



February 2022 Newsletter

From the President's Perspective:

Once and a while, I get some really awesome news to announce. We will be having potentially one of the most impactful Chapter Meetings that I can remember in a long time in February, 2022. Plan on attending this one if you don't attend any other safety event in 2022. Mark this date and time on your calendar and get ready to listen to one of the leading Safety Professionals present on Safety Leadership.

February 21, 2022 @ 4:30 PM

Speaker: Joel Tietjens, CSP

OK, who is Joel Tietjens? Well, Joel is one of the leading subject matter experts on Safety Leadership and Safety Management (he is a consultant to Forbes 100 organizations on improving their Safety Management Systems). Organizations like ExxonMobil, Toyota, Duke Energy, Cummins and Frito-Lay among many others. Joel has also presented at ASSP Professional Development Conferences and AIHA Conferences. His company, T-Jens & T-Jens is well established as one of the leading safety consulting organizations and he regularly publishes articles in Professional Safety and Industrial Safety & Hygiene News. Normally, to hear Joel, you need to attend a major Safety Conference and pay a rather large event fee. This will be available to those who sign up for the Zoom event that will be offered to Niagara Frontier Chapter Members at the usual Virtual meeting cost. \$0. Before deciding to skip this one, please go to T-Jens & T-Jens website and check out what you will experience: [Joel N. Tietjens - Professional Safety Speaker](#). Somehow, I think you will want to attend this one!

We thought our Members had enough of COVID dominated safety presentations and it was time to move on to getting your Safety Program and Career heading in a positive direction. The legal environment has seen most employment related mandates stayed; there is a good chance most of the rest of the onerous mandates/guidances of dubious effect will be stayed as well. The truth is that COVID will be here to stay in one form or another and we will have to learn how to exist with it.

On to some Chapter business. I have not received any nominations for Chapter Officers; that is a disappointment. As we move in to the future, I wonder where ASSP will head and where Chapters will fit in to the picture. The Niagara Frontier Chapter is traditionally one with Members that can be Rockstars in the safety world anywhere in the US; we should continue the tradition and legacy.

Our Elected Officer nominations will be: Tom Marino; CSP, ARM for President and Christa Grisanti for Secretary/Treasurer. If someone wants to step up and run for President – Elect that would be most welcome, otherwise, Tom will also fill that role.

We are still looking for some nominations for the SPY Award. Any Member can be nominated; however, the criteria set by ASSP National is quite detailed. I'm sure we have qualified candidates; please send nominations to Bo Burghardt at pburghardt@roadrunner.com.



We are still in the process of planning at least one more Technical Meeting for the 2021 – 2022 Chapter year; the topic will be Disaster Preparedness. If anyone knows of a good presenter on Business Disaster Planning and Continuity, please let us know. Also, this topic could be on Personal Disaster Planning and Preparation. If that is something that interests you, let us know! I like when Members let us know what they would like for Meeting Topics!

We also need to vote on a revision of the Niagara Frontier Chapter Bylaws. Since the Construction Section was dissolved in 2019 and there are changes regarding the position of Representative to the House of Delegates (HOD) that will be eliminated (?) in the future; we need to make these changes. Consequently, I have revised the Bylaws and will have Karen Peissinger post the proposed revision to the NFC website for you to review. I can also email any Member a PDF copy of the proposed Bylaw change. I also made the following changes: To the requirements for Elected Officers; the Secretary/Treasurer must now be a Professional Member or Member (This is common practice in our Chapter anyway.) To the reporting function to the Society that is assigned to the President; the language now reflects the practice of using the reporting format (COMIT) specified by the Society. Another change assigns the duty of submitting the Financial Report to the Secretary/Treasurer. While the Secretary/Treasurer may submit the COMIT reports, realistically, finance is a rather important job itself; the President can be involved in Chapter Reports. All of these requirements undergo periodic change and there is no sense in changing the language of the Bylaws every time the Society reporting format changes. These changes are highlighted in yellow.

If any Member wonders why I have been vocal about the Regional Assessment monies being funneled to Student Sections within the Region with no funding available to Members wishing to pursue Professional Development on their own, please look at the requirements for forming a Student Section that is in the NFC Bylaws. Per Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws, there must be at least 10 members. Per Section 3, paragraph f: *Student Members attending an educational institution may join together to form a Student Section of the Chapter within whose boundary the institution lies. (See Model Student Section Bylaws).* Gang; we don't have an educational institution that is offering an appropriate degree in our assigned geographic territory (Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties)! RIT has an EHS program, all the way to the Master's level; that's in the territory of Genesee Valley Chapter! RIT is relatively close as far as high quality educational institutions goes! You could commute if you want. Until the situation changes, and there are programs in this area, we won't be able to easily form a Student Section and therefore we won't be on the list to receive additional funding. By the way, our Bylaws are in accordance with the Society requirements.

Now, in brief, regarding my favorite thing to rant on. As of today (1/26/2022), the NYS courts are battling back and forth over the "emergency declarations" regarding mask mandates. They may be struck down as well. The vax mandates have been, by and large, struck down or stayed by Courts at the Federal level; the OSHA COVID ETS has been withdrawn, the Federal Contractor and Employee mandate is stayed. If you have any inclination to believe that Regulations and Executive Orders are effective in hazard control, please review the results. It is way better to adopt a philosophy of deliberate hazard analysis coupled with promulgating reasonable and practical controls. My experience with implementing occupational safety programs is that path seems to be much better than top down dictated control measures based on conflicting and arbitrary information. Also, it really helps if you assign the task of controlling hazards to the people who have knowledge and experience in that task. Not politicians.