



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
CHAPTER

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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IN MEMORIAM: LONGVIEW STRONG



Support the Longview Families

On May 26, 2026, our safety community suffered a profound loss when 11 workers lost their lives in the catastrophic incident at Nippon Dynawave in Longview, Washington.

Many of us knew individuals directly affected by this tragedy or work alongside those whose lives have been forever changed. While investigations will continue and lessons will undoubtedly emerge, our first responsibility is to remember the people behind the headlines, workers, family members, friends, and colleagues whose absence will be deeply felt.

As safety professionals, incidents like these remind us why our profession exists. Every policy we develop, every hazard we identify, every difficult conversation we have, and every improvement we make is ultimately about ensuring that workers return home safely to their families.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends, coworkers, and the entire Longview community.

ASSP Columbia Willamette Chapter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As I begin my term as President of the Columbia-Willamette Chapter, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and engagement. It is an honor to serve a chapter with such a strong tradition of leadership, volunteerism, and commitment to advancing the safety profession.

I am excited about the year before us! Our board and committee chairs are already hard at work planning technical meetings, professional development opportunities, networking events, community service initiatives, and GOSH 2027.

Whether you've been a member for years or recently joined the chapter, I encourage you to get involved in any way you can; our chapter is strongest when members share their experience and talent with everyone!

Thank you for being part of the Columbia-Willamette Chapter. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the coming year as we continue working together to advance our profession and make our workplaces safer.



Kyle DeHart, M.S., CIH, CSP
President, 2026 – 2027
ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter

LET'S KICK OFF
THE 2026 - 2027 CHAPTER YEAR TOGETHER



Join fellow ASSP members for a relaxed, family-friendly networking social at the [BG's Food Cartel](#) in Beaverton.

Come reconnect with peers, meet new people in the profession, and help us kick off the 2026–2027 chapter year. Whether you're a regular attendee or haven't joined us in a while, we'd love to see you there.

Complete our [brief two-question survey](#) to help us plan the event.

WILD TIMES @ THE ZOO (OFFICER INSTALLATION DINNER)



Members, guests, and supporters gathered at the Oregon Zoo in June to celebrate another successful chapter year and officially install the 2026 – 2027 Columbia-Willamette Chapter leadership team.

The evening recognized the accomplishments of our outgoing officers and committee chairs while welcoming a new leadership team committed to advancing the chapter's mission.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this memorable evening and helped celebrate the volunteers who make our chapter one of the strongest in ASSP.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Free
Professional Development Conference (PDC):
Warehouse Safety & Hazards

Friday, September 18th



[Register](#)

We are excited to partner with Georgia Tech's OSHA Training Institute Education Center to bring you this free professional development opportunity!

Topics include:

- Recognition of warehouse safety hazards and prevention strategies
- Powered industrial truck (forklift) safety and operator responsibilities
- Ergonomic principles and safe material handling practices
- Chemical hazards and thermal stress risk assessment and control strategies.

This event qualifies as an ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter Professional Development Conference (PDC). Attendees may self-report applicable continuing education credits toward maintaining professional certifications, as appropriate.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Marta Szabatin, MPH, CPH
Environmental Compliance Officer
Environmental Health & Safety | OHSU
[Read Full Interview](#)

WISE WEDNESDAY HIKE IN AUGUST - SAVE THE DATE

Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) Group Hike



Join us for a WISE Wednesday group hike! This is a great opportunity to get out in nature, connect with others, and build your professional network in an informal setting. Following the hike, we'll continue the conversation over an optional no-host dinner at Si Señor – a chance to deepen connections and enjoy additional networking time.

This event is open to everyone – current WISE members, those interested in learning more about WISE, and WISE Guys alike. All are welcome!

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, August 12th

Time: 4:30-8:30PM

Meeting location: SAIF Lake Oswego parking lot (2 Centerpointe Dr, Lake Oswego, OR 97035) at 4:30PM to arrange carpools to the trailhead.

Hike Location:

Springbrook Park
2899 SW Diane Dr
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Trail Information:
Springbrook Park Loop

OMSI AFTER DARK NETWORKING EVENT RECAP



On May 27, Columbia-Willamette members gathered at OMSI After Dark for an evening of networking, conversation, and exploration. The event provided members with a relaxed opportunity to connect with fellow safety professionals while enjoying one of Portland's premier science museums.

Attendees explored OMSI's interactive exhibits, visited with colleagues from across the region, and strengthened the professional relationships that make

our Chapter such a valuable community. Thank you to everyone who joined us for a fun evening of networking.

2026 SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (SPY)

Naomi Hernandez-Parada, ASP | SAIF



This prestigious award recognizes Naomi's commitment to advancing workplace safety; dedication to the profession, and her meaningful contributions to both ASSP and the occupational safety and health community. Please join us in congratulating Naomi on this well-deserved recognition.

MT. ST HELENS SECTION OFFICER INSTALLATION



The Columbia-Willamette Chapter congratulates the Mt. St. Helens Section on the installation of its 2026 – 2027 officers. We appreciate the section's continued commitment to serving safety professionals throughout Southwest

Washington and look forward to another year of collaboration.
Congratulations to the incoming section leadership, and best wishes for a successful chapter year!

SANTIAM SECTION OFFICER INSTALLATION

The Columbia-Willamette Chapter extends its congratulations to the Santiam Section on the installation of its 2026 – 2027 officers. The installation ceremony recognized the section's dedicated volunteers and welcomed a new leadership team committed to advancing the safety profession throughout the Mid-Willamette Valley.

We appreciate the Santiam Section's continued partnership with the Columbia-Willamette Chapter and look forward to another year of collaboration in serving safety professionals across Oregon. Congratulations to the incoming section officers, and best wishes for a successful and impactful chapter year!

OREGON YOUNG EMPLOYEES CONTEST WINNERS



[Watch the winning videos](#)

High school students across Oregon were invited to participate in our annual O[yes] Media Contest. This contest, now in its 18th 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 OR-OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Training to bolster their knowledge of how to stay safe and healthy while on the job, especially during the summer months.

This year's finalists came from high schools around the state:

- Crescent Valley High School (Corvallis)
- Parkrose High School (Portland)
- McLoughlin High School (Milton-Freewater)
- Henley High School (Klamath Falls)
- The Dalles High School
- Centennial High School (Gresham)
- Center for Advanced Learning (Gresham)
- Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences (Oregon City)
- Bend Senior High School

CONGRATULATIONS 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Each year, the Columbia-Willamette chapter proudly supports the next generation of safety professionals through our scholarship program. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

- Peche Barteaux, B.S., GSP – Columbia-Willamette Chapter Leadership Award

- Natalie McKinley – Walter G. Thorsell Memorial Scholarship

We congratulate both recipients on their accomplishments and wish them continued success in their academic and professional careers.



Pictured above, Peche Barteaux



Pictured above Natalie McKinley

MAY CHAPTER MEETING EXPLORES THE HIDDEN COSTS OF LOSS



The Columbia-Willamette Chapter welcomed members in May for an engaging presentation by Brian Clarke, who challenged attendees to rethink how organizations prioritize their loss prevention efforts.

Thank you to Brian for sharing his expertise and to everyone who attended another outstanding chapter meeting!

COMMUNITY SERVICE WRAP UP



From Deb Bridges: Community Service Committee Chair (pictured at top):

The 2025 - 2026 chapter year was another success for the Community Service Committee! Chapter members had numerous opportunities to donate to local organizations or to volunteer time. Here is a recap of the year:

- **October 2025** | We partnered with Chelsea's Closet raising \$165 in monetary donations and a number of costumes donated.
- **December 2025**
 - Chapter members had a number of choices: donations of toys to Doernbecher Children's Hospital, monetary donations to Oregon Food Bank, or volunteering for Sunshine Division delivering food boxes.

- The toy table was full at the December meeting and \$280 for Oregon Food Bank.
- **April 2026** | We gathered to celebrate Earth Day at a local SOLVE event. We assisted in a clean-up at Harriet Tubman Middle School and surrounding areas and celebrated with lunch afterwards.

GOSH 2027 IS COMING: MARCH 1 - 4

Mark Your Calendars: GOSH 2027

- [The Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health \(GOSH\) Conference](#) returns to the Oregon Convention Center in Portland March 1 – 4, 2027. As one of the Pacific Northwest's premier workplace safety and health conferences, GOSH brings together more than 2,000 safety professionals, business leaders, students, exhibitors, and industry experts for four days of education, networking, and professional development.

Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

- Planning is already underway, and sponsorship opportunities are now available. Sponsoring GOSH is an excellent way to demonstrate your organization's commitment to workplace safety and health while gaining visibility before and during the conference. Sponsorship levels range from Bronze (\$250) to Diamond (\$7,500+). Organizations interested in supporting GOSH 2027 are encouraged to [contact Deb Bridges, GOSH Sponsorship Committee Chair](#), to learn more about available sponsorship opportunities.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED?

We can always use your expertise and experience to support the chapter! Please feel free to stop and chat at the next meeting or email any of the board members. We have room for people to serve on committees, assist with events, mentor students, and help advance our profession.

Working together for a safer, stronger future

