



November 2020 Newsletter

From the President's Perspective:

I am going to stick to 2 topics only with this Newsletter. If you have met me in person, you could guess by my gray hair (and lack thereof) and salt & pepper beard, I've been around for a while. Seldom have I read a thank you as eloquent as this one.

A message from Karen Peissinger; Niagara Frontier Chapter 2019 – 2020 SPY

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the SPY Award Committee for selecting me as the 2020 SPY Award recipient.

Being selected was a surprising and humbling experience. This is because I am not a career safety professional like other past recipients; I am not even a Certified Safety Professional (CSP). Yet I was considered worthy of being in the company of those esteemed professionals.

For most of my professional life the professional jobs I've held have involved an aspect of safety, but it was never my full-time job. Health and safety coordinator was always secondary to my primary role, whether as an environmental specialist, senior project manager or industrial hygienist.

It's been my experience that many health and safety responsibilities involve those employees outside health and safety management. They play a part, no matter how small the role may seem, in the advancement of workplace health and safety. I would argue that we should consider these individuals as allied health and safety professionals, just like I have considered myself for most of my professional life.

To the allied health and safety professionals, I dedicate this SPY Award to you. The health and safety tent is big, so please join us and you too could be the next recipient!

My only comment is this: Never feel that the lack of professional certification makes you less of a safety professional! Ever!

I have learned much from all the people I encounter in this profession; those who are purpose tasked with Safety (and Environmental) Management for an organization (who may or may not hold some professional certification), those who perform the Safety Management function as a collateral duty (usual pairings are HR, QA/QC, Maintenance) and those who just touch on our Profession. Legal, Environmental Compliance and Organizational Development professionals come to mind. Those lessons have proven invaluable in helping me with my career development and improving my ability to practice the Safety Profession. When I think of diversity and inclusion, I think of all those people I met along the way who helped me develop the skills and knowledge to facilitate Safety and Risk Management to keep people from injury and protect property.

Our Niagara Frontier Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals exists to serve all of those people who work in the safety profession. Whether it be 10% or 100% of your job function, you are



welcome to join and participate in Our Chapter. We all can learn and grow professionally by networking with each other. Especially as the boundaries between job functions in organizations today blur more and more with crossover issues.

On to Elections and Voting! I'm writing this on Election Day (I voted early this year; the election inspectors would not let me vote again. Can't figure that one out.).

I remember a time when the Niagara Frontier Chapter had elections; yes, we had a slate of candidates for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, President – Elect and President. We had ballots (I remember paper ones!)! Most importantly, we had Candidates! Usually, our October or November Meeting was a “Meet the Candidates” one where we got to meet the candidates!

Sadly, this has not happened in recent memory (No, I'm not getting “forgetful”). It would be really nice if we had Members who would be willing to serve on a Nominating Committee (All or our Members will qualify for Chapter Office, so that job is really easy.) and all our Members would qualify to hold Chapter Office. As long as your ASSP dues are paid up!

Yes, there is unpaid work involved. I will state that it can be a boost to your credentials for any position you may want to achieve in life and ASSP has a LOT of materials to help you develop your Chapter Leadership role. Actually, most of the materials can be applied to leadership in any organization; the experience will help you develop as a Safety Practioner (or HR, or QA/QC, or Engineering, etc.).

If you have an interest, please email me at president.nfassp@gmail.com and I will try to guide you to the right resources to see if being a Chapter Leader (ASSP's term, mine is Chapter Officer, an older term) is something you want to try. One good thing is that you will join a first class team who is dedicated to seeing people succeed at achieving their goals!

Who knows, maybe we can get back to those days when we had multiple candidates and actual balloting! With that, I conclude. I promised only 2 topics!