



## St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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### 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](#)!

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### 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/>

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### **Next Chapter Meeting - Monday February 12**

**Topic: Workers Compensation 101**

**Speaker: Sheila Schmidt & Dan Bembower**

Understanding how Workers Compensation insurance works will help you justify safety improvements and save money that can be put towards employee safety.

**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/monthly-lunch-meeting-work-comp-101/>

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### **Women in Safety and Health**

WISH is proud to announce that the first round of our Wintertime donation drive for diapers and period supplies was dropped off to the Centene Branch of Crisis Nursery on Friday, December 15. We collected 5 ENORMOUS boxes of diapers (that's over 800 diapers!), pull-ups, and period supplies, as well as funds for a cash donation of \$100!

Are you interested in donating supplies or money? Reach out to Domini Montgomery ([dmontgomery@stlzoo.org](mailto:dmontgomery@stlzoo.org)) for more details on needed supplies and other ways to donate today. The wintertime drive runs through January 31, 2024.



**WISE**  
Women in Safety & Health

**ASSP WISH/WISE**  
**DIAPER & PERIOD**  
**SUPPLY**  
**DRIVE**

**St. Louis Area Diaper Bank and Crisis Nursery**

**WHAT WE NEED\*:**

- Cold hard cash (gift cards too)
- Diapers in sizes 3 to 6
- Pull-ups in size 3T+
- Disposable tampons and pads
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Disinfectant wipes

\*New and Opened items are accepted

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:**

- 12/11/23 - ASSP MTG. - Syberg's on Dorsett
- 12/14/23 - WISH Happy Hour @ Helen's
- 01/18/24 - ASSP MBR Appreciation - Bristols
- 02/12/24 - ASSP MTG. - Sybergs on Dorsett

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Please reach out to Domini Montgomery  
dmontgomery@stlzoo.org

*Congratulations*  
**Domini Montgomery**  
WISE Member of the Month  
October 2023

## Connect With WISH

There's a lot happening with the St. Louis Women in Safety and Health! Connect with them to find out more about upcoming events, and more.

*Inspiring, mentoring, and supporting women to reach their full  
potential within the safety and health fields*

[stlwishwise@gmail.com](mailto:stlwishwise@gmail.com)

[Follow WISH on Facebook](#)

[Connect with WISH on LinkedIn](#)



## 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 Bemower 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 Shyrock 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.**

Many thanks to Mark Woodward, Senior Safety and Risk Trainer at Missouri Employers Mutual, for his outstanding presentation on "The Ineffective Safety Program: Complacency Built In."

Starting next month, we will be meeting the third Friday of the month at D. Rowes.  
Please let us know if you have any speakers, topics or locations to tour.

Here is our current schedule:01/19/2024:

Legal Updates on Marijuana and the Work Place.  
Presented by Jared Vessell, Attorney at VBM Law.

02/16/2024: Two Back Surgeries in Eleven Days!  
Presented by Paul Krewson, Founder & CEO at Peak Ergonomics.

03/15/2024: Topic to be determined

If you are interested in participating in these meetings or joining the Mid-MO mailing list,



please reach out to [Paul Krewson](#) or opt-in here: <https://mailchi.mp/b33f8ed3f931/assp-midmo>

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## Prior Meeting Pictures

For our November meeting, the ASSP was privileged to have Lance Crayton from Guarantee Electrical present on *Electrical Safety...Not Just For Electricians*. Lance demystified the world of electrical safety, proving it's for EVERYONE, not just electricians. We're now armed with best practices to keep our job sites safe & sound! Huge thanks to Lance and GECO for the illuminating conversation!



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## Safety Professionals, Supervision, and Effectiveness in Safety

~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](mailto:dan.bembower@usi.com). This month's article is about Safety Professionals, a good topic to keep in mind as we award the Safety Professional of the Year.

It has been increasingly evident that our profession is catching on to the concept that safety can't wholly be the responsibility of a Safety Director or Safety Coordinator, at least not if we want good results. Much of what we are trying to accomplish in safety, including implementing safety policies and complying with OSHA, depends on supervisors and team leaders taking some ownership of safety.

Accident prevention is only possible when employees follow our well-intended safety instructions and do as they are trained. Employees generally only do what they understand to be important to their immediate supervisor or team lead, and not much more, so the bulk of safety management responsibilities must clearly, visibly be assigned to supervisors and leads. That's the very best way to establish a culture where every employee understands safety is just a routine part of their workday, not

something to be forced on them intermittently when the safety person happens to stop by the department.

However, it's easier to find examples of safety professionals who are expected to handle anything with the vaguest connection to safety than it is to find organizations where safety roles and responsibilities are well distributed among departments, teams, and where supervisors and team leaders have active, day-to-day safety roles. Often, our typical Safety Director/Manager type is a hard-working advocate for safety, industrial hygiene and possibly environmental, with some post-injury management duties; and who has some time-consuming shop floor level responsibilities better given to supervisors and leads.

A "safety person" cannot be a safety cop with any effectiveness and without neglecting the higher responsibilities of developing the plant's safety systems, researching safer ways to do things, sharing lessons learned after accidents, etc. Once we get into the rhythm of being the safety cop, telling people to do things their own supervision clearly doesn't care about, employees start to see us as an obstacle to getting the job done, not an ally or protector. That's when you start hearing the snarky comments about "Uh oh, here comes the safety person, better stop that" and "we'll just do this job on Saturday!" I hear those things from time to time when accompanying plant safety people, and to me, they're the sounds of failure.

The foundation of accident prevention rests on local supervision, not on the safety person. There are more important jobs for our safety personnel:

- Rewriting safety programs to be more specific and practical, as well as keeping them up to date with regulatory changes;

or

- Developing fall protection strategies for long-neglected roof areas and arranging the installation of appropriate rooftop attachment points; as well as a fall protection plan which ensures rooftop work, swing falls, heavy duty harnesses and lanyards for employees over 300 pounds, and post-fall rescue are addressed;

or

- Managing industrial hygiene visits, respirator vendors, tracking lifespans and inspections of safety devices, and researching requirements for safety equipment;

or

- Helping facilitate supervisory safety training and attending team safety meetings to help get them started off on a solid footing; and so on.

This can only work if the departments are taking care of their own safety on a routine, day-to-day basis, freeing up our safety people for higher purposes. The goal should be enough safety surveillance and autonomy in-department that the safety person can choose to skip plant floor inspections without any dip in safety conditions.

The safety person should minimize the "safety cop" activities to focus on the more important tasks of refining, guiding and improving safety policies and related provisions. Leads and supervisors need clear, fair, accountable, positive safety responsibilities, such as promoting the key safety behaviors needed to work safely in their areas, and maintaining basic local safety compliance. These duties should be attached to documentation to allow monitoring of their safety activities for annual performance reviews. Safety accomplishments should count for about 20% of the performance rating for a supervisor or lead. Leading team development of JHAs, developing "safety-critical items" for their areas, overseeing weekly department safety checks, and doing documented observations of key employee safety behaviors are some of the typical accountable, highly visible positive tasks.

We design these tasks to involve employees for various reasons, ideally to be handed off to employees to keep the lead/supervisor in a time-efficient "quarterback" role whenever possible. This is the single most important part of safety management.

~ Bill

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## **Professional Development Conference**

**Monday, March 4th, 2024**

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!**

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## 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@kelpe.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.

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