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Officers 2014-2015:

President & Delegate: Mike Saujani
mikesaujani@hotmail.com

President Elect: Jason Meiner
Jason.meiner@motorolasolutions.com

Secretary: Dow Carter
dow.carter@abbott.com

Treasurer: Rick Lewis
Rick_Lewis@selinc.com

Past President & Delegate: Rich Petite
rpetitte201@comcast.net

Committee Chairs 2014-2015

Awards & Honors: Amy Timmerman
atimmerman@sageproducts.com

Chicagoland Safety, Health & Environment
Conference:
Sheri Lesak

LesakS@naperville.il.us

Rich Rapacki

richrapacki@airesconsulting.com

Scholarships & Grants: Charlie Vasconez
cvasconez@eckerusa.com

Jobs: J. R. Bonnot
jrbonnot@setenv.com

Membership: Sara Gibson
sgibson@harpercollege.edu

Newsletter: Don Phillips
SafetyDon@hotmail.com

Student Section Liaison: Charlie Vasconez
cvasconez@eckerusa.com

Student Section Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wm Mills
WMills11@ceet.niu.edu

Web Page: Tony Zoia
anthony.zoia@zurichna.com

Contact an Officer or visit the NEIL website to
get involved in NEIL today!
www.neil.asse.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our December 12, 2014 meeting at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva was a joint meeting with the Three Rivers Chapter. At this volunteer event our members donated their time and effort re-packing food to be delivered to those in need. Our members enthusiastically provided a supporting hand for half a day for those in need. I am pleased to report to you that more than two thirds of those packing the food were from NEIL Chapter; Thank You!

As I look back upon the past year, I would like to acknowledge and thank those NEIL Committee Chairs and elected executives who have helped run the chapter for the benefit of our members. I hope you all had a great year, and the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs wish you all the best as you embark on 2015. As NEIL safety professionals let us resolve:

- To spend more time in promoting safety at work, at home, and in the community we live in.
- To get actively engaged with safety organizations such as ASSE, AIHA, OSHA and their local chapters including NEIL.
- To enjoy life with family and be happier and healthier
- To broaden your horizon; learn something new and apply it for the benefit of society at large
- To help others and find a way to be productively engaged in a voluntary organization

We wish you good luck and a safe, healthy and productive 2015.

The Society of Casualty and Safety Engineering has invited outstanding speakers for its January 9th, 2015 meeting at DSP Insurance Services, 1900 E Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 (847-934-6100) discussing "The State of Workers Compensation in Illinois."

Candra Jefferson, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist, will provide us an update of what is happening at OSHA at the January NEIL Chapter meeting. Come to get the inside scoop on OSHA, come for fun, come for friendship, and come for food.

Get engaged!

Mike Saujani
President, NEIL Chapter, ASSE

JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

NEIL Monthly Meeting – The January, 2015 NEIL Technical meeting will be Friday, January 16 at Maggiano's at Woodfield Mall (I-90 & IL-53). The technical presentation will be OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist Candra Jefferson from the North Aurora OSHA Office providing an OSHA update. Lunch will be at Noon with the presentation from 1:00-3:00PM.

Please pre-register for by responding to the Evite or sending an email to Dow Carter (dow.carter@abbott.com). Cost for the meeting is \$25 if pre-registered or \$30 for walk-ins.

2014 – 15 MEETING CALENDAR

Date	Time lunch / dinner Cost	Location	Topic	Speaker(s)
January 16	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	Maggiano's / Woodfield	OSHA Update	Candra Jefferson, OSHA
February 20	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	Maggiano's / Woodfield	Round Table Discussions	TBD
March 20	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	TBD	Field Trip – Underwriters Laboratories	Todd Honn & Mike Brown Underwriters Lab 615-557-3977
April 17	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	Maggiano's / Woodfield	Student Day, Elections & Member Recognition Awards	NIU Student Presentations
May 15	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	Maggiano's / Woodfield	Ergonomic Seminar	Barrington Orthopedics
June TBD	12:00 Noon Lunch	Maggiano's / Woodfield	Planning mtg.	NEIL Exec Board
June 7-10	Safety 2015	Dallas, TX	PDC	www.safety2015.org

NEIL CHAPTER NEWS

MEMBER RECOGNITION

January ASSE Anniversaries

Steven Levin – 30 years

Christopher Kremer – 25 years

Mario Varela – 20 years

Jason Adams – 15 years

David Luepke – 15 years

Jason Meiner – 5 years

Thank you for your service and dedication to ASSE and the Safety profession!

Welcome New Members

Ning Lee – Tenneco

Alan Mai-Lombardo – Assurance Agency

Roger Moss – Holcim US

William Stenavich – Mortenson Construction

Janice Turner – Zurich North America

Kenneth Weger – Emeritus Member

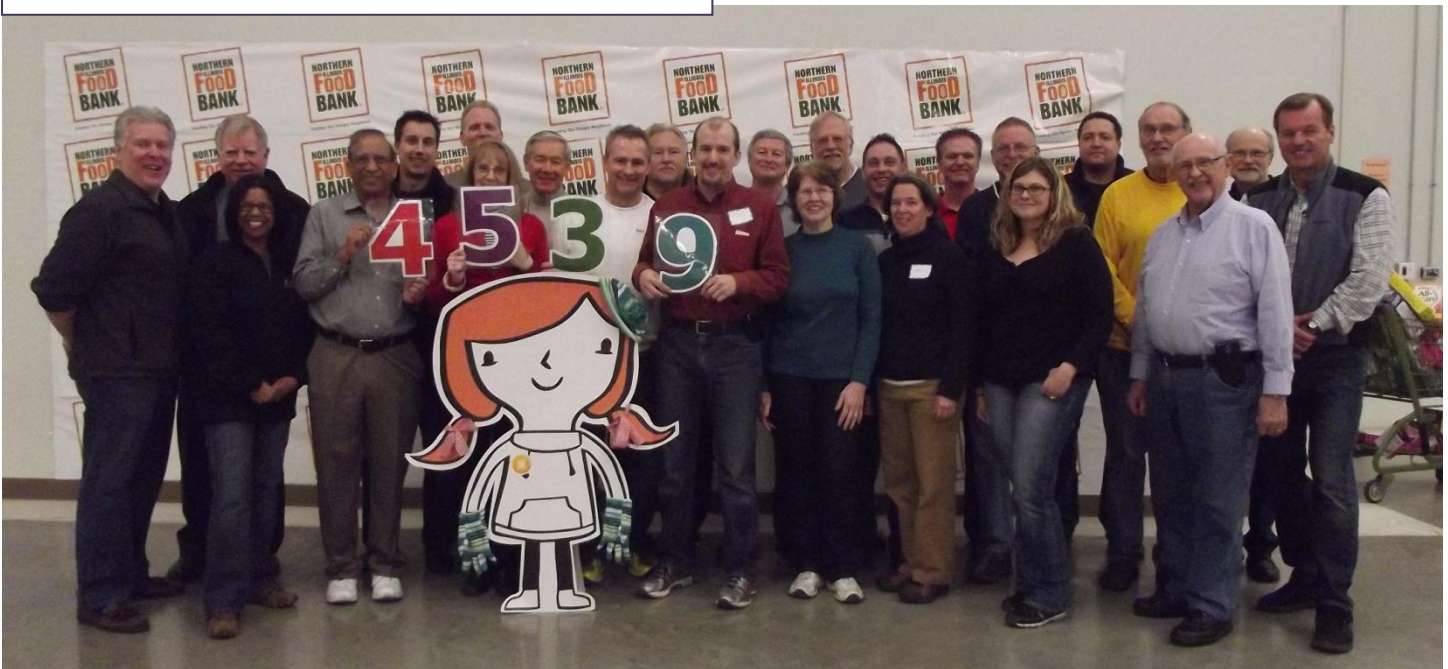
Jake Govorchin – Cancer Treatment Centers of America

NEIL Supports The Northern Illinois Food Bank for Christmas!

By Rick Pokorny

27 NEIL and Three Rivers chapter members volunteered time to repackage meals at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva, IL on 12/12/14. We provided the food equivalent of 4,539 meals with our volunteer efforts. Members of The NEIL and Three Rivers chapters donated over \$750 in monetary donations and 32 pounds of food. We hope to continue this event in 2015 and we thank those that volunteered. For more information about the Northern Illinois Food Bank and opportunities to assist visit:

www.solvehungertoday.org



NEIL CHAPTER NEWS

Chicagoland Safety, Health & Environment Conference News

The final accounting of the 2014 Chicagoland Safety, Health and Environmental Conference has been completed and the proceeds check has been received and deposited from NIU. Each of the participating organizations has received \$4,420.85. A huge thank you to everyone from the NEIL Chapter who participated as organizers, presenters, moderators, or attendees. The CSH&EC was started by the NEIL Chapter more than 26 years ago and has grown into a premier regional conference, attracting attendees from near and far.

- ASSE NEIL Chapter
- ASSE Three Rivers Chapter
- ASSE Greater Chicago chapter
- AIHA Chicago Chapter
- AHMO Chicago Chapter

The 27th Annual Conference will take place September 21-24 at the Naperville Campus of Northern Illinois University. For more information, visit www.chisafetyconf.org.

JOBS

Check the jobs page on the NEIL website for a listing of job openings.

<http://neil.asse.org/jobs.php>

SOCIETY NEWS

By Tim Fisher

Director, Practices and Standards, ASSE
TFisher@ASSE.Org

ASSE is the TAG Administrator to ANSI for the ISO TC262 Committee (Risk Management and Risk Assessment). We have had about inquiries addressing the ISO 31000 Standard versus the ISO 31004 Implementation Guide. The basic question is if 31004 is meant to be a replacement to 31000. The short answer on that is "no". The ISO 31004 Implementation Guide provides more instruction/direction about how the 31000 Standard itself is implemented.

The use and recognition of these standards continues to grow and ASSE is pleased to be leading this effort via ANSI for the United States. Of interest is that the revision of ISO 31000 and Guide #73 continues to move forward. The United States voting position is due during January 2015 and the United States TAG (Technical Advisory Group) is working on the comments and voting position as we speak.

Below is a URL to the tech brief on these standards.

http://www.asse.org/assets/1/7/ISO_Risk_Assessment_Management_Tech_Brief.pdf

Below is a URL to the whole package of ISO 31000, ISO 31004, ISO Guide #73, and ISO 31010. It is the sales page, but if you scroll down you will find detailed descriptions on the standards and information links at the bottom.
<http://www.asse.org/ansi/asse/iso-risk-management-standards-package-national-adoption-of-iso-31000-31004-31010-and-guide-73-/>

Last-but-not-least: We are still looking for more members on the United States TAG. If interested in joining please contact Tim Fisher

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Partner organization meetings

ASSE Greater Chicago – Joint meeting with The Society of Casualty and Safety Engineering; January 9th, 2015, 12:00 Noon; ASSE Members \$30 at DSP Insurance Services, 1900 E Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 (847-934-6100). They will be having a discussion on “The State of Workers Compensation in Illinois.” [RSVP here](#)

ASSE Three Rivers – Friday, January 9, 11:30am – 1:30pm; ASSE members: \$25, Non-Members \$40; Lisle Hilton, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL 60532. For additional information contact Brenda Allard: threerivers.asse@gmail.com or go to <http://threerivers.asse.org/events/>. Gene Keefe, Partner at Keefe, Campbell, Biery & Associates, LLC will discuss SB 3287, new legislation that strips independent safety consultants of the immunity they had under the Illinois Workers’ Comp Law. Even if you are not an independent consultant, you may want to be one day and understanding how this new law can impact you and methods to protect yourself is critical. Join us on January 9th to learn more about this new Illinois law.

Continuing Education – East Carolina University is offering an online synchronous Continuing Education course “Enhancing Work Safety and Health through Design”. It begins January 20, but there is a pre-course survey. 1.2 CEU's will be awarded to those who complete the course. For details see: <http://cpeprograms.ecu.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&Course=safe002>

Have you attended a Chapter Meeting Lately?

By Don Phillips, Editor

I recently saw a post on Facebook by a friend who is a professional recruiter. She was asking where people look when they are job or career hunting. The responses are what you would expect: LinkedIn, Indeed, Career Builder, etc. I added the ASSE Job Boards, both national and local to the list. But we all know the best way to find a career: **NETWORKING**. There is no substitution for the human touch and what better place to network in the safety profession than your local chapter. Whether your considering a move or looking for talent, NEIL meetings are currently drawing 40 or more attendees every month. It’s also a great source of information when you have that question you just can’t answer. Some of the area’s greatest safety talent gathers every month at Maggiano’s at Woodfield Mall. Come for the food, stay for the knowledge, experience, and **networking!**

NIU ASSE HUSKIE SECTION NEWS

*By: Charlie Vasconez
Student Section Liason
Dr. William Mills
Student Section Sponsor*

Things were relatively quiet for the student section with end of term in November and December. Candra Jefferson from the North Aurora OSHA office provided an OSHA update at a very well attended November meeting. Several NIU students have applied for the NEIL student grants and national student scholarships. We wish them all success. There will be special elections in early January for several student executive positions that have become vacant through graduations etc. and NIU begins classes again on Monday January 12, 2015.

December also saw 10 NIU students and 1 ISU (Illinois State University) student activate memberships. Those student members are:

Dimitra Alikakos	Saeed Aljarrah	Leron Gray
Shana Harris	Ryan Hubrich	Joseph Mei
DeAndre Monroe	Brian Peterson	Sruti Unni
	Cord Rogers (ISU)	



Practice Specialties Spotlight – ACADEMICS

*Are you getting everything you can from your ASSE membership? Are you a member of a Practice Specialty, Branch or Common Interest Group? ASSE offers nineteen (19) Practice Specialties, four Branches, and four Common Interest Groups. Each month we will feature a Practice Specialty, Branch, and/or Common Interest Group to help our members better understand what's available to make the most of their membership. This month: **Academics.***

The Academics Practice Specialty (APS) stemmed from the Association of Occupational Safety and Health Educators, which was formed in 1997. Initial APS members included university professors with academic programs in occupational or environmental health and safety, but today APS includes both educators and students.

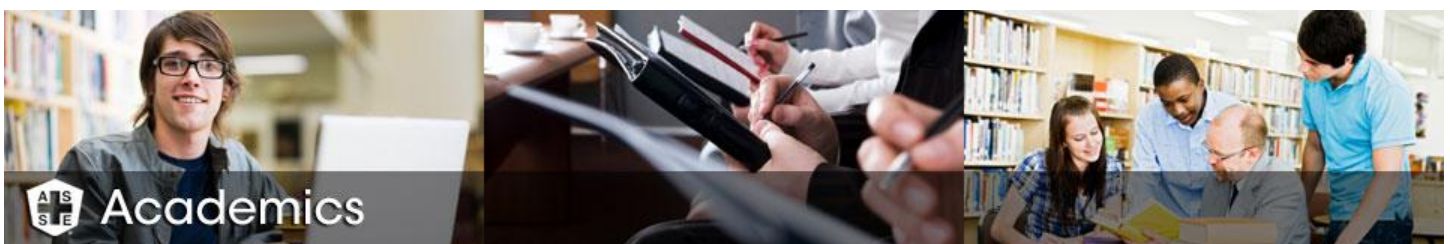
APS published its first issue of The Educator in Fall 2001 and now publishes The Educator once per year and the peer-reviewed Journal of SH&E Research twice per year. APS also sponsors sessions and an Academic Forum at ASSE's annual Professional Development Conference.

APS promotes the advancement of safety, health and environmental (SH&E) education, fosters the well-being of its members and their academic programs and mentors students within their academic specialties. APS also strives to influence educational strategies and research, accreditation and professional certification as well as national and international academic research.

Ongoing goals for APS include:

- Development of SH&E core curriculum and graduate programs
- Increasing the number of internships for students enrolled in SH&E academic programs
- Involving students in the SH&E profession early in their academic careers through ASSE Student Sections, mentoring programs, conferences and seminars

The latest issue of SH&E Research is attached with the newsletter. Want to know more? Visit the [Academics page HERE](#) and get more out of your ASSE membership.



From the Editor

According to OSHA, “DANGER” signs “indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary” and shall be used only where an immediate hazard exists. OSHA states “caution” signs warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices. Which brings me to a question: what is “unsafe”? I searched the OSHA website and while they talk about unsafe acts and conditions, I could not find a definition for unsafe. I have a friend who works at OSHA I called to ask her OSHA’s definition of unsafe. I stumped her, and she asked if she could call me back. When she called back, she also could not find an OSHA definition for unsafe. Her suggestion: the dictionary. Miriam-Webster defines unsafe as “not” or the “opposite of” safe. Miriam-Webster defines safe as “free from harm or risk” and safety as “freedom from harm or danger: the state of being safe.” Why was a 20+ year safety professional trying to define safety you ask, because the work that many employees perform on a daily basis is inherently dangerous. But is it unsafe?

When people ask me the biggest difference between safety in the private sector and safety in the public sector, I tell them I spent the first 20 years of my career teaching people to run out of burning buildings and now a quarter of my employees get paid to run into them. Another quarter carry guns, and know how to use them. We also have employees handling electrical voltages over 17,000 volts, people using chain saws, repairing sewers and processing sewage, building streets, and let’s not forget driving in blizzards. I doubt anyone would argue the danger inherent in these jobs. But are they unsafe?

Safety professionals regularly visit job sites where employees are completing dangerous tasks and they rarely get injured. Safety training, awareness, and experience are the deciding factor between dangerous and unsafe. With well thought out safety programs, training, and a willingness to take the extra step to work safely allow the employees willing and able to do these jobs to prove that the existence of danger does not indicate the absence of safety. Quite the opposite: we prove that the more dangerous the task, the more we perform our jobs with a focus on safety: our own, that of our coworkers, and that of our resident customers

As we start a new year I offer my thanks to all my fellow safety professionals for the work that you do and your dedication to setting the PASE for safety with a Positive Attitude and Safety Everyday.

Don Phillips

NEILetter Editor



American Society of Safety Engineers
Northeastern Illinois (NEIL) Chapter
PO Box 72698
Roselle, IL 60172-0698

Photos

Left: IL-113 looking west from I-55

Right: Melissa’s cousin’s tool shed turned tree house

Bottom: Diamond, IL looking west toward Coal City