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## February Luncheon

Please join us on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, from 11:30am – 1pm, for our monthly ASSE luncheon meeting. Remember, we are now meeting at the Petroleum Club of Anchorage, which is located at 3301 C Street, Suite 120, Anchorage, AK 99503.

After networking with your peers and eating a great lunch, we will have an opportunity to learn from Craig Bledsoe. Craig's presentation will be a review of recent Alaska aircraft accident investigations with a focus on hazardous material causes, including lithium-ion batteries. Discussion will include recommendations, actions and other measures that can be taken.

In addition to a cup of soup, you have two choices for an entrée. Both entrées will be served with two chef selected sides.

- Option 1:** Meatloaf
- Option 2:** Eggplant Parmesan

Please RSVP via email to [jjohanson@gci.com](mailto:jjohanson@gci.com) by the close of business on Friday, February 17th. **Please include your menu choice.** If you have an allergy to an item in the above listed menu, please identify the allergy with your menu choice. The PCA will strive to meet your dietary requirements.





## Welcome New Chapter Members!

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

**Justin Boggs, Amira Goldstein, Kenneth Millard, Kimberly Toler, Brian Tormey, James White, and Clint Winzenberg**

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## Membership Milestones

As of February 1, 2017, the AK ASSE Chapter had 352 members. The following members are celebrating a milestone of their membership in February 2017. Congratulations!

**Craig Bledsoe: 40 Years**  
**Jason Charton: 5 Years**  
**Ryan Sharratt: 5 Years**

**Richard Nelson: 10 Years**  
**James Hopmeier: 5 Years**

During the January luncheon, we were able to recognize Jeff Carlson and his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of membership with ASSE.



Left: AK ASSE Chapter Pres. Tim Bogowith  
Right: Jeff Carlson





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## 2017 Alaska Governor's Safety and Health Conference Save the Date



#akgshc

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference is planned for April 4-5, 2017. The keynote speaker is International Keynote Artist, Mike Rayburn. To learn more, visit <http://akgshc.com/>.

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## Chapter Elections

Interested in learning more about your Alaska Chapter or finally getting more involved with it? One way to become more involved is to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee. The time for Chapter elections is coming up in March 2017, but now is the time to consider if you are willing to give back to your Chapter and become actively involved. For more information regarding nominating yourself or someone else as a Chapter Officer, please contact Jon Johanson at [jjohanson@gci.com](mailto:jjohanson@gci.com).

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## Meet One of Our Members

**Member Profile:** **Jon Johanson** is the Secretary and Membership Chair for the Alaska ASSE Chapter. He is also the Safety and Risk Manager at GCI.

Jon learned what Alaska was all about in January 1997 when the U.S. Air Force told him that he wanted to live at Elmendorf Air Force Base (AFB) and work as an Aircraft Armament Systems Technician. Initially, he had a strong dislike for Alaska, but that opinion changed in January 2000, when the Air Force sent him and his wife to Minot AFB, North Dakota. In January 2001, Jon separated from the Active Duty Air Force, joined the Air Force Reserve, became a Paralegal, and returned to Alaska.

Jon allowed his enlistment in the Air Force to expire and separated from the military in 2008 in order to attend classes at the University of





Alaska Anchorage (UAA) on a full-time basis. After graduation, he started working at a telecommunications company in Anchorage as a Risk Analyst. In 2011, there was a vacancy at his employer for the Safety Specialist position. Without having any prior experience in the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) field, Jon volunteered for the job and was selected for the position. According to Jon, “It was one of the best career moves in my life.”

Jon joined the Alaska Chapter of ASSE in 2011, shortly after becoming a Safety Specialist, because a very wise person told him to join ASSE and volunteer for whatever the Chapter needed help with. This is how he became the Membership Chair.

Joining ASSE and volunteering with the Chapter has helped Jon tremendously over the past six years. “In my original role of Membership Chair, I was able to meet and interact with the members of the Chapter Executive Committee. When I had an EHS related question, I had a small network of true safety professionals that I could learn from. Joining ASSE and getting involved has helped me on a professional level and has gotten me where I am today.” Jon would encourage anyone to become more involved with their local ASSE chapter due to the opportunities to learn more about the American Society of Safety Engineers, networking with fellow safety professionals at the monthly meetings, and to get connected with other safety professionals in similar industries.

Jon’s most memorable day as a safety professional occurred in 2013 when one of his colleagues had a medical emergency. Although Jon was not personally involved in the incident response, it turned out that someone Jon had recently trained in a CPR/AED/First Aid Class was. This person was able to perform CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which ended up helping save a man’s life.

At this stage in Jon’s career, his hobby is being a student and studying for professional certification exams. When he is not studying or spending time with family, you can find him in his garage roasting his own coffee. Jon will freely admit to anyone that he is addicted to caffeine and roasting his own coffee is easier on his budget. During the summer, Jon strives to visit the Kenai Peninsula and catch fish.

When asked what motivates him to stay in the safety profession, Jon said, “I truly enjoy making a positive difference in my community. At one point, I thought law enforcement would be a great career, but I didn’t care for the part about the bad guys that would shoot back at me. Getting involved with occupational safety has allowed me to help ensure that people I work with go home at the end of the day so they can see the people that they care about the most.”

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## Career Opportunities

All Chapter members who have current e-mail addresses on file with ASSE and have elected to receive Chapter e-mails, will receive job announcements via e-mail. If you would like the Chapter to send out your job announcement, please contact the Chapter Secretary, Jon Johanson at [jjohanson@gci.com](mailto:jjohanson@gci.com).

