



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE  
CHAPTER

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The upcoming 2024-25 year looks like a good one. I am excited for the new slate of Executive Board candidates. We will also soon recognize the next CWC Safety Professional of the Year (SPY). Nominations are still open, look for the link in this newsletter and on our website.

I hope you were able to make our CWC social and you are saving the date for the Officer Installation at Top Golf in May. Our spring professional development class (PDC) is coming up and our Sections are also hosting theirs.

Next year is a GOSH year and more great things are being planned. I am proud to be part of this wonderful community.

In your service,

Chapter President  
Steven Frost



## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**SafetyFOCUS**  
**ASSP Educational Event for Safety Professionals**  
Feb 19-23 Online

**Cascade Occupational Safety & Health Conference**  
March 4-5, 2024 | Eugene, OR

**ASSP Mt St Helens Professional Development Conference**  
March 12-14, 2024 | Kelso, WA

**2024 Pacific Northwest Safety Symposium**  
May 23, 2024 | Auburn, WA

**Blue Mountain Occupational Safety & Health Conference**  
June 3-4, 2024 | Pendleton, OR

## NETWORK AND CHILL

Members relaxed together at Steeplejack Brewing, forging connections over great brews and shared passion for workplace safety. Cheers to building safer communities together!



## OREGON YOUNG EMPLOYEE SAFETY - O[yes] MEDIA CONTEST

### Students could earn \$500

by creating either a video or graphic design piece that will catch the attention of high school teens and convince them to take the [O\[yes\] online Safety Awareness Training](#) to learn how to stay safe and healthy on the job.

Check out the contest [guidelines](#).

## **O[yes] Mission**

Prevent injuries and illnesses and promote well-being to young workers. We do this through outreach, advocacy, and sharing of resources with young workers, educators, employers, parents, and labor organizations.

## **SAVE THE DATE! 2024-25 OFFICER INSTALLATION PARTY**

Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> | 5:30 - 9:30pm | Location: [Top Golf](#) in Hillsboro

Free 4 Members | [Registration opening soon](#)

## **2024-25 CWC ASSP ELECTION SLATE**

### **Election Non Voting Positions**

(These positions are not voted on)

**Chapter President: Brittany Johnston**



Brittany Johnston is currently serving as the Columbia Willamette Chapter (CWC) President-Elect and is beyond thrilled to serve membership next term as President and GOSH 2025 Chair. She will bring her passion for collaboration and helping others succeed to the President role and is excited to continue improving our service to our members and the safety and health community.

Brittany has been actively involved with this chapter since 2016 and has served as a Delegate-At-Large, House Delegate, Treasurer-Elect, Treasurer, Vice President and has served as the Membership Committee Chair. She has also volunteered as a Track Lead on the GOSH Program Planning Committee for GOSH 2019, 2021 and 2023.

Brittany is a Safety & Health Services Adviser at SAIF Corporation, where she collaborates with SAIF's safety and health leadership and safety consultants across the state to ensure consultants are supported with the tools and skills needed to provide impactful safety and health services to SAIF's policyholders.

Prior to the role as Adviser, Brittany was a Senior Safety Management Consultant at SAIF for 10 years, where she consulted with Oregon businesses across a variety of industries in safety and health culture, leadership, and injury prevention. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Linfield College, a Master's in Business Administration from Portland State University and is a Certified Safety Professional.

### **President Elect: Nichole Guilfoy**



Nichole Guilfoy is an experienced Total Worker Health practitioner and consultant with over 20 years of expertise in human resources, safety, well-being, organizational development, and communication. She provides evidence-based education, coaching, and strategic support to organizations across the Pacific Northwest. Nichole has a Bachelor of Science degree from Portland State University where she focused her studies on public health and Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

### **Treasurer: Elena Estrada**



Elena Estrada is a Safety and Risk Analyst for Clackamas County Water Environment Services. Elena previously worked as at the City of Portland. I have enjoyed my time serving as Treasurer Elect and I am looking forward to continuing to serve as Treasurer this upcoming year.

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**Election Voting positions**  
**(These positions require a vote)**

**Vice President: Kyle DeHart**

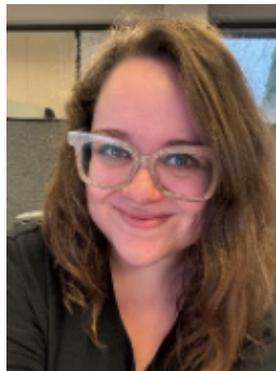


Kyle DeHart is a Senior Safety Management Consultant with SAIF Corporation and has been working in the fields of occupational health and safety and environmental management since 2014. Since 2022, Kyle has served as one of the Chapters Advisory Group Members and as Co-Chair/Chair of the Membership Committee. Along with his service to ASSP, he has been active in recent years with the GOSH Program Planning Committee, as well as the Northwest Occupational Health Conference Planning Committee.

Kyle holds a Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene from Montana Tech and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist, OSHA 500 Authorized Outreach Trainer, and BCSP Graduate Safety Practitioner.

In his free time, Kyle enjoys cycling, rock climbing, playing guitar, listening to his extensive collection of vinyl records, and spending quality time with his wife and friends. He is excited by the opportunity to continue serving chapter membership.

### **Secretary: Caity Benston**



Caity is gearing up for her second year as an ASSP member and third year in the safety industry, currently acting as Partner Marketing Manager for safety software and consulting company, KPA. She lives in Milwaukie, OR with her husband Brian, her daughter Evelyn, their cat Cookie, and their dog Princess Pants.

She also serves as the President for the Toastmasters Club: The Clackamas Stepping Stones. When she isn't busy with work or parenting (ha!), she enjoys reading, horror movies, cooking, hiking, and travel.

### **Treasurer Elect: Peche Barteaux**



Peche (pronounced Pesh) Barteaux is an Environmental Health and Safety Associate at Portland Public Schools with eight years of dedicated experience ensuring workplace well-being in the public sector. She manages a number of safety programs including respiratory protection, indoor air quality and is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

She is passionate about creating safe environments, fostering sustainable practices for a healthier future and empowering others to use their voices in an impactful way.

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### **Advisory Group -- Two Positions Available**

#### **Patrick Ryan**



Patrick Ryan, CSP is a Safety Director for Sysco Foods in Portland and oversees EHS functions for a designated super-colossal site with a large warehouse and fleet team that covers most of the PNW. He believes safety begins with trust, and trust builds high performing teams.

He is a strong advocate of mindfulness meditation and has over 10+ years' experience with practicing silent meditation and leaps at the opportunity to go on silent meditation retreats. Patrick also loves to read and learn about science and nature and lives in Portland, OR in the Multnomah Village area with his wife and two small dogs.

#### **Matt Harper**



Matt Harper is a board-Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and Certified Safety Professional (CSP). He is currently a Principal Consultant with BSI in Hillsboro, Oregon. His responsibilities include assisting clients throughout the Pacific Northwest with various industrial hygiene, occupational safety, and health related needs. Matt holds a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science with a Minor in Environmental Health and Safety from Oregon State University.

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### **Delegate at Large -- Two Positions Available**

#### **Soren Bjerregaard**



Soren Bjerregaard is a Senior Safety Management Consultant with SAIF Corporation in Portland, Oregon. Over the last 16 years he has advised policyholders across all industries to enhance workplace safety and health. Prior to that he worked as an insurance producer and branch manager.

Soren holds the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) certification and is currently working on becoming a Certified Risk Manager (CRM). He has held CWC ASSP positions as treasurer elect, treasurer and delegate at large and is looking forward to continuing his engagement in a leadership role.

Soren earned a BS in Business Administration and an MBA in International Business from the University of Aarhus in Denmark, where he grew up before moving to Oregon. Outside of work he enjoys kayaking, bicycling, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

#### **Jackie Boyd**



Jackie Boyd is a Project Manager at the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences. She manages the Oregon Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (OR-FACE) Program, which conducts surveillance, investigation, and outreach on workplace fatalities in the state of Oregon. She also manages the Work-life Check-ins Project, a randomized controlled trial focused on reducing burnout amongst healthcare workers through one-on-one check-in meetings amongst clinic leaders and their staff members.

Jackie is also involved in the Oregon Young Employee Safety Coalition (O[yes]) and has been serving as the chair since August 2023. Jackie holds a Master of Public Health in Environmental Systems and Human Health from Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University School of Public Health.

## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE (PDC)

**Save the date!**

Spring Professional Development Course (PDC)

### ***Ethics for the Safety Professional***

**5 part webinar series**

**March - May | 3/21, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2, 5/16**

**Time: 12pm-1pm each session**

Instructor: Wyatt Bradbury, MEng, CSP, CHST, CIT, TSSP

Adjunct Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Attend as many sessions as you'd like

Each session: 0.1 CEU

All classes: 0.5 CEUs in ethics for BCSP certifications!

*Registration opening soon*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JOAQUIN DIAZ



**How long have you worked in Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)?**

I started working in EHS or OHS in 1999 after my discharge from the Marine Corps.

**When did you begin your safety career? What was your first job?**

I was working as a project manager for a small painting contractor. My boss approached me about doing safety because we were getting into military construction. He knew my background in the Marines included being a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical warfare specialist for my section.

**Where do you work now, what is your role? What do you like about it?**

I am the EHS director for Skanska USA Building's Oregon office. I enjoy the type of work we do. I enjoy the people I work with, including the awesome EHS staff.

**What motivates you to be a safety professional?**

The service to the profession and the industry. I have been fortunate to have an influence on national and state regulations, consensus standards, and professional development. My career is about supporting people and helping them better their perspectives.

**Do you have any memorable experiences as an OSH professional you would like to share?**

Serving as president of the BCSP I was invited by the Saudi Kingdom to present at their second safety conference. I met the head of the UK HSE (OSHA equivalent) and was wined and dined from the day we arrived to the day we left. It was a memorable experience because of the gracious people I met from all around the Middle East.

**Why are you a member of ASSP and what value have you found in being a member?**

The people have been the greatest asset in the ASSP. It is the largest representative of our profession. The PDCs and conferences have helped me expand my knowledge and improve upon my career.

## What do you like to do when you aren't doing safety stuff?

My wife and I have visited several countries, states, and cities. We love to eat and enjoy the finest things life offers. We enjoy smoking a great cigar and drinking the finest whiskey.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



### Free Money!

Two [scholarships](#) for qualifying students who are attending universities and community colleges in Oregon and Washington:

- ASSP CWC Leadership Award (\$750)
- Walter G. Thorsell Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

[Application](#) period is open to end of February.

Award recipients are notified by March 31st if they have won the scholarship(s).

## NOMINATE A SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR!



### Columbia Willamette Chapter SPY award

The Columbia-Willamette Chapter honors a member each year with its Chapter "SPY" Safety Professional of the Year Award.

The Chapter SPY is a long established annual award, intended to recognize a deserving Columbia-Willamette Chapter member for outstanding leadership and service in the Safety Profession.

We rely on members to recognize and nominate other members who go the extra mile to promote safety and health.

[Nominations](#) due **March 29, 2024**.

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### **Region 1 Safety Professional of the Year**

The Region I Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Committee is accepting nominations through **March 15, 2024**.

Region I is divided into local ASSP chapters in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska & Hawaii.

Submit a nomination [here](#).



## **MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS**

Members were recently surveyed - 42 responded. Here's the data:

### **Question: Why are you a member of ASSP?**

- Building Professional Network – 40%
- ASSP Services – 24%

### **Question: What do you hope to get from ASSP CWC?**

- Expand local network of safety professionals – 28%
- Expand technical knowledge – 28%

### **Question: What would motivate you to attend Chapter meetings?**

- Learn about current topics – 41%
- Socialize and network with peers – 33%

Members prefer the current structure of one meeting per month, September through June at our current location at Brix in Tualatin, OR.

Members said networking, learning, and the chance to earn CEUs are their primary motivators.

## GOSH 2025 CONFERENCE PLANNING



### Volunteers needed!

- **Sponsorships:** Chair and committee members
- **Volunteers:** Chair and committee members
- **Awards:** Committee members

Join us as we plan the 2025 GOSH Conference with Oregon OSHA. We are in need of volunteers for the above committees.

**Please contact Brittany Johnston if you are interested! [brijoh@saif.com](mailto:brijoh@saif.com)**

***Sponsorship opportunities*** are opening soon! This is a great opportunity for your company to support the largest safety and health conference in the PNW.

## MISSED A MEETING? WE GOT YOU COVERED!



Our monthly meetings are recorded and available on our website. Check out the [recordings and accompanying slides](#).

## NEED A CAREER CHANGE?



Check out the [Job Board](#)

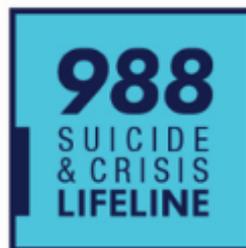
## ASSP MEMBER GET A MEMBER

The more members you recruit, the more awards you can earn - like complimentary dues renewal if two of your referrals become full members in February or March. [Refer a future member today.](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

### [988 Lifeline Chat and Text](#)

988 Lifeline Chat and Text is a service of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline), connecting individuals with crisis counselors for emotional support and other services via web chat or texting 988.



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[Get Trained To Help \(GTTH\)](#)

GTTH is a collaboration between Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties to provide a spectrum of mental health and suicide prevention trainings for individuals and organizations across the tri-county region.

