

Welcome



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

September Membership Meeting

September 10, 2026

Kyle DeHart, CIH, CSP
Chapter President



Your Chapter Leadership

Kyle DeHart

President

Carmen Castellon Mercado

President-Elect / Professional Development

Peché Barteaux

Vice President / Programs

Caity Benston

Secretary

Deb Bridges and Kerry Byun

Treasurers

Nichole Guilfoy

1st Past President / Nominations & Elections

Brittany Johnston

2nd Past President / Membership

Bylaws / Webmaster

Anthony Barrueta-Digesti / Nicole Helms

Advisory Group

Lauren Allen and Vanessa Curtis

Delegates-at-Large

Contact information: cwc.assp.org/chapter-officers/



Committee Contacts

Jackie Boyd

WISE

Kathryn Ewing

Jobs

Todd Hudson

Mentorship

Rachel Madjlesi

Scholarships

Steve Barrett

Student Affairs

Barbara Aguon

Awards & Honors

Deb Bridges and Paula Jones

Community Service

Terra Wheeler

Newsletter

Linda Chambers Spaulding

Public Relations

Not sure who to ask? Start with any chapter officer.



Volunteer With Us!

A small commitment can make a difference

Help at a meeting or event. Welcome a new member. Share a topic or article.

There is a place for your interests

Mentorship, student connections, community service, WISE and GOSH 2027.

Let's find a role that fits

Talk with Kyle, any officer, or connect with a committee chair.

cwc.assp.org/chapter-officers/



Our 2026–2027 Chapter Goals

1. A successful GOSH 2027

By March 4: support 1,250+ attendees, \$35,000+ in cash sponsorships and sale of all marketable exhibit space.

2. A structured partnership with OSU

By June 30: a shared student-section plan, student-dues support, at least two professional-development connections and GOSH involvement.

3. More ways for members to participate

By June 30: expand social events and accessible pathways into mentorship, volunteering, community service and chapter contributions.



2026–2027 Budget at a Glance

Budget resources	Amount
Operating funds	\$31,879.22
Projected income	\$19,900.78
Total resources	\$51,780.00
Planned expenses	\$51,780.00

Selected planned investments

Meeting meals: \$15,000
Installation banquet: \$7,250
Membership: \$2,000
WISE: \$1,500
Student support: \$1,000

Full budget copies are on the tables.
Questions welcome. No member vote is needed.





OREGON GOVERNOR'S OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH CONFERENCE

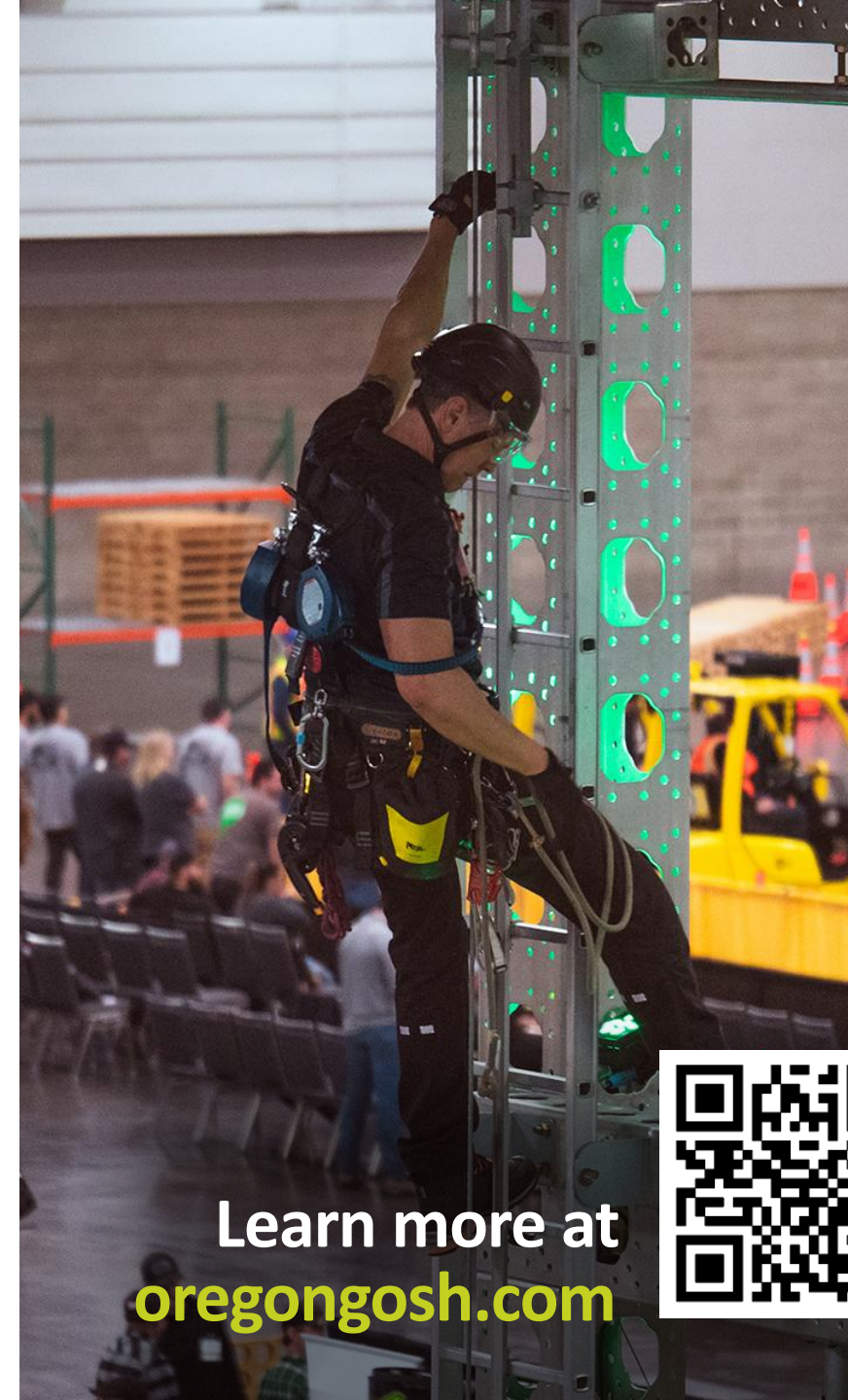


March 1-4, 2027



Oregon Convention Center
Portland, OR

- **ATTEND** important workplace safety and health training
- **NETWORK** with EHS practitioners and safety committee members
- **SHARE** products and services by exhibiting
- **SUPPORT** with sponsorship or your time as a volunteer
- **HONOR** individuals/groups for their safety and health excellence (Awards nominations due 10/12/26)
- **COMPETE** in the Columbia Forklift Challenge!



Learn more at
oregongosh.com



Thank You, GOSH 2027 Sponsors

DIAMOND



GOLD



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NORTHWEST
LLC



GOSH 2027: Sponsorships & Exhibits

Become a sponsor

Opportunities begin at \$250. Help keep the conference affordable.
oregongosh.com/support

Reserve exhibit space

Booth registration is open. Connect your organization with the safety community.
oregongosh.com/exhibit

Help spread the word

Share these opportunities with your employer, vendors and professional network.



Introducing the Member Engagement Passport!

Every meeting, event, or volunteer opportunity you attend earns you points toward our chapter leaderboard — no forms to chase down, no spreadsheets to fill out.

Just scan, fill out, submit, and you're counted.

- 5 points - Earn an ASSP Swag Bag*
- 10 points by Dec. 1 - Entry into a drawing for one of three \$25 gift cards*
- Top 5 by Dec. 1 - Entry into a drawing for a \$50 gift card
- 20 points by Apr. 1 - Entry into a drawing for one of three \$50 gift cards*
- Top 5 by Apr. 1 - Entry into a drawing for a \$75 gift card
- Top 3 by June 1 - “Most Engaged” Grand Prize Winners (+ bragging rights!)

**Officers and Committee Chairs eligible. Separate drawing for top officer/chair at year-end.*

*Learn more on the
Passport webpage:*



Networking Social at BGs Food Carts

Join us for a family-friendly event to kickoff the chapter year!

Wed, September 23rd

5:00-7:30pm

BG's Food Cartel (food carts) in Beaverton

RSVP @ CWC website



Join us for an optional cornhole tournament for prizes and friendly competition!

All skill levels welcome! Kids over 10 can pair-up with a parent!

Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place teams

Join us and earn 2 points on your Engagement Passport!



Congratulations, Lauren!



Lauren Allen, CHST

**Construction Health and
Safety Technician**

Congratulations on earning
your new credential!



Congratulations, Robert!



LEADING THOUGHTS

FIVE STEPS TO GALVANIZING INTERNAL SAFETY LEADERS

By Robert Pater

Have you wondered why people do not act more safely in their own interest? Wise leaders accept that resistance commonly rebounds against their expectations that tasks be done differently.

Robert Pater is Founder/Managing Director of MovesSMART. Clients in more than 23 countries have included Airgas, American Airlines, BHP Billiton, BMW, BP, BorgWarner, Cummins, Cushman & Wakefield, Dometic, DuPont, Hawaiian Airlines, Honda, Honda Canada, JELD-WEN, Keolis, Kinross/ Round Mountain Gold, Kloeckner Metals, Marathon Oil, Michelin, MSC Industrial Supply, Nissan, Nutrien, ONE Gas, Rio Tinto, Solventum, Superior Propane, Teetron, Thermo-Tru, United Airlines, U.S. Steel, Wacker, WestRock and many others. Pater is a professional member of ASSP's Columbia-Willamette Chapter.

Reflexive opposition often accompanies improvement processes as change always involves loss of some kind. In his book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas Kuhn (2012) observes that paradigm shifts for solving problems progress through recognizable stages, defining "revolutions" as "changes of worldview." While focused on steps in scientific thinking or approaches, Kuhn's work reflects overall human nature, applying to any field where leaders seek to break through those mental ceilings that limit improvements. His work is about understanding the denial, resistance, grudging consideration and then embracement phases of changing mindsets, and much of it applies to rising performance and cultural safety.

Generally, I am excited when I am questioned or even-temperately challenged about my presentations or writings; this is a great way to examine my own assumptions for biases or limited knowledge and to hopefully continue to hone my approaches. In fact, a clear purpose of this article series is to encourage ideas and generate reactions—hopefully toward shaking off the rust of "we've been doing it this way, even though it's honestly not showing the results we'd like"—and moving toward ever-heightening actual safety.

I have found that leaders who are receptive to challenge consistently promote more creative solutions and heighten psychological safety. Defensiveness or counterattacks shut down honest feedback and reports of near misses or "hidable" incidents. The key, especially in these times, is to listen with an open mind to receive others' contrary perceptions and ideas with curiosity and calm, truly weighing them for what I might learn. As organizational leadership expert Gordon Lippitt (1982) explains, as a rule, the leader should look at the issues coldly and at the people involved warmly.

I received a comment after posting articles about our global experiences in developing internal safety catalysts (see Pater, 2023b). The comment stated:

The concept of unleashing internal safety leaders looks simple until organizational silos appear. I've noticed in infrastructure deployments that grassroots adoption stalls when middle layers lack authority to act. Curious how you balance empowerment with accountability when developing these leaders across different organizational levels without creating conflicting directives?

While I spent much time considering that question, it stimulated thinking. From our core work

with predominantly larger companies worldwide in numerous sectors, I have certainly found that nothing is simple when it comes to implementing and nurturing organizational change, especially when addressing or overcoming longstanding issues. Organizational leaders are smart and experienced overall. If making and sustaining lasting, significant changes were simple, this article would not be necessary. Persistent problems typically signify multiple, often underlying contributors. And in our experience, conflicting directives are par for the organizational course and can never be eliminated, only worked with, redirected, mediated or reduced as obstacles, among other interventions.

However, insightful and strategic change agents can make it easier for others to become more successful—in this case, helping heighten safety leadership system-wide. We have seen what we term "scissors leadership" serve as a highly efficient approach to upgrading safety performance or injury reductions along with culture. In this case, "scissors" means cutting through safety blockages not just by managers at various levels top-down, nor merely by empowering grassroots peer-leaders bottom-up, but both, akin to scissor blades coming together to efficiently slice through thick cardboard, simultaneously boosting safety leaders top-down and bottom-up.

Why Internal Safety Leaders?

We have found that creating safety leaders has two benefits: elevating performance (injury prevention) and cultivating culture. Recently, many companies have embraced this approach both within their executive ranks and with selected grassroots workers. There are many advantages to developing a core of internal safety catalysts to, in turn, train, converse with, or coach and sustainably reinforce workers that go well beyond the traditional, predominantly top-down model of safety implementation.

1) **Continuously engender upgraded safety mindsets and transfer skill sets within the company.** This encourages everyone to more willingly embrace, rather than just try to (sometimes reluctantly) memorize or follow safety directives they may not wholeheartedly embrace.

2) **Ease of scheduling.** This means not having to rely on the availability of outside resources that must also be expensed.

3) **Provide flexibility.** Reach those who may have missed initial training due to absence or inability to be released from work tasks. Internal safety catalysts are

Robert Pater

Five Steps to Galvanizing Internal Safety Leaders

Professional Safety
September 2026, pages 12–15

Thank you for sharing your expertise with the safety profession.



WISE Group Hike – August 12



Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) Fall Symposium



Join us for a morning of learning, connection and inspiration.

**Wednesday, October 14th, 9:00am-12:00pm at SAIF Lake Oswego
office**

Cost: \$39 for ASSP members and \$49 for non-ASSP members

Registration required by: Friday, October 9th at 5pm



Limited to 50 participants



Women in Safety Excellence (WISE)



Stay up to date with WISE



Questions about WISE?
Email Jackie at
wise@cwccassp.org

<https://cwccassp.org/chapterwise/>



Santiam Section Fall PDC

Fall Protection Training

Thursday, October 29, 2026

8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Broadway Commons, Salem
1300 Broadway St. NE, Rooms 206/207

\$150 per person

\$125 each for groups of 5+

Continental breakfast included

Registration deadline: October 19

Details and registration: cwc.assp.org



Dustin Schneider, CHST, QSSP
SureWerx

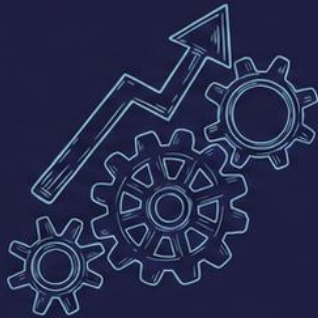


Please take a quick survey about today's meeting!



Next month: October 8

Hard Hats & Hard Truths: Leadership in the Moments that Matter



Membership Meeting
October 8th, 2026
11am - 1pm | Brix Tualatin

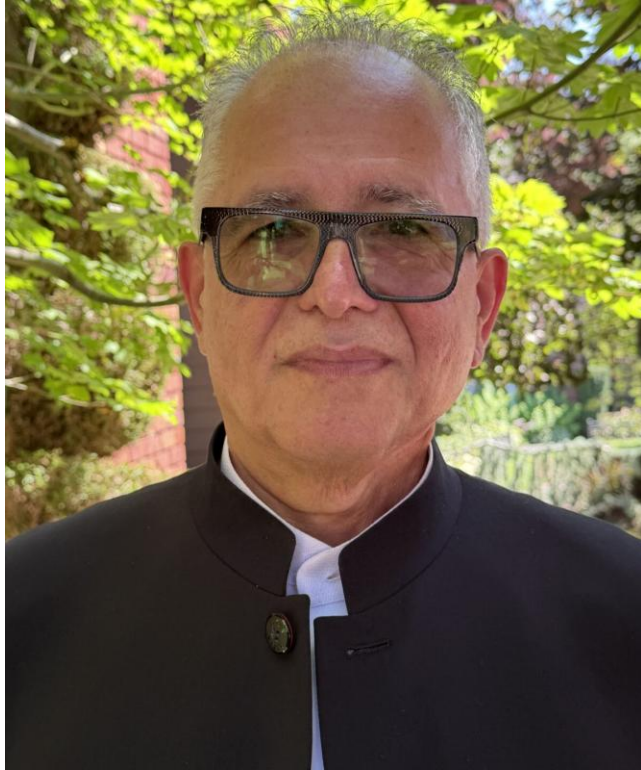
*Featuring Speaker Rob Dahl, CHST
Director of Corporate Health & Safety
Ness Campbell*



Registration and details: cwc.assp.org



Today's speaker



Dr. Javid Mohtasham

Managing Director, AM/JM, LLC

Building the EHS Workforce

**How College Programs Benefit
Students, Industry, and Communities**

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Mohtasham.

