



St. Louis Chapter Newsletter



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Important Links

- [Chapter Website](#)
- [Chapter Documents](#)
- [Current Job Postings](#)
- [Like Us on Facebook](#)
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Be sure to check out this month's [job openings](#)!

Next Chapter Meeting - Monday February 12

Topic: Workers Compensation 101

Speaker: Sheila Schmidt & Dan Bemower

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/>

Professional Development Conference

Monday, March 4th, 2024

Dont Miss Out!!

[Registration for ASSP/AIHA PDC](#)

[Detailed Conference Agenda](#)

There are moments left to register for the ASSP/AIHA Safety conference for only \$150! Prices rise to \$200 on 2/2, still an incredible value. [Register now!](#)

LIUNA Event Center
4532 South Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, Missouri, 63127, United States



Highlights of the conference include:

Scott Debo, Keynote Presenter, on the "Hardware & Software" of a good safety culture
Harnessing Big Data
Critical Steps for Effective ES&H
Marijuana Legalization Impact on Testing Discipline
St. Louis Legacy Waste and Radiation Health Effects
Biosafety
Real-Time Silica Monitoring

Public Speaking
Artificial Intelligence

Dave Callies - Safety Professional of the Year!

ASSP St. Louis was so pleased to award Safety Professional of the Year, 2023 to Dave Callies of Kelpo Construction!

Dave is a dedicated ASSP St. Louis member and is friend to all. He is kind, considerate, helpful and generous with his time and knowledge. He is the ASSP Website Editor – where he manages all aspects of our St. Louis Chapter website. He takes responsibility of handling all reservations, payments, sign ups etc. for the organization, the local chapter of WISE, the PDC, AIHA and GSSHM combined meetings and any needs we have. We would definitely be at a significant loss without his support. In addition to this, he is the Safety Director for his company and takes responsibility for all of his company's technology demands.

Congratulations and many thanks, Dave! We appreciate you!



Patte Ackerman - WISE Memeber of the Month

A two-time Member of the Month winner, Patte embodies WISE by being welcoming and engaging with new members, following up with people when she hasn't heard from them in a while, remembering their life, events, and asking about them, and also for raising tough issues. For example, she recently coordinated a period products drive so that we could provide kits for construction sites. It's tough to talk about. And a room full of men, but Patte did it with grace and enthusiasm.



If ASSP is gathering, Patte is there. She coordinates WISE events to ensure local women in safety have professional development opportunities. She is there on a personal level - she checks in with individuals to see how they are doing and supports their professional and personal growth. For example, she always makes sure participants in our monthly ASSP meetings have something to eat, coordinating with the caterers to ensure there are vegetarian, vegan, and other dietary options. She asks those who are new to ASSP to join her table and gets them involved in the discussion. **She makes ASSP St Louis a safe and welcoming space, especially for women.**

Patte is an amazing safety professional. A physical therapist by training, she serves as the Director of Industrial Outreach for SSM. She is extremely active in the local ASSP chapter (St. Louis), and is the WISE Committee Chair. She is a bright light in the St. Louis safety community, providing support and guidance, drawing on her many years of experience. She is well known in the community and gives FAR MORE than she receives. Further, Patte is a rock-star when it comes to networking and bringing

connections together. Don't know who to contact? Patte will connect you with several possible connections, and provide feedback on each. She deserves some recognition!

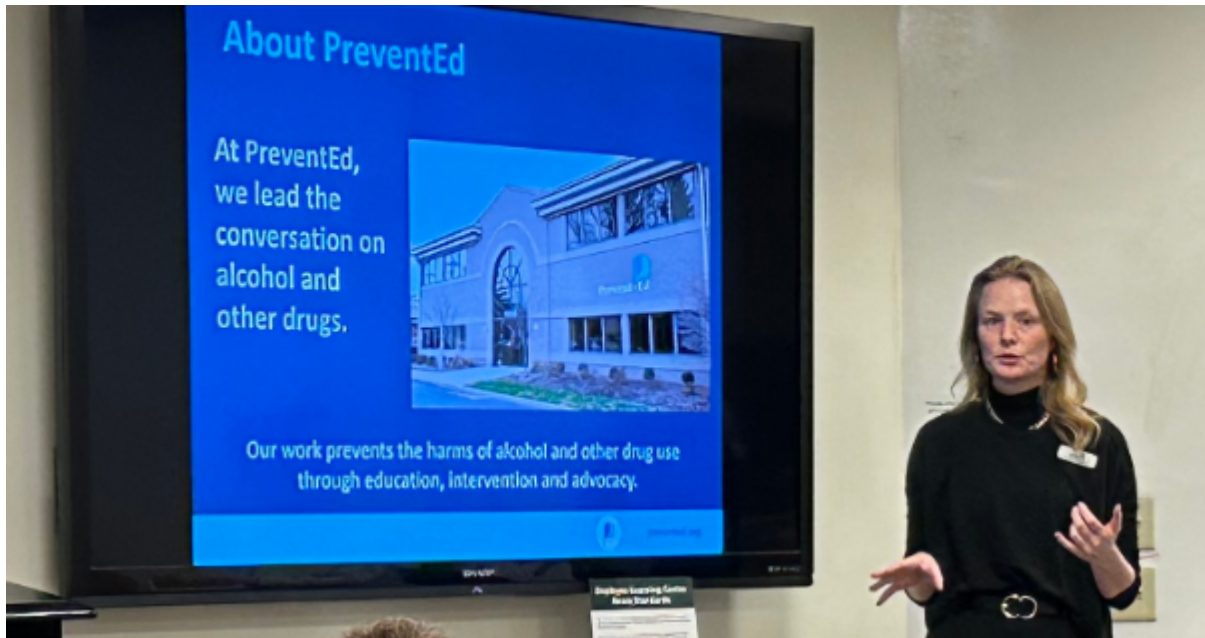
Congratulations Patte!

Recent Meetings

Our December Chapter Monthly Meeting featured Bill McDonald, Area Director at USDOL/OSHA, presenting an annual OSHA Year in Review. Membership always benefits from the teaching that Bill and Maryann Martin gift us with. The St. Louis Chapter knows how fortunate we are to have these dedicated safety professionals as part of our chapter and available for support on a daily basis. Thanks, as always, Bill and Maryanne!



The WISH Chapter of Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) had an exciting meeting recently. The meeting was hosted at the Saint Louis Zoo and we were thrilled to have Prevent+Ed educate us on Narcan and opioid awareness. As always, we're so appreciative of our host and presenters, and we all learned a great deal about an important topic.



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:

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](mailto:Paul.Krewson@peakergonomics.com) or opt-in here: <https://mailchi.mp/b33f8ed3f931/assp-midmo>

The Human Ability to Ignore Risk

~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 about Safety Professionals, a good topic to keep in mind as we award the Safety Professional of the Year.

Making sure our people are safe is our job. Safety training is a big part of fulfilling that mission. Yet, as much time as we might spend training our people, we are often disappointed to see that training ignored and accidents happen when employees knew better. Some states have new laws that reduce workers compensation when an injured employee violated a safety rule. I believe that's a well-intended swing at the wrong nail. Let me explain why in the next few paragraphs, starting with a sad but true story.

My wife's business partner took a rare break from over-work for a weekend at the lake. About an hour in, the boat he was riding in had a mishap involving another boat's wake. He was tossed into the air, landed awkwardly, and shattered a vertebra. Luckily his spinal cord survived. Now he's in the long, painful process of recovery. The poor guy was just out to have a little hard-earned fun, bobbing around in a fishing boat, and look where it got him. It got me thinking about how the human mind deals with risk – our internal risk assessment and management functions.

We safety professionals usually can recall being seen as safety nags, or overly cautious worry-warts. Have you seen the Ben Stiller movie where he played an insurance risk assessment expert who, armed with the statistics, seems to be afraid of everything? He's a ridiculous character who can't enjoy his own life. And, you can just bet, if there was a boat scene in the movie, he'd be the only one with a lifejacket, and he'd probably have it on in his car while driving to the dock – just for the extra laughs. But he's not a realistic person, not even for those in our profession.

Hundreds of people are killed every year in boating accidents, and thousands injured, so boats indeed carry a level of risk. It's no mystery because of public safety press releases and awareness campaigns by various agencies during boating season. In spite of that, the idea of a nice boat ride seems pleasant, not a way to get killed. An intelligent adult will get into a powerful boat with a slightly intoxicated friend at the wheel, no lifejacket, no seatbelts, and be content sipping a beer as the boat roars into an unregulated waterway populated by other speeding boats zipping and zagging any way they choose.

My conclusion as to what erases any fears and allows this apparent "carelessness"? Human beings have an innate capacity to ignore risk if it allows them to achieve a desirable goal. If I want to fish and enjoy a fun boat ride with my buddies I will need to accept the risks of a boat ride. Even worse, if I want to even get to the lake, I need to ride in a car, and cars slaughter a whopping 40,000 people a year! I can easily do it all, and without fretting a single moment during the process. How can that be? Imagine a caveman, huddling in a dark cave, afraid of the sabertooth tigers possibly lurking outside. Let's call him Larry. Larry the caveman recalls seeing his old cave-bowling buddy, Marty, devoured by one of those tigers. Larry decides to leave the cave anyway. Larry needs to leave the cave to find food, and maybe a girlfriend to perpetuate the species, and has to accept some risk to do it. He can even completely tune out thoughts of the risk to keep his focus clear on finding what he is looking for. To the extent that if the sabertooth does return, he might be surprised, and wind up like poor old Marty did.

Larry's caveman mind accepted the risk and allowed him to get out of the cave to accomplish desired goals. And that is the mind we have inherited today, with some 50,000 years of minor evolutionary improvements. That's why we can feel safe driving a car, the death machine known to be responsible for 40,000 fatal accidents a year. Maybe texting and smoking a cigarette while we do it. We need to remember this capacity. It allows employees to tune out and ignore safety training, for one thing, greatly reducing the value of mere education as a preventive means. If my boss wants me to do something that doesn't quite match what the DVD said in safety training, I will probably just do it. It also allows people to do things we'd never imagine a person would dare to do, and feel just fine doing it. Safety training alone builds the boat, but positive emphasis runs the motor – it's the "push" everyone needs to override that natural fear-erasing talent. We need to provide enough ongoing safety emphasis

to counter the human ability to ignore risk.

~ Bill

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.

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