

The Board met and discussed what we would like to do for the 2024 – 2025 Chapter Season. It's not easy coming up with ideas for meetings that serve the needs of our Members. Please provide us with input; email suggestions to: president.nfassp@gmail.com. It helps us serve you, the Chapter members!

We discussed several topics. There will be an OSHA Update in November 2024 by Nick Donofrio, Compliance Assistance Specialist for the Buffalo Area. If you heard Nick do an update before, you know you will be in for an informative meeting. If not, you definitely want to be there as Nick is at least as good as Gordon DeLeys (retired) and maybe even better. Nick informed us that by holding off, he will be able to present a better picture of where OSHA is heading.

We are thinking of putting together a few meetings where we can present technical information on the Practice of Safety for people who have Safety Responsibilities on their job, but it's a collateral duty, not full time. If you know of any group (facilities engineers, human resources, etc.) that may have safety responsibilities, please invite them to a meeting where we have topics that would interest them! ASSP is here to serve all people who have safety responsibilities.

Are you interested in taking courses for Professional or Career Development? Is the cost of attending those courses holding you back from doing so? If your employer does not reimburse or only partially reimburse courses in Safety (Fall Protection, Respiratory Protection, Electrical Arc Flash Protection, etc.) there is a potential solution. The ASSP Foundation will now review each request for assistance and if approved reimburse you for the course or at least partially for that course. You can apply at <https://foundation.assp.org/>

OSHA has released the preliminary Heat Stress Standard. Otherwise known as the Promulgated Standard. It will affect all workplaces, outdoor **and indoor**. If you are responsible for Safety at your workplace, you will want to read this proposed (promulgated) standard. Parts of it are really good practices for working in environments that are hot and humid (like today as I write this); other parts are quite unfriendly to business and not easy to implement. You may want to cruise over to the OSHA Website; <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/Heat-NPRM-Final-Reg-Text.pdf> and take a look at it. If you have workers that are exposed to the hazard of heat stress, you may want to consider adopting some of the controls mentioned in the Proposed Rule. Also, there is an open comment period on it. You may want to follow the process for commenting on this rule. Who knows, you may provide the advice that makes this regulation better.

Carol Schmeidler retires from the Niagara Frontier ASSP Executive Board

It is with some sadness and wishes for a successful and happy future that we announce the retirement of our colleague, member and for some of us, friend Carol Schmeidler from the active board of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of ASSP. Carol is a 40 year member of the Chapter, having served actively on the Board of NFC as well as her activity at the National level as a founding member as well as actively promoting WISE (Women in Safety Engineering). Carol is also a published author, having contributed to one of ASSP's hard bound publications on Safety Management and presenter at ASSP's annual Professional Development Conference at least twice. She also is a Certified Safety Professional and holds a Master's Degree in Ergonomics.

Despite all of those achievements, Carol is one of the most approachable persons, willing to share information on safety as well as life in general. If the mark of a true professional is realizing the limits of your knowledge and be willing to learn new things; Carol exemplified that quality.

A personal story from Tom Weisbeck: A number of us formed a study group in the 1990's to study together to pass our ASP and CSP exams. (It was a long time ago; the internet was a brand new phenomenon.) Carol was one of the enthusiastic supporters of the group and contributed much in the area of organizational psychology (her undergrad degree area of study) and safety in general. We all passed the ASP exam (it was paper and pencil at the time). About 2 years later, we realized we needed to pass the CSP exam. We reformed the group; again, Carol was an enthusiastic supporter. By now, the Board transitioned the exam to an electronic format delivered by Sylvan Parametric. Due to my work schedule, I became the 1st person to take the exam from the group. Those of us in our group made a compact, if you took the exam and passed, you would bring donuts to the next Saturday morning study session. I fortunately passed and had to stop and buy donuts. When I walked in, Carol was the first person to shout "Congratulations!" and give me a hug; me, I was worried about dropping the dozen donuts I was carrying! All of us were in doubt that we could pass what was a very difficult test; now, there was a sense we could succeed! There were questions on that exam I could hear her saying "That's the correct answer!" when I read the choices. She was right. It was a great example of the power of teamwork.

In the intervening time, Carol has contributed tirelessly and willingly to promote the professional practice of Safety and been one of those who truly exhibited the best qualities of our profession as well as a willing mentor to many of us. I strongly suspect she will continue in that role; it's a hard one to walk away from. However, that time comes for us all to realize that we need to back down.

Thank you for your years of service Carol, we thank you for your knowledge, your leadership and your willingness to help all become better today than what we were yesterday. We also are honored to be your friends.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of the ASSP