



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](#)

Check to see if a new [job posting](#) may be perfect for you!

The previous newsletter was sent without the February Meeting Registration Link. Please use this link to [register to attend](#). Pre-registered members will be entered into the attendance prize drawing.

<https://stl.assp.org/events/february-lunch-meeting-building-the-human-firewall/>

February Chapter Meeting - Monday, February 9

Topic: Building the Human Firewall

Discover how safety professionals can become a "human firewall" in an AI-driven world through real stories, simple habits, and practical insights that turn everyday awareness into powerful cybersecurity protection.

Speaker: Latina Berryhill

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

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

Register Here:

<https://stl.assp.org/events/february-lunch-meeting-building-the-human-firewall/>



Registration is open through the Wednesday before the chapter meeting. Please register by then so we can provide an attendance count to Sybergs, and you will be entered into the attendance prize drawing. Walk-in registrations *are* accepted but should be limited whenever possible.

Trench Safety Day at the Zoo - February 25, 2026

The Saint Louis Zoo is happy to host another Trench Safety Day on Wednesday, February 25, 2026! New this year, we'll have afternoon learning tracks from 1-4p that attendees can sign up to attend for a little extra razzle dazzle. Come for trench safety day in the morning, stay for our awesome afternoon breakout sessions featuring talks on Safety Leadership & Change Management, Confined Space Awareness & Application, and In-depth Excavations! We can't wait to see you at this *free* event.

Registration is open-- register today! https://lnkd.in/gY_2KKuZ

TRENCH SAFETY DAY

February 25, 2026



AT THE

Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®

ANHEUSER-BUSCH THEATER | ONE GOVERNMENT DRIVE, 63110

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST BEGIN AT 7:00 AM.

PRESENTATIONS START AT 7:45 AM AND CONCLUDE AT 12:30 PM.

Join us at the Saint Louis Zoo for a half-day seminar from industry experts, followed by optional Breakout Presentations in the afternoon.



FEATURED PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

- Mark Woodward, Missouri Common Ground Alliance
- Bill McDonald and Maryanne Heuer, OSHA
- BRANDON ANDERSON, AGCMO
- CHARLIE PEEL, Missouri811
- Breakout sessions include: Safety Leadership, Confined Space Awareness, and Excavation

DANIEL & HENRY
INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT



- Event is provided free of charge. Parking is on your own. Breakfast is provided free of charge.
- DNR water-wastewater credits and DHSS septic installer continuing education credits provided free of charge.
- Certificate of attendance provided at the end of the seminar. Recipients must be pre-registered.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER OR VISIT: <https://forms.office.com/r/8Z4sdLdc3N>

Questions?

Contact Domini Montgomery, Safety Director, Saint Louis Zoo at dmontgomery@stlzoo.org or call (314) 646-4739

Professional Development Conference - March 2, 2026

[Register now](#) for the 2026 PDC.

You missed the Early Bird special but this event is still a great deal at \$200

Registration link: <https://stl.assp.org/events/2026-joint-pdc-assp-aiha/>



ST LOUIS ASSP

ST. LOUIS ASSP-AIHA 2026 JOINT PDC

**REGISTRATION IS
OPEN! Register here**
to secure early bird
pricing through 1/31/26.
Finalized conference
sessions coming soon!

WHEN



MONDAY
MARCH 2, 2026

8:00AM-4:00PM

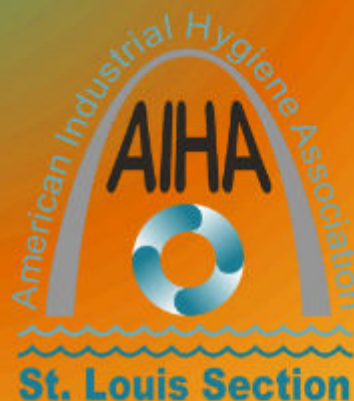
**LIUNA EVENT
CENTER**

**CONTACT: DOMINI
MONTGOMERY**



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

St. Louis Chapter



2026 Calendar of Chapter Events

Mark your calendar now for the next years worth of chapter meetings and events.
Please register in advance at <https://stl.assp.org/>



ASSP CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026



UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT SYBERGS
2430 OLD DORSETT ROAD, MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO 63043
11 AM TIL 1 PM

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!!!

→ [HTTPS://STL.ASSP.ORG/EVENT/](https://stl.assp.org/event/)



15
January

MEMBER APPRECIATION
Held at Bristol Seafood
11801 Olive Blvd,
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
5 pm til 8 pm
Appetizers & Drinks

MEMBERS ONLY



09
FEBRUARY

LATINA BERRYHILL
Building the Human Firewall
Discover how safety professionals can become a "human firewall" in an AI-driven world through real stories, simple habits, and practical insights that turn everyday awareness into powerful cybersecurity protection.



02
March

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (ASSP & AIHA)
Held at the LiUNA Event Center
4532 S Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63127
7:30 am til 3:30 pm



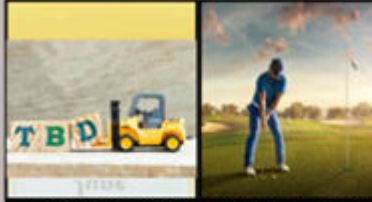
13
APRIL

DR. JOHN GAAL EDD, CHW-C, CSP, CWP, LAP-C
Worker Wellness Director – Missouri Works Initiative (MO AFL-CIO)
Suicide Prevention in the Workplace:
An examination of various evidence-informed models with a focus on the acute phase.



11
MAY

J. BRADLEY YOUNG HARRIS YOUNG KAYSER
From Accident Scene to Subpoena:
What Safety Pros Shouldn't Do
Learn the key mistakes safety pros must avoid from accident response to the courtroom to protect people, evidence, and their careers.



ANNUAL GOLF SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT
Held at (Details to be Announced Soon)
TBD
TBD
TBD



13
JULY

DREW COMPTON
TERRITORY MANAGER- MO/TN/AR
Cut the risk. Not your Hands
What does a good hand protection program look like with changes in standards over the last 10 years? We will focus on these changes and applying them to a stronger program.



10
AUGUST

ALEX SAFAYA
KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER NORTH AMERICA
Introduction to Industrial Exoskeletons by SUITX
Explore the fundamentals of exoskeletons, how they can be applied in industrial settings, and best practices for implementing this technology to improve safety, ergonomics, and worker's health.



14
SEPTEMBER

TBA



12
OCTOBER

TBA



09
NOVEMBER

KAYLEA M. BOUTWELL, MD
Interventional Pain Mgmt & Concussion Specialist
Excel Orthopedics & Pain Centers
The Value of Interventional Pain Management in Workers' Compensation:
Learn how interventional pain management supports faster recovery, reduces reliance on opioids and surgery, and lowers overall workers' compensation costs.



14
DECEMBER

OSHA
MARYANNE HEUER, MS, CSP, CHST
COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST & BILL MCDONALD, AREA DIRECTOR
Annual Update with OSHA - Greater St. Louis

Created By:

Have a topic you want to see covered, or a presenter you want to suggest?
Contact any one of your [chapter officers](#) today.

Kids Poster Contest - Due Feb 9

Share this fun opportunity with kids of all ages to create a poster for the theme "How Am I Safe?" showing how kids stay safe at home or school, or how their parents and guardians stay safe at work or in every day life. Submit your form [here](#) before Monday, Feb 9th so they can be viewed and voted on by the chapter meeting attendees.

You can also email your submission to Mary Claire Hogan at mhogan@stlzoo.org

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS (ASSP)
ST. LOUIS CHAPTER
PRESENTS THE

 **2026** 

KIDS' SAFETY POSTER
CONTEST  

The ASSP St. Louis Chapter invites children from preschool to high school to participate in our 2026 Safety Poster Contest. The theme is "How Am I Safe?", which encourages students to creatively illustrate how they stay safe at home, at school, or how their parents and guardians stay safe at work or in everyday life.

SEE BACK FOR FULL RULES!

POSTER CONTEST INFO:

- Create a poster showing how you and/or your guardian stay safe at home, at school, at work, etc.
- Open to all students in preschool through high school
- Your artwork must be original
- Winners will be chosen in each age group
- Winners will be announced on March 2, 2026 at the ASSP/AIHA PDC
- Each winner will receive a special prize!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR POSTER!



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL [MHOGAN@STLZOO.ORG](mailto:mhogan@stlzoo.org)

2026 ASSP KIDS' SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

RULES

Eligibility

Children in preschool, elementary school, middle school, and high school are eligible to enter. Participants must be children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or children special to ASSP St. Louis Chapter members. Children of anyone who becomes an ASSP member by February 9, 2026, are also eligible.

Theme Requirements

All artwork must reflect the contest theme "How Am I Safe?". Posters should illustrate how the child stays safe at home, at school, or how their parents or guardians stay safe at work or in everyday life.

Original Artwork

All entries must be original posters created by the child. Only one submission per child is allowed.

Submission Details

All entries must be received by February 9, 2026. Posters may be uploaded via the QR code/Google Form, emailed to Mary Claire Hogan (mhogan@stlzoo.org), or delivered in person at the February 9th meeting at Syberg's in Maryland Heights.

Judging Criteria

Posters will be judged based on creativity and how effectively they communicate the theme "How Am I Safe?" for the child's age group. All ASSP members will be able to participate in voting.

Winner Announcement

Winners from each age group will be announced at the ASSP/AIHA Professional Development Conference (PDC) on March 2, 2026. Each age-group winner will receive a prize.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Past Event Pictures - Membership Appreciation Night!

What a wonderful evening celebrating our safety community at January's ASSP St. Louis Chapter Members Appreciation Dinner at Bristol Seafood Grill! 🍽️

A huge congratulations to **Mae Ping Patrick**, recipient of this year's SPY Award — we're so excited, and it truly couldn't have gone to a more deserving person. Mae Ping Patrick, thank you for all you do and the impact you continue to make on our chapter and the profession. ❤️

So grateful for everyone who came out to connect, celebrate, and support one another.





Missouri WC News - 2026 Missouri Legislation

Shared from the newsletter of Chris Archer, [Archer & Lassa LLC](#).

It is that time of year when Missouri Legislators pre-file bills for the upcoming legislative session that runs from January to May every year in Missouri. This year, there are two interesting bills that have both been filed by Senator Curtis Trent.

SB 1052 would establish a medical fee schedule in Missouri for workers' compensation cases. Did you know, of the states where NCCI has jurisdiction, Missouri is the last state to adopt a medical fee schedule? Missouri payments for surgeries is 471% of the Medicare rate vs 263% for other states. For all physician charges, Missouri pays on average 245% of the Medicare rate vs 167% paid on average by other states. Are our physicians that much better?

The surgery charges are the extreme difference. The surgery centers are owned by the physician groups and are not normally subject to contract negotiations. The groups all now file "medical fee disputes" for additional compensation and gladly accept 80% of their inflated charge. Even after they pay an Attorney, they still win. That is how you get 471% of Medicare reimbursement average.

SB 1385 was also pre-filed by Senator Trent. It is a beast of a bill although most of the changes are remedial in cleaning up language and mistakes revealed over time. Over time, court opinions and interpretations distort a law's intended effect. There are certainly drafting mistakes also that were made and should be corrected. I have pointed out these in the newsletter in the past. One important change is that it will expand Second Injury Fund liability which is largely non-existent at present. It also eliminates the "commutation" sections that thwart the settlement of any post-award cases.

The proposed changes, although extensive, will have nowhere near the impact the medical fee schedule will have on Employers and premiums in Missouri. The last state to adopt a medical fee schedule saw a 10% decrease in medical expense within a year or two of adoption. Lower expense translated to lower premiums.

SB 996 proposed by Senator Gregory changes the Administrative Law Judge review process and payment scheme. The review process needs reform for sure but I do not know how best to do so. You want the ALJ's to be accountable but also secure in their jobs when the Governor is elected from the other party.

SB 865 filed by Senator Beck tries to change the law back to 2004; changing "the prevailing factor" to "a substantial factor" among other liberal proposals. It is unlikely to go anywhere.

HB 1709 filed by Representative Rudy Veit also addresses the ALJ review and retention process.

HB 2375 filed by Rep. Christ addresses two issues that the courts already fixed. His bill redefines "the prevailing factor" and also address how past medical expenses are to be awarded, or more specifically who may collect that award of expense.

In HB 2375: "The prevailing factor" is defined to be the primary factor, in relation to any other factor, causing [both] the injury, the resulting medical condition [and], the disability, and the need for treatment."

Three recent court cases really eliminated the need for this bill to be passed.

Fernandez and Hasselbring court opinions from the past year or two already erased the Tillotson precedent that the bill otherwise was trying to address with expanding the definition of "prevailing factor" as a limiting factor.

The bill also suggests payment of any past medical bills awarded can be awarded to be paid to the provider. The bill states the ALJ "shall have the authority," to do so. By using this language, the ALJ would have the discretion to award the payment of the bills to the providers, suggesting that the ALJ need not do so and can make the award to the Claimant and Attorney. Why make it discretionary?

In Helmig, the Commission ordered the payment of the claimed medical expenses to the provider instead of to the Claimant and her Attorney, ordering a hold harmless provision to the Claimant. This is likely to become the policy of this Commission in addressing past medical bills owed and awarded. Although the Commission's interpretation on this is not precedent in the legal meaning, it is of significant practical effect. If this bill passes, the intent may not match the interpretation it may be given.

Hence, I hope it does not get passed. It is identical to a bill that was proposed last year.

Mid-Missouri Updates



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Mid-Mo Section • STL Chapter

**Do you live or work in the heart of Missouri?
Get involved with the Mid-MO chapter and
attend the next meeting at D. Rowe's in Columbia!**

[Reach out to](#) Communications Chair Paul Krewson or
[Subscribe to ASSP Mid-MO Announcements](#)

President: David Atteberry
Vice-President: Kristin Crayton
Secretary/Treasurer: Will Schauwecker
New Member Chair: Katie Brucks
Communications Chair: Paul Krewson

St. Louis Chapter Executive Board Contacts

President - Nate Richardson - nate.richardson.safety@gmail.com

Vice President - Krista Hyde - kristahyde@kristahyde.com

Secretary - Jessica Vaccaro - jessica.vaccaro@grainger.com

Treasurer - Mae Ping Patrick - stlassptreas20@att.net

Past President - Dennis Pivin - summersetdennis@gmail.com

Mid-Missouri Section Officers

President - David Attebery - david.attebery@labor.mo.gov

Vice President - Kristin Crayton - kristin.crayton@vbmlaw.com

Secretary/Treasurer - Will Schauwecker - will.schauwecker@emerysapp.com

Chapter Committee Chairs

Website – Dave Callies – dcallies@kelpe.com

Maintains website with updated news, chapter events, and job postings

PDC Chair – Domini Montgomery – dmontgomery@stlzoo.org

Coordinates logistics of professional development activities

Membership – Tim McNamee – timothy.mcnamee@grainger.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

Scholarship – Rob Miller – robertmiller91@yahoo.com

Promotes student scholarships & continuing education scholarships for members

Golf Scholarship

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 – Paige Brogan - pbrogan@qualsafesolutions.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.