

ALASKA CHAPTER



May 2015

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Chapter Executive Committee (CEC)

For information on the Chapter you can visit <http://alaska.asse.org/> or you can email Alaska.Safety.Engineers@gmail.com to reach any of our CEC Officers or Chairpersons.

The AK-ASSE Chapter Executive Committee Officers (CEC):

- President: Jeff Kolean
- President Elect: Joireen Cohen
- Vice President: Tim Bogowith
- Treasurer: Phillip Galloway, CSP, CHST, CET, ARM
- Secretary: Jill Gaylard, MS, CIH, CSP
- Delegate: David Leonard, CSP
- Delegate: Lynne Seville, CSP

Chairpersons and Volunteers:

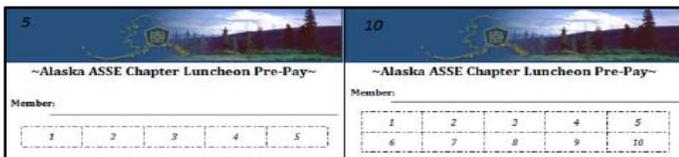
- ~ Membership: Jonathan Johanson
- ~ Program: Tim Bogowith
- ~ PDC Volunteers: Leischen Bauke
- ~ Public Relations: Mary Snare
- ~ Newsletter/Website: Jill Gaylard
- ~ Government Affairs: Scott Ketcham
- ~ Awards & Honors: Nick Danger

Chapter Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Payment is accepted at the door and **RSVPs are emailed to the Chapter Secretary, Jill Gaylard at jill.gaylard@gmail.com.**



Guest Speaker: Please come out and join us for our May Luncheon. Our guest speaker is **Erike Young**, Google Global Safety Manager and ASSE Regional Vice President. He will be giving a technical presentation on "*Risk Management.*"

Pre-Paid Luncheons! Be on the lookout! 5 and 10-lunch pre-pay cards will be available for purchase.



Chapter Executive Committee Nominations

Congratulations! The following Members were nominated to the Chapter Executive Committee. While officers will normally succeed to the next highest office, an annual election is required for all elected positions. To hold the office of President, a Professional Member or Member would normally progress through the offices starting with Secretary.

- President: Joireen Cohen
- President Elect: Tim Bogowith
- Vice President: Jill Gaylard
- Treasurer: Jeff Kolean
- Secretary: Ryan Schubert
- Delegate: Nathan Zdunich
- Delegate: Lee Bauke

Member Milestones Recognized

The following Members are being recognized for their continued dedication and service to the Profession and our Chapter.

- 25 Years: Terry Eastwood
- 25 Years: Sandra Maclean Uberuaga

New Members Welcome

The Alaska Chapter continues to grow! The following individuals recently joined the Alaska Chapter. On behalf of our Membership, Welcome!

- Kelly Carothers, Maria Talasz, David Cossette, Carlos Chalbaud, Thomas Jensen



The next Chapter Meeting is being held

~
May 19, 2015
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

~
Coast International Inn
3450 Aviation Ave
Anchorage AK 99502

NAOSH POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ~ Great Work Kids!!!

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, or NAOSH Week, occurs every year during the first full week of May. NAOSH Week is intended to raise awareness about occupational safety, health, and the environment. This year's NAOSH Week theme is "Every Place is Someone's Workplace." The Student Safety Awareness Art Contest promotes the importance of workplace safety and the OSH profession. The Alaska Chapter voted on the local posters.

1. First Place – Cannon Clifford with Hardhat Safety
2. Second Place – Tennison Rutledge with Aviation Protection Earphones
3. Third Place – Kyla Box with Hardhat Safety



Thank you all for participating in our ASSE NAOSH Kid Poster Contest! We look forward to seeing more safety poster submittals for next year. Also, the national NAOSH poster contest winners can also be found at: <http://www.asse.org/newsroom/naosh/poster-contest/>.

Alaska Chapter Achieves GOLD Level Status for 2014 - 2015

-Sent on Behalf of Trish Ennis, CSP, ARM, ASSE President-

It is with great pleasure to let you know that the Alaska Chapter will be recognized at the Chapter Recognition Luncheon as a Gold Level Chapter. The work you have put in to achieving this level of success is impressive and greatly appreciated by ASSE. The beneficiaries of your work are your chapter members, and our profession as a whole. The hope is that you feel rewarded for what you do, not just because of the recognition, but because you have had an impact on your chapter members and our profession.

*The chapter awards will be given out at the Chapter Recognition Luncheon on **Monday, June 8, 2015**, at Safety 2015, ASSE's Professional Development Conference in Dallas Texas. The luncheon will be held from 11:45am to 1:00pm at the Convention Center.*

Please note, anyone attending the Chapter Recognition Luncheon must be registered for the conference first, and then you must also register for this luncheon in order to attend. When you register for the conference you can indicate that you will attend this luncheon. If you already indicated you'll attend when you registered then you are all set. If you've already registered but did not indicate that you want to attend the luncheon please send your request to attend to ASSE Customer Service at customerservice@asse.org or at 847-699-2929. Please note email is the best method to get added to the luncheon list.

Again, congratulations on your accomplishment and an award winning year, and thank you for being a role model for us all. I hope to see you in Dallas!

Sincerely,
Trish Ennis, CSP, ARM

\$1000.00 Scholarship Award Recipient Interview

Congratulations Joseph Meloche!!! The second annual Alaska Chapter Student Scholarship was awarded in April 2015! Joseph Meloche, is an undergraduate at Kenai Peninsula College, in the Occupational Safety and Health Program.

Describe your goals in construction safety: I have been a log home builder since 1984. I went back to college last fall a K.P.C. after 40 some years. I made the Deans' list my first semester. I am presently a sophomore. My goal is to earn a degree in industrial safety. I believe that "Job Safety" is a very important career choice. Industrial employee safety is paramount to any employment environment.

Describe why you believe you should be awarded this scholarship: Without "grants" I do not think I will achieve my goal. I need this award to continue my quest for a degree. I want to re-enter the work force and continue contributing to society. I still have a lot to give to our local economy. I plan to work beyond my retirement age of 65. Without help I cannot see any way to achieve my goal. ASSE could help make my goals come true.

Gift of Membership

Do you know a safety, health and environmental professional who is not a member, but really should be? ASSE is proud to offer another way to grow the Society, the safety profession and the number of members you sponsor.



American Society of Safety Engineers "Gift of Membership" Order Form

Meet one of Our Members

~ Philip Ulmer ~

1. EXPERIENCE: I have been employed by GCI since 2000. I am currently the Sr. manager, Safety and Workers Compensation. In very general terms I have risk management responsibilities for oversight of safety management processes within the company and similar oversight over the management of the company's general liability and auto fleet liability risks. GCI is self-insured for job injury benefits for our Alaska employees and I manage our TPA contract and actively assure reserves are reported correctly on our books. For our non-Alaska employees who are due job injury benefits, I assist our insurance carrier that provides benefit coverage in non-monopoly states. My expertise through the years has evolved in several general areas - safety management, safety engineering, loss control processes, casualty insurance and job injury benefits management. I have professional credentials within the safety profession and in the workers compensation field. I first gained interest in the safety profession when I earned a **BS in Aerospace Engineering**. That course of study allowed me to learn critical incident analysis and systems safety reliability. I applied that knowledge when I went into **Safety Engineering**. I gained a great deal of experience in job injury benefit management when I worked for a major oil company and was responsible for the fiduciary management of financial recourses reserved for injury costs. As an adjunct to the professional experience I also appreciate the many years I have had in my career as a group manager, where I could assist other professionals in the occupational safety and health profession to achieve their goals to advance within the profession. **I found a great deal of personal achievement when someone on my staff earned a promotion to leave my group and achieve success in their careers. To this day, I stay in touch with many around the United States who I had the privilege to manage.**

2. FAMILY AND FUN: My family has and continues to support my goals within the profession. **I have a very understanding wife who is an ally and "support group of one"** as I continue my career goals. **We have three children (grown and on their own) and three grandchildren.** My wife and I have some common interests that make us somewhat competitive with each other at times. We play table tennis (she has a wicked backhand that I have yet to consistently defend) and we really enjoy the mental challenges of competing with each other in the traditional board game of **Scrabble** or its app counterpart, Words with Friends. As far as competing with myself in sports, I also enjoy **golf**. Some who know me within the safety profession would be surprised to know that I am a **professional pianist** and for over 10 years I had a home business where I taught piano – at one time I had 35 students actively taking lessons each week. I have been involved with **choral accompaniment and directing choirs** as well. **One memory from my music background was the privilege I had to provide piano accompaniment for the Chugiak High School concert and swing choirs years ago when they went to an international adjudication in Boston, Massachusetts.**

3. ASSE MEMBERSHIP: It is important for any person who considers himself or herself a professional to seek out a mentor and to regularly network with others who have earned professional credentials. Years ago when I started in my career I had an engineering manager who defined for me the characteristics of a safety professional. Of the many I worked with down through the years, he is the one person who I would say mentored me in my career path. He was patient with me and came from an engineering background as well – he knew how to “get into my mind” and teach me how to apply my engineering skills to make a real difference in reducing the risks to people, property and the environment. He introduced me to ASSE. He and I attended our local chapter lunches and member meetings. **ASSE is the oldest established society that is exclusively dedicated for enhancing and progressing the profession.** It is important to belong to the only Society completely and exclusively dedicated to advancing the safety profession. My career allowed me the opportunity to be a past president of the Society in 1992-1993 and to serve on its **Board of Directors for seven years.** Prior to that I was the **Alaska Chapter president.** While I have been a dues paying member for a lot of years, through my involvement at the chapter, region and national levels of the Society I have directly seen the efforts made by the ASSE support staff at the headquarters offices and the membership to assure our Society remains the **premier resource for the promotion of our profession** with members, employers, regulators and standards making organizations.

4. GOOD SAFETY STORY and/or LESSON LEARNED:

A GOOD STORY (AND TRUE!): When I worked in the oil industry I was mobilized to a well blowout in Colorado. The rig was located at about 9,000 feet in elevation on the side of a mountain. When it blew, the location was expelling a high flow rate of almost pure carbon dioxide from a fault in the side of the mountain above the actual rig location. It blew for over 2 weeks before being controlled. During that period we had a team of safety professionals on site at all hours to assure risk management issues were addressed and managed properly. I was on the late evening shift and was responsible for area safety oversight and Scott Air-Pak training for those who had to enter some of the zones where the gas was affecting the oxygen levels. CO2 would not kill instantly, but it would start hyperventilation symptoms at that altitude. There was a need for me and another safety professional to enter the exposure zone to access some monitoring equipment on the rig itself. We followed procedures established to assure others knew of our location and would respond if we did not report back by a certain time. There was no prevailing wind that were common to the mountain and it was dead calm. This cause the CO2 to look like a heavy fog that enveloped a great deal of the area. We estimated our total time to do our work in the CO2 exposure area would be less than 15 minutes and we were breathing off the tanks the whole time. We were using 30 minute packs. While we were at the rig, the gas phenomenon got worse and the fog became more dense. Coupled with the fact it was late at night, the low visibility made our walking progress to safely leave the area much slower. My pack alarm sounded signaling I only had maybe 2 minutes of air left. As the other person and me went over our “buddy breathing” processes in case I ran out of air, his alarm went off as well. Needless to say we were not in a good situation because we did not know exactly how much further before we would be free of the gas zone. All we could do was keep walking deliberately in the direction to the entrance point and hope we had enough air. Bottom line we made it OK and as soon as we were out of the CO2 fog we saw the profiles of quite a few others packed up and ready to rescue us. All our processes worked as plan and we really were never in real danger, but it is a story that reaffirmed to me the importance of good equipment, good maintenance, good training and effective procedures.

A HUMOROUS COROLLARY TO THE STORY ABOVE: CO2 is odorless and at times could not be “sensed or spotted” unless the dew point was just right (i.e. the fog mentioned above). It was heavier than air so it would meander and travel down the mountainside. Handheld gas meters for subtle changes in CO2 levels in the atmosphere were not very reliable back in that day. As we traveled about the mountain we could get clues where the gas was collecting by utilizing new technology put into the computer diagnostics of automobiles at that time – something that is so common today, but was new at that time. We had a fleet of rental cars at the well blowout site. When we would drive along the mountain road system if the “engine check” light came on we knew we were in a pocket of CO2 because the fuel-air mixture sensors would trigger the diagnostics that signaled the dash light. It was an effective way to know the range of exposure of CO2 concentrations in areas where we had cattle ranches and other housing. It would allow us to notify residents if necessary. It was a good example of safety professionals adapting to available technology to help manage the risks to people, property and the environment.

A TRAGEDY THAT WILL FOREVER BE ETCHED IN MY MIND: Like many members of ASSE, events can happen that may cause any of us to do a personal assessment of whether we could have made a difference to prevent a tragic event. August 9, 2010 is a date I will never forget. On that day my company's plane crashed into a mountain north of Dillingham. There were nine on board – only 4 survived. The story of tremendous coordination between the emergency response services to overcome terrible weather issues to help rescue survivors was magnificent. Stories of emergency response actions taken by employees based in Dillingham and those hosting guests at the retreat center were beyond comprehension. Much was written about this tragedy in the press in the following days. Many months later, the NTSB's final investigation report was inconclusive regarding cause – something that is fairly rare in the history of NTSB investigations. As a safety professional I had to perform certain responsibilities on the behalf of the company in the initial hours after the crash. I was just one of many who needed to do their jobs in light of such a tragedy. I remember in the days following always thinking, “Could I have done something that could have prevented the horror of what happened?” It is not uncommon for people in our chosen profession to think that way because we seem to live with trying to improve safe work practices, policies and procedures. We take every incident that involves injury, or even death, in personal ways at times – it just goes with the territory of the career path we have chosen. Soul searching can sometimes be good for any of us. At times our jobs get into routines that become overly repetitive to where we lose focus on what really matters when it comes to assisting our clients or employers to help manage risks to injuries. Throughout the United States we have focused on 12/7/41 and 9/11/01 as dates that reassessments of our nation's priorities needed to be totally reevaluated. So it is in a personal way for that date of 8/9/10. The events of that evening caused grief to many families and to our community. For me, the grieving process as a member of the GCI family gave me a sense of renewed accountability to my chosen profession - to never take stock answers that are traditional in their approach. I resolved I will never fear to test “book answers” or “traditional thinking of how to manage risks to an acceptable level”. I renewed within myself to never fear to do the uncommon thing if it is the right answer for the tough question. When we lose individual thinking and become a group of people with “safety” or some derivative of that word in our job title who no longer think but instead goes with the flow then that will be the day that we are no longer considered a profession.