



## *January 2022 Newsletter*

### From the President's Perspective:

What can happen in 25 days? Well, if you follow the legal proceedings regarding the 3 main Federal COVID mandates, quite a bit. At confusing speed, the mandates are either fully stayed, not stayed or partially stayed, depending on the State you are in and which mandate affects you. The Omicron variant and its effects are trying to monopolize the news as are the shenanigans in Congress and the fate of the Great Northern Elevator (damaged in a post-Thanksgiving windstorm). Add in the Christmas (no apologies) and New Year Holidays, and you have a chaotic situation. As I write this newsletter, the first Lake Effect snowstorm is scheduled to hit most of Western New York to add to the ball of confusion we live in. Below is the Chaos that lurks beneath the surface with the NFC!

The NFC Board had a meeting on December 21; the Minutes are posted to the Website. A few of the highlights are below:

- Regarding Meetings; we will wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January to see what restrictions and rules regarding COVID will be. This is an ever evolving area that makes Meeting planning challenging. We are going to adopt a wait and see approach and most likely will have 2022 meetings Virtual at first.
  - Potential meeting topics for 2022 are:
    - **Safety Leadership** – we are looking for speakers/presenters who would be willing to speak on the challenges of being a Safety Professional for an organization, what leadership qualities are necessary to be effective in achieving goals, and how do you learn those skills? We are looking for Safety Professionals of all ages and both genders to participate.
    - **Disaster Preparedness** – we are looking for speakers/presenters who would be willing to share knowledge and information on how to prepare an organization to survive and return from a catastrophic event. Hazardous inclement weather is only one area; fire/explosion, cyber-attack, etc. If anyone knows of someone willing to do this, we are all ears. Also, what do you folks think about Personal/Family Preparedness?
- It's that time of the Chapter Year for Succession Planning. I will be stepping down as President in June 2022. Unless a Member who has been a Society Member for more than 1 year chooses to run, Tom Marino will succeed me as President/President Elect. He is well qualified for the role, having served 2 years as Secretary/Treasurer with good and faithful service to you, the Members. We have a person who is willing to run for Secretary/Treasurer; Christa Grisanti. She is well qualified and will bring some good ideas to the Niagara Frontier Chapter. We are also seeking someone who would be willing to take the position of Chapter Delegate/Representative once ASSP changes its governance structure. Carol Schmeidler volunteered to assist us through the period when ASSP would dissolve the House of Delegates; however, that is yet to happen at the National level (talk about Chaos!).
  - We are also looking for persons who would be willing to be appointed to the following positions:
    - **Membership Chair** – point of contact for Members, reviews Membership Roster at least quarterly, sends out greetings to new Members
    - **Program Chair/Coordinator** – assists in developing Meetings; assists in finding venues and making arrangements for rental, food and drink; assists in setting up special events
  - We will take nominations and requests to run for the election and appointment of Chapter Officers. Any challengers out there? Let us know at [president.nfassp@gmail.com](mailto:president.nfassp@gmail.com)! Before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.



The more people who help us with Chapter Administration, the less work for all. It's an opportunity to get CEU's for Professional Certification as well as meet some of the best Safety Professionals in WNY!

- It is time for us to collect SPY nominations! The Safety Professional of the Year award is quite an achievement, even at the Chapter Level. This award not only recognizes one of our Members as an outstanding Safety Professional who enhances their organization's performance, but is involved in making their community a better place to live. Per the criteria used to award the SPY; that person needs to demonstrate achievement of performance in dynamic terms (ie: implemented new injury reporting program identifying root causes, reducing injuries by 43%; served on committee to improve community disaster preparedness, conducted 4 classes on preparing for hazardous weather; served on advisory group to Assemblyperson Smith writing legislation requiring workplace safety committee formation, etc.) Please send nominations to Bo Burghardt at [pburghardt@roadrunner.com](mailto:pburghardt@roadrunner.com) (Bo's email is easier than mine!)
- We also need to update our Bylaws to reflect that the Niagara Frontier Chapter no longer has a Construction Section. I was trying to hold off until we were informed of what happened with the House of Delegates (HOD) and make one change (the Delegate position is an elected office in our Chapter), rather than piecemeal the Bylaw changes. However, this issue will be lingering for a while, I think. ASSP National leaders need to resolve this issue rather than continue to delay. The Bylaw Changes will be coming out for a vote by the Members of the Chapter in February.
- One good news item is that the Digital Coordinators (Karen Peissinger and Ryan Knoph) will have successfully migrated the Chapter over to ASSP's Real Magnet email system to improve communications delivery and save us \$\$\$. The tradeoff is that, if you fail to keep your email current with ASSP, you most likely won't be getting email from us after January. Please make sure your contact information is current with National.

On to one of my least favorite topics about ASSP. Once again, the powers that be reigning over Region VIII (our Region) have decided to spend yet more of your dues on Student Sections. I am not against Student Members being in a Section of a Chapter; what I am against is the Region is spending on students of colleges without offering any funding to our Members for Professional Development. Let me explain simply: Each Member of NFC contributes \$15 in annual Chapter dues when they pay their Society Dues. \$5/Member of those Dues are diverted to a Regional Treasury by ASSP National; we don't get to even get a peek at it (Just like Government Payroll Tax collection!). To form a Student Section in NFC, we would need 10 student members to form the Section. In the 30 years I have been a Member of NFC; we have had maybe 5 Student Members in any one year, tops. Therefore, we never had a Section, and most likely will not in the future (unless more Students step up and join ASSP **and** request to form a Section).

In the fall of 2021, the Chapter Leaders of the Region voted to authorize spending \$7,500 to benefit Student Sections. Now, the Region wants an additional \$3,500 for Students. At this time, I put up a Motion that Student Section reimbursement be limited to the contributions to the Regional Treasury of the Chapters requesting more \$\$\$ (Western Pennsylvania and Greater Boston). That proposal has been dismissed by the RVP without further discussion. If you have any questions about this issue, please don't hesitate to email me: [president.nfassp@gmail.com](mailto:president.nfassp@gmail.com).