



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE  
CHAPTER

## MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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### Letter From the President

Serving as the chapter president over the past year has been an incredible journey and absolute honor. I'm grateful for the connections we've made and the accomplishments we've achieved together. The success of GOSH 2025 was a testament to our dedication and hard work.

While this year has been successful for us as a chapter, the recent layoffs at NIOSH and across our safety and health community have negatively impacted many of us. These changes will continue to present significant challenges for our safety and health community, and our mission to protect workers' health and safety.

In response to the layoffs, ASSP has issued a Position Statement to Congress, and ASSP President Pam Walaski is encouraging all members to reach out to their congressional

representatives to continue advocating for our cause. Our Columbia Willamette Chapter will also be sending a position statement on behalf of our chapter. If you'd like to join us or learn more, please [visit our Government Affairs webpage](#).

In these challenging times, we have the opportunity to lead with our [ASSP CLEAR values](#): Community, Leadership, Excellence, Accountability, and Respect. These values should guide us in all we do and are more important now than ever. Let's continue to support each other and stay strong as a community.

Looking ahead as we gear up for the summer and preparing for our next chapter term, I invite you to [join us](#) at **TopGolf on June 6th for our Officer Installation Event**. This will be a fantastic opportunity to recognize our incoming leaders and celebrate our achievements.

**We will kick off our next chapter year in September 2025** by welcoming back Oregon OSHA Administrator, Renee Stapleton. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for all your unwavering commitment to worker safety and health. It has been an honor to serve as your president and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this incredible community.

Sincerely,



Brittany Johnston  
President, ASSP Columbia Willamette Chapter

## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

At this year's GOSH Conference in Portland keynote speaker, Dr. Sally Spencer, led a candid discussion about suicide prevention and mental health. She spoke about moving beyond a month or day for mental health to thinking about it in terms of building infrastructure and thinking proactively.

A proactive approach means providing everyday assistance - not just in a crisis or an emergency. It's about integrating mental health into work culture. To support this effort here are some resources:

- [Nami Oregon](#) (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)
- [Dr Sally Spencer](#)
- **Call or text 988:** it is a [24/7 free, confidential mental health hotline that connects individuals in need of support with counselors across the United States and its territories](#). When you call, text, or chat the 988 Lifeline, your conversation is confidential.

## Officer Election Results

### 2025 – 2026 Officer Election Results



Nichole Gullifoy,  
President



Kyle Dellar,  
President - Elect



Matt Harper,  
Vice President



Caity Bernstein,  
Secretary



Paulette Bartheaux,  
Treasurer



Debi Bridges,  
Treasurer - Elect



Delta Blurton,  
Advisory Group  
Member



Amine Standing,  
Advisory Group  
Member



Jackie Boyd,  
Delegate at Large



Elena Estrada,  
Delegate at Large



Brittany Johnston,  
1<sup>st</sup> Past President



Steven Frost,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Past President

The ASSP Columbia Willamette Chapter recently had our elections for the 2025-2026 chapter year.

[Visit our website to learn more about our elected leaders next term.](#)

## You Are Invited: TopGolf Party!

[Join us for our 2025 Officer Installation Event at Top Golf!](#)



**June 6, 2025 | 5:30 - 9:30 pm**

Appetizers and dinner provided includes gluten-free and vegan options

**Free for members - [RSVP required by May 29](#)**

**Non-members \$50**

### ***Evening Events***

5:30 pm: Welcome reception, appetizers

6:00 pm: Dinner and program including: Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award | student scholarship winners | farewell to year 2024-2025 officers | inducting incoming officers for year 2025-2026

## April & May Meeting Recap

## April Meeting



In April we partnered with the Oregon State Association of Occupational Health Nurses (OSAOHN) and welcomed Dr. Glen Fahs, PhD, Certified Resiliency Facilitator with the Al Siebert Resiliency Center. Dr. Fahs presented, *The Resiliency Imperative: Who Survives? Who Thrives*, to 50 attendees. In his talk, he demonstrated how resilience is not just an inherent trait but a learnable skill that can be strengthened to help individuals and organizations turn adversity into growth.

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## May Meeting



We collaborated with the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (PNS-AIHA) for a timely and technical session *Methylene Chloride Risk Management*. Matthew Harper, CIH, CSP, provided a thorough overview of the U.S. EPA's recent TSCA updates and their implications for worker protection and chemical risk mitigation. The session drew 32 attendees and offered a strong close to our spring programming.

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## April Social Event

- On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter hosted a lively in-person social and networking happy hour at Steeplejack Brewing Pizza & Beer in Portland – and it was a fantastic success! The event offered a laid-back space for members to connect, share experiences, and build new relationships.
- The Membership Committee provided complimentary appetizers and pizza, while attendees used conversation starter cards and casual networking activities to spark engaging discussions throughout the evening.
- Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a success – we’re looking forward to more opportunities to connect in the future!

## Member Spotlight

### **Natalie McKinley**

OSU Student, Kinesiology Major | EOH Minor  
Professional Health & Safety Consultant and  
Chapter Community Service Chair

[READ INTERVIEW](#)



**Oregon Young Employee Safety O [yes] Media Contest Winners**



Gen Z future safety professionals continue to light the path towards a bright future of worker health and safety. [View the 2025-2026 media contest winners below.](#)

#### 1st Place

Sherwood High School

[Say Oh Yes to O\[yes\]](#)

#### 2nd Place:

Parkrose High School (Portland)

[Hazards Attack](#)

#### 3rd Place

Lincoln High School (Portland)

[O\[No\]](#)

#### **Finalists Include**

Crescent Valley High School (Corvallis)

McNary High School (Keizer)

McLoughlin High School (Milton-Freewater)

Cleveland High School (Portland)

Bend Senior High School (Bend).

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#### Media Contest

- High school students across Oregon were invited to participate in our annual O[yes] Media Contest. This contest, now in its 17th year, puts a spotlight on the importance of young worker safety and health.
- This year's competition challenged participants to create either a 30- to 90-second video or graphic design that inspires young workers to take the O[yes] online Safety Awareness Training to bolster their knowledge of how to stay safe and healthy while on the job.

**O[yes] works to prevent injuries and illnesses to young workers through outreach, advocacy, and sharing of resources with young workers, educators, employers, parents, and labor organizations.**

**Local Members Featured in Professional Journal of Safety**

Members **Brian Clarke** and **Kim Gamble** (Mt St Helens Section) published an article, *Safety Professionals' Role in Contractor Quality Programs*, in [April's PSJ](#) magazine (page 15).

Member **Robert Pater's** (Columbia Willamette Chapter) article, *Driving Executive Engagement in Ergonomics*, was published in [May's PSJ magazine](#) (page 30).

Congratulations to **Todd Hudson** (Columbia Willamette Chapter member) who was recognized as the ASSP practice specialty Training & Communications Safety Professional of the Year!

## Construction Safety Study Needs Your Help!

**Interview study seeks Oregon-based construction workers reporting near misses:** ASSP member, Joaquin Diaz is seeking interview participants for his doctoral study with Walden University. Interviews will take place summer 2025.

- The new study looks at the experiences of Oregon-based construction workers in reporting near misses.
- You will be part of one 60 minute in-person, virtual or phone interview.
- The interview is not compensated and will be kept confidential.
- Learn more here or contact Joaquin Diaz at [Joaquin.diaz@waldenu.edu](mailto:Joaquin.diaz@waldenu.edu).

## GOSH Conference Was A Success!

**This year's GOSH Conference had over 1300 attendees and 200 speakers.**

[For more details of the event check out our website.](#)



Pictured above, keynote speaker, [Dr. Sally Spencer Thomas](#), who gave a powerful presentation on mental health and suicide prevention.

## See You in September!

We're taking a summer break to plan for our next chapter year! See you at our next chapter meeting on September 11, 2025 with Oregon OSHA Administrator, Renee Stapleton.

We will continue our tradition of kicking off our new year with an Oregon OSHA update! We will continue with our lunch meetings at Brix Tavern in Tualatin. We hope to see you there!

## Job Postings

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

## Membership Benefits

Did you know ASSP offers support for members going through hard times? **The ASSP Hardship Support Program** offers one year of complimentary membership to support members during challenging times.

Email [customerservice@assp.org](mailto:customerservice@assp.org) or call 1-847-699-2929 to learn more about the program.

*More ASSP Membership Bennies.....*

- [Learning Opportunities](#)
- Insight into [Government Affairs](#)
- [Career Development Grants](#)
- [Member Get A Member](#) - recruit new members, get some swag

**Working together for a safer, stronger future**

