



July 2021 Newsletter

From the President's Perspective:

It's July 2021 and the beginning of a new Chapter Year. Whew! The last one was quite the experience! COVID and the ever evolving and changing world of COVID regulations, the legalization of Recreational Cannabis (How's that working out for your company?), the passage of the NY HERO act (still waiting for NYS Guidance on that one) and a myriad of other challenges. It almost makes the hot, humid weather and possibility of heat stress seem like a no-brainer challenge. If you follow the OSHA meme on heat stress prevention: Water (replace with cold beer), Rest (napping on comfy furniture) and Shade (oh, heck yes, shady and breezy!) you can not only avoid heat stress but general stress as well. I have done it and can recommend it (but not too many days or nothing gets done). Our Chapter Leaders deserve this self-treatment as we have as a Chapter accomplished:

- Delivered 4 very high quality technical meetings via Zoom
- Achieved Silver status as a Chapter with ASSP (that's significant!)
- Managed to be in a good place in the Empire Area and in Region XIII

There's some ideas I want to put out there for our Chapter Members to comment on. One is the meeting slate for 2021 – 2022. The other is a return to in-person meetings (assuming no additional COVID restrictions are imposed).

Both the legalization of Recreational Cannabis and the NY HERO act will have a significant impact on employer safety programs in NYS. We already have had requests for a technical meeting on the cannabis issue from one of our Members; that would be a great topic. Not all Safety Professionals have a significant role in employer Drug and Alcohol Testing (DAT) programs, but most have some role, it is a relevant topic that all Safety Professionals need to have some knowledge of for career development. We will be pursuing a speaker on this topic for the next Chapter Year, so if anyone has any suggestions or contacts we could leverage, please let us know!

Regarding the NY HERO act; until we see some NYS Guidance (probably not until after the July 4 Holiday); any planning on that topic will need to be delayed. However, I have some experience with Safety Committees and formation. If anyone thinks that would be a good topic, let us know. I will be happy to oblige. (There's 2 of 4 technical meetings! Yes, I have other ideas as well! I also know someone may have some better ones!)

Regarding return to in-person meetings; currently, it looks like it is possible. I am not sure if restaurant venues are really the best idea; I'm not sure of the distancing requirements for restaurant environments. In the past, it seemed like our light meal ideas were popular for meetings (pizza, sandwiches, salad, chips, drink, etc.), but I'm not sure about self-service food. Personally, I don't have an issue with it as long as people follow proper etiquette when filling their plate. However, we need to do this in a sanitary manner; therefore, we may be looking at either a no food service or individual pre-order from a limited menu option. If we can have the use of a facility where we can gather for a meeting and maintain a good separation from each other that would be excellent! We also can return to and use the videoconferencing option as well.

Please, please, help me and give me some input! Email me at president.nfassp@gmail.com, call me at 716.523.2758; I am looking for ideas from our amazing Members to serve you.