



## *October 2021 Newsletter*

### From the President's Perspective:

September was another whirlwind month of being a Chapter President. It also was one of the reasons I really appreciate the Members of our Chapter and why I chose to do this for the second time around! You folks are truly amazing in how you are supporting and helping us out. Another development that is making me hopeful and excited is that we have Members participating in helping us on the Board make our Chapter more responsive to the needs of our Members in developing their Safety Careers as well as participate in our Community.

Our September Meeting did not go as planned, for those who attended, we were required to do the short notice pivot from in-person to virtual. I must give both Nick Donofrio from OSHA and our Members props on this; Nick did an awesome job for the OSHA update and our Members provided an attentive, thoughtful, respectful and rather large audience. As we all are aware, OSHA has been roiled with initiatives (as Nick confirmed, many in the ranks were caught unawares of the pronunciations of our Administration) as well as criticism (some undeserved due to the confusing situation they are handed) and controversy. Under those circumstances, Nick delivered a fantastic presentation that gave a pretty good picture where OSHA would be headed in the short run as well as future. All I have to say, if Gordon is hearing footsteps in retirement, it's Nick closing the gap to pull ahead of him as Compliance Assistance Specialist in Region II. We are truly fortunate to have him in the Buffalo Office!

Another heartening note came out from that meeting, New Members signed on and some of our long term Southern Tier Members joined us! We also had some Members working remotely attend! I'm liking that trend as we continue to look to deliver services to our Members. Welcome, Thank You and we look forward to your continued presence at Meetings. We are investigating technology to deliver hybrid meetings, thanks to our Digital Coordinators, Karen and Ryan. Look for announcements, follow our LinkedIn Group and we will continue to keep Members informed of what we are doing to connect with you!

Our October Meeting is being planned at this stage as an in-person meeting at a totally new venue; The Meeting House in the Village of Williamsville. The announcement is out! This is a historical venue, a restored church in the Village. There is free parking at and close by the Meeting House. This is a location that was researched by us and we decided to try it. We will offer food (wraps, but somewhat more limited offerings than what was proposed for September) that you may order; the meeting itself and water will be at NO CHARGE to our Members. Now, if you don't want what we offer for eats, there are a good number of highly rated restaurants with a variety of price ranges and food types within walking distance of the Meeting House. Read the announcement, sign up to attend and come!

Be aware, that changing regulations and guidance may cause us to pivot again!

The October Meeting topic should be of interest to all Safety Professionals who may have passing or full involvement in your organization's Drug & Alcohol Testing (DAT) program. With the changes in NYS Cannabis regulations, we will need to recalibrate how we address the subject. All testing will be



affected as well as how we manage a positive THC metabolite drug screen result. Mishandling may result in Civil Liability, possible violations of NYS Human Rights laws and loss of organizational reputation. Our presenter, Mark Moldenhauer, Esq. from Bond, Schoeneck and King is a highly skilled and experienced Employment and Labor Law attorney who will provide the best information to date (the law is not that old) on this subject. I am very anxious to hear what Mark has to say, and you should be too! Come and join us!

I am asking for your understanding regarding how COVID makes logistical planning way more complicated than it used to be. We are trying to respect all Member's safety and philosophy without turning the Chapter Year in to a political event. COVID 19 is but ONE hazard our employees and the public are exposed to; we have a lot of (confusing) prescriptive regulations, guidance's and mandates to address that situation. We need to broaden our hazard awareness and remember that plenty of other hazards can be just as or more injurious; we cannot ignore them!

On that note; October is Fire Safety Month. Fires are a common hazard that, like COVID, you may avoid with attention to prevention, make sure your defenses are in order, and have a plan to address the hazard should it occur. Oddly enough, the potential you will need to address a fire is greater than that of getting COVID. From NFPA: There is a chance you will experience 5 home fires in a lifetime and there is a 10% chance of suffering a fire injury. A fully involved fire potentially will double in size every minute. Facing those odds, you want to focus on fire prevention. Having a plan at work is an OSHA compliance requirement, having a plan at home is a basic survival requirement. Use the month of October, take advantage of sales on smoke and CO detectors as well as portable fire extinguishers; upgrade what you have at home (and in your vehicle) if necessary. Take the time with your family to teach everyone how to: sound the alarm if a fire is discovered (even if it is yell "FIRE"!); call 911 (how to do it correctly using a cell phone); extinguish an incipient fire (smother it with a pot lid or wet towel, pour sodium bicarbonate on it, etc.) and use a portable fire extinguisher (PASS). One little trick; there's lots of YouTube videos to watch together on these topics! Most importantly, emphasize fire prevention! According to the website, Safewise, most residential fires occur in the kitchen (unattended cooking), followed by the bedroom (electrical), then the living room (fireplaces and Christmas Trees), then attics (electrical) and 4% in the laundry room (dryer fires due to lint buildup). All easy enough to prevent with some situational awareness followed up by action!

With cooler months coming, one other activity that is of value to all of us; learn first aid/CPR. Hands only CPR techniques are easy enough to learn, <https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/hands-only-cpr/hands-only-cpr-resources>, follow the link and watch the YouTube video! Easy, quick, and avoids potential COVID exposure. I used it to train people where I work; I recommend giving the American Heart Association video a look. First aid courses are becoming available again, and I recommend taking one with bleeding control instruction; Stop the Bleed! With staffing shortages in healthcare, we may truly be on our own should an injury happen.

Well, enough for now!