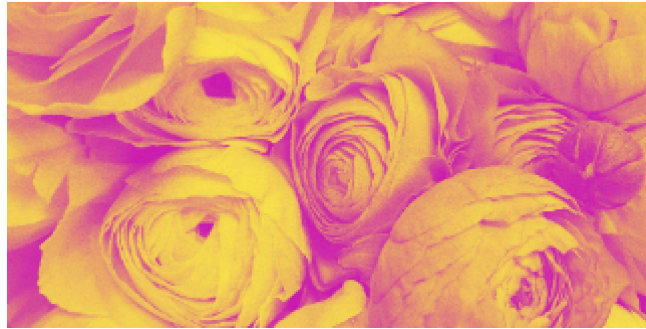




COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
CHAPTER

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

We are now approaching an important milestone of the year -- elections time! This is your opportunity to help shape the future direction of our chapter. Whether you are interested in serving in a leadership role or participating in the voting process, your involvement matters. Participating in a board or a committee offers meaningful professional growth, leadership development, and the chance to influence how we support safety professionals throughout our region. I strongly encourage you to consider stepping forward or supporting your fellow members through your vote.

Please join us at the next monthly meeting and introduce yourself - we are a warm and friendly group! Our collective impact grows when we connect, collaborate, and

share knowledge. Together, we will continue building a strong, forward-thinking safety community that protects workers and elevates the profession across the Columbia-Willamette region. Thank you for your continued commitment and leadership.

Sincerely,
Nicole Guilfoy
President, ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter





CHAPTER ELECTIONS 2026 - 2027

Election slate for 2026 - 2027 is here! Keep an eye out for an electronic voting ballot in your email the first week of March!

Election Slate
(these open positions require a vote)

[Read full bios](#)

| Vice President Peche Barteaux | Secretary Caity Benston |
|---|--|
|  |  |

Advisory Group Positions
Nicole Helms (left) & Anthony Barrueta-Digesti (right)



Delegate at Large

Lauren Allen (left) & Vanessa Curtis (right)



Treasurer Elect

Karry Byun



These positions are not voted on:

- President: Kyle DeHart
- President Elect: Open - April/May special election
- Treasurer: Deb Bridges
- 1st Past President (Elections): Nichole Guilfoy
- 2nd Past President (Bylaws): Brittany Johnston

SPRING SOCIAL EVENT SURVEY



[Click Here for Survey](#)

We're planning a spring social networking event for April or May. If you are interested in attending, please complete this short survey to help us choose a date, time, and location.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Brittany at brijoh@saif.com. Hope to see you there!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Oregon State University ASSP Student Section

[Read Full Article](#)



Did you know the ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter has an active student section at OSU in Corvallis? The Oregon State University ASSP Student Section continues to bring heart, energy, and passion to our regional safety community.

MONTHLY MEETING RECAP

January Meeting Recap

Our chapter's January meeting honored Past Presidents who have helped shape our chapter. Our featured speaker, [Ergonomist Serafine Lilien](#), delivered an engaging and forward-looking presentation on emerging trends and key topics in ergonomics.



Pictured above: Guest speaker Serafine Lilien (L) and President Nichole Guilfooy (R)



Pictured above: Past Presidents

February Meeting Recap

In February, we held our annual joint chapter meeting with the [Risk Management Society \(RIMS\) Oregon Chapter](#) at the Sentinel Hotel in downtown Portland. The session focused on best practices in fleet and safety risk management; featuring a dynamic panel discussion with Myles Byrd, Hi-Tech Safety Director, Hoffman Construction Company and Charlie Emerson, Safety Director, NW Natural Gas.



Pictured above (L to R): Matt Harper, Chapter Vice President; Myles Byrd, Hoffman Construction; Nichole Guilfooy, Chapter President and Charlie Emerson, NW Natural Gas.

*Thank you to everyone who joined us –
we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!*

NOMINATE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Do you know a talented and amazing safety professional who deserves recognition for their outstanding leadership and service?

Applications now open, closing March 13, 2026.

[Nominate](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mt. St. Helens Chapter

Spring 2026 Professional Development Conference

March 17 - 18th | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Kelso-Longview Elks Lodge

Full conference registration \$125 | single day sessions \$75

[REGISTER](#)

 **Mt St Helens
Section**

Join us for two days of
quality programming
for safety professionals
and field staff.

NFPA 70-E CERTIFICATE

**HEAT ILLNESS &
WILDFIRE SMOKE
PREVENTION**

**TRENCHING &
EXCAVATION SAFETY**

**EFFECTIVE
SAFETY LEADERSHIP**

OUR MISSION
We strive to provide the
highest quality safety training
and education to assist you in
advancing your skills,
knowledge and abilities in
your field.

**2026
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE**

JOIN US

**MARCH 17-18, 2026
8 AM - 4:30 PM**

Kelso-Longview Elks Lodge
900 Ash St., Kelso, WA

**COST: \$75 one-day
\$125 for both days**
(includes training, books, and lunch)

Scan the QR Code to Register.



Or visit
www.aspp.org/mst-helens-section

For Info Call
509.421.3495

Topics offered include:

NFPA 70-E certificate | Competent person certificate for Trenching & Excavation | Wildfire Smoke Exposure & Heat Illness Prevention updates

**Cascade Chapter
Occupational Safety & Health Conference**
March 3-4, 2026 in Eugene, OR

[REGISTER](#)



Topics offered include:

- HR: Legal Updates, Respectful Workplaces, and Delegation
- De-Escalation Techniques | Behavior-Based Safety and Culture
- Intro to First Aid | Body Mechanics and Lifting
- OSHA Inspections and Consultations | Fall Protection | Emergency Response
- Confined Space | Electrical Safety | Heat Stress | Safety Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

Thank You For December Donations

Thank you again to everyone who brought gifts to the December meeting or donated online and volunteered for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Food Bank and the Sunshine Division. Our chapter donated \$280 dollars to the Oregon Food Bank.



Pictured Above: Deb Bridges with donated toys

Upcoming April Opportunity to Give Back! Save the Date!

Our final community service event will be held in April in conjunction with [SOLVE](#). Stay tuned, we will post the date on the website and announce it at the March member meeting.

Thank you for your support of these important organizations in our community and please feel free to give us any feedback on your experience.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Learning Opportunities

ASSP's Practice Specialty and Common Interest Groups offer free webinars with free CEUs—and now you can join as many groups as you'd like at no extra cost!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Job Postings

Working together for a safer, stronger future



If you do not wish to receive these emails, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe from ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter messages.

American Society of Safety Professionals | 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068