



March 2022 Newsletter

From the President's Perspective:

On Monday, 2/21/2022, the Niagara Frontier Chapter Members who attended our Virtual Meeting experienced one of the best presentations they could have attended in a long time. Joel Tietjens gave us a presentation on Safety Leadership that was not only motivating for Safety Professionals, but gave a perspective on how Organizational Management and Culture affects Safety Performance that was 100% true. Management, including Safety Managers need to be responsible and accountable for their performance; Line Supervisors to the Top Person in Charge. If you do not encourage and expect high performance in doing the tasks assigned to you by the Organization; including Safety Performance AND engage your employees to provide feedback as part of their contribution to the success of the Organization, you get lackluster, worse yet, deficient Safety Performance. Joel gave us insight and help in identifying as well as communicating where those failures may occur. If you missed it, you missed an outstanding opportunity to learn from one of the major thought leaders in our profession.

We are still in the process of planning at least one more Technical Meeting for the 2021 – 2022 Chapter year in April. One option would be to stay with the topic of Disaster Preparedness; however, I, nor any of the Board have heard from our Members regarding a presenter. However, we have been approached by folks from a company called Impairment Science to do a presentation on their app that can determine if a person is suffering from any impairment. That would include substance intoxication, fatigue, disease state (you feel good if you have a cold or flu?), or extreme distraction. We are trying to set this up for a future presentation. This is NOT drug testing! This app can help determine if someone is not operating at 100%; it may be a way to help keep people from unsafe performance due to impairment. Stay Tuned!

We are going 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. We will be voting on this in April.

Since the last Newsletter, Carol Schmeidler has had an opportunity to attend meetings regarding changes to the House of Delegates (HOD) and the issue of office space for the ASSP. She made a presentation of those discussions that was shared with those in attendance at the February meeting. Those in attendance discussed the upcoming changes and requested Carol vote on our behalf as a Chapter. The vote was to divest (by sale) the ASSP office; it was advantageous to the Society from a financial and logistical standpoint. We requested a “No” vote on substantially changing the Governance structure of the Society. The proposal up for vote would have given ASSP a relatively confusing governance structure that retained some of the bad and added little good. While we support the idea of Members having a greater voice in Society direction and operations, the proposed governance structure would not have allowed for heading in that direction. With too many elected officers holding positions in the new structure as well as a limited group of Members directly advising the Board, it was decided that the current structure would



work, if they leveraged new technology to meet more often. I am sure that there will be further developments in the area of governance as ASSP heads in to the future. We will keep you posted on these.

Since the last Newsletter, there have been some developments regarding Candidates for Chapter Leadership positions. Christa has had to defer her participation as she is dealing with some life issues we all deal with from time to time, that inhibit our ability to participate in more activities. We sincerely wish and pray that those issues resolve successfully. But that still means that we will need a candidate for Secretary/Treasurer. Please, someone, volunteer to run for this office! It's not that difficult, you get to interact with some of the top safety professionals in WNY and you will have plenty of help and support from those of us in the Chapter. Me, I have been looking forward to retiring from my SECOND go around as a Chapter Officer! It's been a heck of a ride! Again, Elections are in April!

That is a great segue in to my rant of the month. The local radio talk show (You couldn't have guessed I listen to WBEN?) just had a caller who mentioned that Apathy was one threat that affects our country today. All corners of the Nation are suffering because there seems to be a lack of people who "get involved", but a lot of people who sure know how to complain about current conditions! One takeaway that I got from being a member of a community activist group (based on return to Constitutional government) is that if you want change, you need to BE the change; **get involved!**

Whether you get involved with your children's education by attending (maybe running for) school board meetings, attend (maybe run for) Municipal Board meetings, coach or mentor youth sports, or join an organization that represents your interests (personal, professional or otherwise), participation is necessary! We need to realize that engagement is necessary, or organizations perish. ASSP is no different. At the last Regional Operating Committee meeting, it was announced that Regional membership was down 7%. You may not think that is significant, but 5% is not to be ignored. Not only do we need Members in the NFC, but we need people to participate in the operation of the Chapter. COVID is still and will always be with us; as we come out of pandemic restrictions, we need people to engage and help us maintain this institution. NFC has been around since 1935! I would like to see us make it to 2035 and beyond (it's possible, I'm trying to behave).

Don't worry about being perfect, none of us are. Don't worry that you hold unpopular perspectives, I certainly am controversial. Regarding controversial; if you stimulate people to think, they may learn something! Don't worry about a lack of experience, we will pitch in to help you be successful, all you need to do is ask! (And ASSP offers more help than you ever imagine! Just like OSHA!) Just take the plunge, the water is fine!

Remember, March is Ladder Safety Month! No using 5 gal. buckets, milk crates (do they have these anymore?) or chairs to work at elevation. Use a ladder....Safely!

WNY Safety Conference is slated to take place March 23 – 24 at the Seneca Events Center in Niagara Falls. [Western New York Safety Conference \(wnysc.com\)](http://wnysc.com) for more information!