



COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE
CHAPTER

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Chapter Members,

As cooler mornings, changing leaves, and familiar rain welcome us into fall, I hope you're finding time to reconnect; with colleagues, with our chapter, and with the professional community that supports the work we do every day. The changing seasons also offer an opportunity to reflect on where we're headed and how each of us can contribute.

At our Annual Planning Meeting, chapter leaders established three priorities for the 2026 – 2027 year: supporting a successful GOSH 2027, building a more structured partnership with our Oregon State University Student Section, and creating more ways

for members to participate through mentorship, volunteering, community service, and professional connections.

Our volunteers are already putting those priorities into action. The new Member Engagement Passport recognizes participation across the chapter and our sections, our sold-out September Warehouse Safety PDC brought members together for practical learning, and planning for GOSH is well underway. These efforts reflect the time and care our volunteers invest in making membership valuable.

I encourage you to take an active part in what comes next. Attend a meeting, bring a colleague, share your expertise, join or chair a committee, or consider running for a chapter office position. Get to know our [chapter leaders](#) and let us know what interests you. Your ideas and experience can help shape the chapter's future.

I also have a specific request: **please help us spread the word about GOSH 2027**. The Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference returns to the Oregon Convention Center March 1 – 4, 2027. As both chapter president and conference chair, I'm asking members to share sponsorship, exhibitor, and attendance opportunities with their employers, vendors, and professional networks. A conversation or introduction from you can open a door our planning team might otherwise never reach. Visit oregongosh.com to learn more, and reach out if you can help.

Thank you to everyone contributing to this chapter, whether you're serving in a leadership role or joining us for your first meeting. I'm grateful to be part of this community and look forward to seeing you this fall.



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

NOVEMBER MEETING OR-OSHA ADMINISTRATOR RENEE STAPLETON

Oregon OSHA Update @ November Meeting!



[Register Here](#)

Doors Open/Networking 11:00 am | Buffet Lunch Served 11:15 am
Introductions/Announcement 11:40 am | Presentation 12 - 1 pm

Hear directly from Oregon OSHA Administrator, Renee Stapleton, about current and future regulatory events in Oregon. For Oregon safety professionals, it is the *State of the State Safety Programs* address. She will be talking about both federal and state activities as they relate to occupational safety and health.

GOSH CONFERENCE IS COMING - MARCH 2027

[Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health \(GOSH\) Conference](#)

When: March 1 - 4, 2027 | **Where:** Oregon Convention Center



Why Should You Attend?

- Relevant, affordable learning
- Discover best practices to implement
- Encounter new vendors and suppliers
- Reconnect and share ideas with your peers

[**SPONSOR**](#)

or

[**EXHIBIT AT THE CONFERENCE**](#)

Sponsoring or exhibiting at GOSH is an excellent way to demonstrate your organization's commitment to workplace safety and health while gaining visibility before and during the conference.

GOSH Sponsorship levels range from Bronze (\$250) to Diamond (\$7,500+). Organizations interested in supporting, or exhibiting at, GOSH 2027 are encouraged to visit the [GOSH sponsor](#) and/or [exhibit pages](#) on the GOSH website to learn more about available opportunities.



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT PASSPORT

[Learn More and Enroll](#)

The Engagement Passport program recognizes all the different ways members engage with the chapter.

Get points & free swag for going to meetings, networking or signing up for a class!





At our October chapter meeting, we recognized **8 members** who reached the **5-point milestone** and earned an ASSP swag bag through the Member Engagement Passport program.

Whether you attend a meeting, volunteer, serve on a committee, bring a guest, or participate in chapter activities, there are plenty of opportunities to earn points and be recognized.

VIRTUAL MEETUP FOR NEW MEMBERS

[Virtual New Member Meetups! – ASSP Columbia Willamette Chapter](#)

Join us for a casual 30-minute virtual gathering, meet a few chapter leaders, connect with other newer members, ask questions, and share what you'd like to get out of your membership.

Lunch Meetup: Monday, November 16 | 12–12:30 p.m.

Morning Meetup: Friday, December 4 | 8–8:30 a.m.

NETWORKING EVENT RECAP

Food Cart Fun

[More events are on the way!](#)



Food, cornhole, networking, and prizes... what better way to start the chapter year? Members gathered at the BG Food Carts to connect, compete, and have fun, with six cornhole teams and several raffle winners heading home with prizes.

Join events like this and earn Member Engagement Passport points and make friends too!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - ANTHONY BARRUETA DIGESTI



Anthony Barrueta Digesti

Get to know Anthony, one of our newest chapter volunteers and an ASSP Advisory Group member. Learn more about his background, what drew him to the safety profession, and his involvement with the Columbia Willamette Chapter in this month's [Member Spotlight](#).

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER MEETING RECAP

Our first two membership meetings of the chapter year explored two connected priorities:

- Preparing the next generation of safety professionals
- Strengthening the leadership that protects works today

September Meeting

Building the EHS Workforce: How College Programs Benefit Students, Industry, and Communities

Presented by: Dr. Javid Mohtasham, PhD, Director, AM/JM, LLC & former Director, Mt. Hood Community College EHS program.



(Pictured above from left: Peche Barteaux, chapter Vice President,
Javid Mohtasham, Kyle DeHart, chapter president)

- For more than two decades, Dr. Mohtasham worked tirelessly teaching students in the classroom and helping them become safety professionals. He has mentored many people through the years and remains dedicated to their success.
- His presentation highlighted how college EHS programs connect students with practical training, internships, and career opportunities while helping employers develop a skilled workforce.
- He underscored the value of investing in safety education: students gain pathways into meaningful careers, employers gain capable professionals, and communities benefit from stronger workplace protections.

October Meeting

Hard Hats & Hard Truths

Presented by: Rob Dahl, CHST, Director of Corporate Health & Safety
at NessCampbell Crane + Rigging.



(Pictured above from left: Kyle DeHart, chapter president,
Rob Dahl & Peche Barteaux, Vice President)

- Drawing on experience in construction safety and the fire service, Rob explored how production pressure, changing conditions, and everyday behaviors can allow risk to become accepted.
- His message emphasized the importance of leaders being present, recognizing these moments, and having the courage to act. The session brought attention to the decisions and conversations that turn safety expectations into daily practice.
- October also brought some Halloween fun, with inflatable costumes, including a traffic cone and a “Safety to the Bone” skeleton, adding a little seasonal spirit to the meeting!

Santiam Section Fall PDC: Fall Protection Training



Santiam Section -- Fall Protection Training

[View details and register](#)

October 29, 2026 | 8 am - 4:30 pm

Location: 1300 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR

Cost: \$150 | Workshop qualifies for 0.6 CEUs (BCSP)*

**breakfast included*

- Join the Santiam Section on Thursday, October 29, 2026 for a full day of fall protection training with Dustin Schneider, CHST, QSSP, of SureWerx.
- This interactive session will provide practical strategies for addressing workplace fall protection challenges and strengthening your approach to worker protection. Participants will also have the opportunity to earn a Competent Equipment Inspector Certification by successfully completing a post-training quiz.
- Bring a colleague or your safety team for a day of learning and connection with other safety professionals.

OREGON YOUNG EMPLOYEES - SAFETY COURSE CONTEST

Media Contest for High school Students Across Oregon

[Media Contest – O\[yes\]](#)



Now in its 19th year, this contest puts a spotlight on the importance of young worker safety and health, with a focus this year on staying safe in the heat.

Students create either a short video or graphic design that inspires young workers to take Oregon OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention Training to increase awareness of how to stay safe and healthy while on the job, especially during the summer months.

SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

Know any SPYs? Don't Keep em' a Secret!



[Submit a SPY Nomination Now!](#)

Deadline is March 13, 2027

The Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award recognizes chapter members whose leadership, service, or commitment to protecting workers deserves recognition!

This award celebrates a member's contributions to the safety and health profession, Chapter activities, community service, education, and technical advancement. Contributions can include mentoring others, developing effective programs, sharing expertise, and helping advance injury and illness prevention.

Eligible nominees must be Professional Members, Members, or Associate Members of ASSP; belong to the Columbia-Willamette Chapter; work full time in the safety and health profession; and have not received a SPY award within the past five years.

Questions? Contact Barbara Aguon at (503) 720-1153.

SCHOLARSHIP & CAREER DEVELOPMENT GRANTS



Applications Now Open through 2/15/27

[Scholarships & Grants page](#)

Available academic awards include:

ASSP Columbia-Willamette Chapter Leadership Award - \$750

Water G. Thorsell Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500

ASSP Foundation Academic Scholarship - 1,500

Career & Professional Development Grants

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Looking for support with your own professional development?

- ASSP Foundation Career Development Grants accept applications year-round and can help with eligible certification expenses, conference attendance, and other professional learning opportunities. Awards depend on available funding and applicable eligibility criteria.

COMMUNITY SERVICE FALL UPDATE

[Chelsea Hicks Foundation](#)

Thanks to everyone who donated to Chelsea Hicks Foundation at the October meeting. If you missed the meeting you can still donate, use the QR code:



Chelsea's Closet is a rolling dress-up closet that brings therapeutic healing, magical moments, and comforting escapism to seriously ill children in local

hospitals. Through imaginative play, our program helps children play, pretend, and laugh—inspiring hope and healing during some of their most difficult days.

[December volunteer/donation opportunities](#)

[Doernbecher Children's Hospital](#) | [Oregon Food Bank](#) | [Sunshine Division](#)

INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED?

Volunteer Opportunities

Consider putting your name forward or encouraging a fellow member whose perspective and experience would benefit the chapter.

Explore our Volunteer Opportunities and email elections@cw.cassp.org with questions or interest in serving.

Have a topic, article, or Chapter update to share? Send it to updates@cw.cassp.org.

Chapter officer nominations are open for:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer-Elect
- Delegate-at-Large
- Advisory Group Member

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.

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