



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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Letter From the President

Exciting news -- the [2025 Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference \(GOSH\)](#) is just around the corner! Please join us **March 3-6** at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. This conference is the largest safety and health conference in the Pacific Northwest and one of the largest in the United States. With more than 170 workshops and sessions, it offers a comprehensive set of learning opportunities for employers across industries.

If you are attending on Tuesday, join us at the Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) Event, 4:30-6:30pm. [Pre-registration is required](#) for an accurate headcount. This year we are asking for a \$5 minimum donation to attend. All proceeds go directly towards supporting organizations that support women (and their children).

The success of the conference wouldn't be possible without the countless volunteer hours from our chapter members and other dedicated professionals in the safety and health community. A huge thank you for their hard work and commitment!

Don't miss out on the chance to network with your peers, expand your knowledge and of course have some fun. Spread the word within your circles and let's make this year's GOSH conference the best one yet - see you there!

Sincerely,



Brittany Johnston
President, ASSP Columbia Willamette Chapter

GOSH Conference Registration is Open!

March 3 - 6, 2025

Portland Convention Center

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Tues, March 4th @ GOSH | 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) Presents:

Networking Event:

Empower Your Potential, Bloom Where You Are

[SIGN UP NOW - RSVP REQUIRED](#)

(\$5 minimum donation to attend)



Keynote speaker: Maura Doherty, Author of *She Blooms: Finding Home After the Convent*, a Memoir

- Anyone who works in safety and health knows that the path to this career is not usually a straight line. Storyteller and author Maura Doherty shares her path from novitiate at a convent in New York to an industrial hygienist in Oregon, leveraging opportunities and building relationships along the way to professional success. Through personal stories, she shows how women can bloom wherever they are, shaping their own lives while making a difference in the lives of others
- The event will include light refreshments, awards and networking opportunities to make new connections and nurture existing ones.

Officer Nominations

2025 - 2026 Executive Board Member Candidates

2025 – 2026 Officer Nominations Electronic voting ballot March 10th – 21st



Matt
Harper,
Vice
President



Caity
Bentson,
Secretary



Jackie Boyd,
Delegate at
Large



Deb
Bridges,
Treasurer
Elect



Delta
Blurton,
Advisory
Group



Elena
Estrada,
Delegate at
Large



Ameer
Standing,
Advisory
Group

These
positions
require a
vote



These Positions Require a Vote Read about them [here](#)

- **Vice President:** Matt Harper CIH, CSP
- **Treasure-Elect:** Deb Bridges, ASP, CIT
- **Caity Bentson:** Secretary
- **Delta Blurton:** Advisory Group
- **Ameer Standing:** Advisory Group
- **Jackie Boyd:** Delegate at Large
- **Elena Estrada:** Delegate at Large

2025 - 2026 Officers (non-voting positions) Read about them [here](#)

- **President:** Nichole Guilfooy
- **President - Elect:** Kyle DeHart
- **Treasurer:** Peche Barteaux

Nominate Your Fav Safety Professional!

SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (SPY) AWARD

[Applications due March 28th](#)

- If you know an awesome safety professional please don't keep it to yourself -- nominate them to win an award.
- All Columbia Willamette Chapter, Mt St Helens Section, and Santiam Section members are eligible.

Member Spotlight

Meet *Deb Bridges*:

Professional Health & Safety Consultant and
Chapter Community Service Chair

[Read the interview](#)



Join the SOLVE April Spring Clean-up

Volunteer for the [SOLVE](#) Oregon Spring Cleanup

Sign-up info coming soon.



January 2025 Meeting Recap

At our January 9th Past Presidents' Meeting, we had a record-breaking 65 attendees—the highest turnout of the Chapter year!

We were honored to welcome back several former ASSP-CWC Presidents and had the privilege of hosting Robert Pater, Managing Director of Strategic Safety Associates and Founder of MoveSMART. His engaging presentation, "*Towards High-Level Safety Performance, Leadership, Culture & Change: Suggested Don'ts and Do's*," offered invaluable insights drawn from his decades of global experience.

Members praised his thought-provoking discussion on elevating safety culture and leadership. The energy in the room was incredible, and we are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to another successful meeting.



Pictured above from left: Brittany Johnston, ASSP-CWC President (left), Robert Pater (center), and Kyle DeHart, ASSP-CWC Vice President (right).



Past Presidents

Past Presidents pictured from left to right: Guy Silvey, Dede Montgomery, Corinna Kupelwieser, Lee Briney, Paula Jones (behind), Karen Blythe (front), Kimberly Gamble, Barbara Aguon, William Wood, Wes Lashbrook, Royal Willard, Steven Frost, Eric Fullan

Upcoming April Meeting

Oregon State Association of Occupational Health Nurses (OSAOHN)

Join us as we welcome Glen Fahs, PhD, Certified Resiliency Facilitator with the Al Siebert Resiliency Center, for an insightful presentation:

"The Resiliency Imperative: Who Survives? Who Thrives?"



- Why do some individuals and organizations successfully navigate adversity while others struggle?
- Dr. Fahs will explore the characteristics that foster resilience, the science behind overcoming challenges, and how resiliency can be learned and strengthened at any stage of life.
- This session will provide practical strategies for improving the ability to cope with everyday workplace demands and major disruptions—turning adversity into an opportunity for growth.
- Don't miss this engaging discussion on how resilience is “something you do, more than something you have.”
- Stay tuned for registration details—check our website and watch your inbox for updates!

Job Postings

Check out local and regional [job postings](#).

Membership Benefits

ASSP membership gives you access to:

- [Learning Opportunities](#)
- Insight into [Government Affairs](#)
- [Career Development Grants](#)
 - The ASSP Foundation has grant money for students and professionals who need financial support for certification expenses, conference attendance, webinar attendance, and similar professional development support. College courses are not covered.
 - Applications accepted year-round, with awards made on a rolling basis, based on availability. [Apply Now!](#)
- Member Get A Member: The more members you recruit, the more awards you can earn such as free dues renewal if two of your referrals become full members in February or March. [Refer a future member today.](#)

Your Mental Health is Important



Call or text [988](tel:988)

[24/7 free, confidential mental health hotline that connects individuals in need of support with counselors across the United States and its territories.](#)

Call or text if you are struggling with....

substance use disorder
economic worries
relationships
culture and identity
illness
intimate partner violence
depression
mental and physical illness
loneliness

Using the 988 Lifeline is free.

When you call, text, or chat the 988 Lifeline, your conversation is confidential.
The 988 Lifeline provides you judgment-free care.

Working together for a safer, stronger future

