of senior management is needed so that there is no doubt as to the importance of safety performance. Ultimately, if senior management does not understand how to communicate the importance of loss prevention and safety activities, the program cannot reach its full potential.

Note that I use the phrase “does not understand how to communicate”. It is very rare to meet someone in senior management who does not understand that safety is an important part of everyone’s job and so on. However, senior management is forced by the nature of their jobs to frequently discuss cash flows, profit and loss, efficiency, payroll, and many other objective numerical measures of performance. They have established goals for many of these measures, as well as industry benchmarking and knowledge of where their competitors are on the same measures.

The fact is, that the rare talk by senior management in front of a group of employees usually concerns the company’s financial health, which reinforces the workers’ impression that senior management’s main interest is production. Senior management may not understand that constant attention to production metrics conveys very little information about their interest in safety performance, unless they have similar measures for safety performance and give them similar attention in their frequent communication with those under their direct supervision.

Management should develop leading indicator safety-related metrics to promote success in safety. Clear responsibility and objectives should be assigned to people who have influence over the metrics. Progress should be measured and feedback given in production meetings. Performance evaluations should be based on achievement of goals. Safety should be a healthy part, at least 20%.

Like every other representative of the company, senior management needs to be careful about the message that they send, whether it is by things that they say or by things that they do not say. Managers need to clearly express a goal and stay on the message of its importance. Finding this message and putting enough emphasis on it is the key to success in safety performance.

~ Bill

Missouri Common Ground Alliance - Summit & Rodeo

Register today to attend the 2023 MOCGA Summit on December 6th and 7th, 2023
at the Springfield Ozark Empire Fairgrounds!

Register here: <https://www.eventleaf.com/e/mocgasummit>

Get more information from MO Common Ground: <https://mocommonground.org/> for the Summit, or go here for the Locate Rodeo: <https://locaterodeo.net/>

2 DAYS 2 BIG EVENTS



DECEMBER 6-7 2023
OZARK EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS, SPRINGFIELD, MO

REGISTER NOW!

LOCATERODEO.NET

MOCOMMONGROUND.ORG



MISSOURI
COMMON GROUND
ALLIANCE

[Missouri WC Update from Brad Young](#)

(Read Time: Less Than 3 minutes)

Here is a common situation in Missouri - - claimant files a workers compensation claim, the Division notifies the Employer/Insurer, and then, for various reasons, the carrier or TPA fails to get the claim referred to defense counsel within the 30 days allowed by law to file an answer, resulting in an untimely Answer. What happens?

In October, the Missouri Court of Appeals re-answered that question in [Collins v. Century Ready Mix](#)

FACTS

Here, claimant filed his claim alleging he was earning the "Max Rate", and he further alleged in his claim that his injuries were compensable and that his employment was the direct cause of his injuries. The Employer filed its Answer to the claim 45 days after it received notification of the claim -- 15 days beyond the allowed 30 days to file an Answer, resulting in an untimely Answer.

HOLDING

Claimant argued that the untimely Answer meant that everything alleged in the claim for compensation, including causation and compensability, was deemed admitted by the Employer due to the untimely Answer. The Court of Appeals, however, disagreed. The Court of Appeals stated:

"An Employer's untimely answer results in the admission of factual allegations in a claimant's claim for compensation. Courts have held that factual allegations in a Claim for Compensation include:

- *How the injury occurred*
- *Wage rate*
- *The date of the accident*

However, allegations in a claim for compensation which are legal conclusions are not deemed admitted by an employer's untimely answer." T.H., 388 S.W.3d at 593 (citing Anderson, 299 S.W.3d at 728). "Whether an injury was in the course of employment ... is a legal question not admitted by an untimely answer." Anderson, 299 S.W.3d at 728; see also Taylor, 392 S.W.3d at 43 (noting that the failure to timely answer "does not result in the admission of legal conclusions such as whether the injury arose out of or in the course of the employment")."

BOTTOM LINE

An untimely Answer WILL result in an admission that the claimant's wage rate is the "Max Rate", even if the employee's wages are less than the max rate. However, unlike the ongoing assertions made by claimants' attorneys, an untimely Answer does NOT result in "summary judgment", or any type of admission of compensability.

Obviously, getting an Answer filed before the 30 day filing deadline is always preferable. But when that doesn't happen, for whatever reason, the only true impact on the claim involves an admission of the "Max Rate" for TTD and PPD purposes. I have been successful in forcing the claimant's attorney to revise the Claim for Compensation on ethical grounds, but that will be the subject of a future update.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this legal principle or how this might apply to any specific claims you are currently handling.

- Brad
J. Bradley Young
Harris Dowell Fisher & Young L.C.

Save the date and plan to attend the 2024 Professional Development Conference!
The PDC is a core mission of the ASSP local chapters - providing relevant and engaging topics for personal and professional education to local members.

The 2024 PDC will be held at the LIUNA Event Center all day on March 4th.
4532 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63127

Mark your calendar now and be on the lookout for more information soon.



Online Ethics Training

For every recertification cycle starting July 2023 or later, the BCSP is requiring at least 0.5 points of ethics courses. Some options for completing this requirement are provided online through the the University of Alabama - Birmingham. The course offerings include [Ethics for the EHS, OHS, and IH Leader](#) and [HOP Champions: Human and Organizational Performance](#), both of which can be found at <https://www.uab.edu/engineering/asem/professional-education>.

Thank you to Robert Blaylock, CSP, Safety Systems Manager Mississippi Lime, for sharing!

St. Louis Chapter Executive Board Contacts

President - Dennis Pivin - summersetdennis@gmail.com
Vice President - Nate Richardson - nate.richardson.safety@gmail.com
Secretary - Krista Hyde - kristahyde@kristahyde.com
Treasurer - Mae Patrick - stlassptreas20@att.net
Past President - Steve Williams - swilliams@frenchgerleman.com

Mid-Missouri Section Officers

President - Mark Woodward - mwoodwar@mem-ins.com
Vice President - Paul Krewson - paul@peakergo.com
Secretary/Treasurer - David Attebery - david.attebery@labor.mo.gov

Chapter Committee Chairs

Website – Dave Callies – dcallies@kelp.com
Maintains website with updated news, chapter events, and job postings

PDC Chair – Dennis Pivin – summersetdennis@gmail.com
Coordinates logistics of professional development activities

Membership – Dianne Gibbs – dianne@ideasftp.com
Ensures new members are recognized & introduced at membership meetings

Public Relations – Steve Williams – swilliams@bellelectrical.com
Promotes chapter activities to the general public. Coordinates poster contest

Newsletter – Dan Bembower – dan.bembower@usi.com
Publishes and distributes the chapter newsletter to all chapter members

Awards & Honors – Bill Kincaid – billkincaid@yahoo.com
Recognizes member achievement through chapter awards

Scholarship – Rob Miller – robertmiller91@yahoo.com
Promotes student scholarships & continuing education scholarships for members

Golf Scholarship
Jesse Taborsky – jesse.taborsky@crbusa.com
Nick Zahner – nzahner@murphynet.com
Organizes and runs the annual golf tournament supporting local safety focused students

Programs – Patte Ackermann, PT – ackermap@ssm-select.com
Plans the program time and needs for presentations & coordinates schedule

Social Media – Emily Felton – emilyfelton101@gmail.com
Maintains online social accounts promoting discussion with local membership

Women In Safety Excellence (WISE) Coordinators

JaNola Rigsby – jrigsby@qualsafesolutions.com

Patte Ackermann, PT – ackermap@ssm-select.com

Organizes the WISH events to promote the community of Women in Safety & Health

Please contact a board member or committee chair with comments or if you would like to participate in any of the chapter activities.

If you do not wish to receive these emails, please [click here](#)
to unsubscribe from ASSP St. Louis Chapter messages.

American Society of Safety Professionals | 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068