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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank Candra Jefferson from OSHA who provided an update during our last meeting. Sorry, I could not attend as I was touting Australia and New Zealand.

I am so pleased to be working with dedicated and accomplished NEIL Board Members who put their hearts into running your Chapter with enthusiasm. We try our best to find good speakers so you can have a good learning experience. We try our best to make sure you have a good meeting place with good food. And we try our best to make sure you feel at home when you come to the chapter meetings. There are times when we have to make some difficult decisions. This is that time. We have to raise chapter dues slightly, by \$5 annually, to balance our budget.

Our current Chapter dues are \$15 and have been for over 10 years. Our neighboring chapters have annual dues of \$20 for Three Rivers and \$25 for Greater Chicago. We feel this increase is required to maintain our strong financial balance, offer good quality services to our members, and operate within our annual revenues. Please note we are also taking other means to increase our revenues including chapter meeting sponsorships and seminars in addition to reducing our expenses.

There will be a vote on the dues increase at the February 20th meeting. You must be present to vote, as absentee and proxy votes are not allowed. Prior to the vote, there will be time for discussion or questions. I hope you will help us in meeting our fiduciary responsibility to balance the budget.

The February meeting will feature Round Table Discussions on the importance of clear concise communication and how Toastmasters can help our members improve these skills, Global Safety Vision for Safety Professionals, Changes in Illinois Workers Compensation Laws affecting Safety Professionals and Physical Therapy and how to effectively return employees back to work.

Please check out the newsletter and NEIL Web for details. Come and enjoy the Round Table Topics moderated by four outstanding presenters. Come for fun, friendship and food and a bit of learning as well.

Mike Saujani
President, NEIL Chapter, ASSE

JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

NEIL Monthly Meeting – The February, 2015 NEIL Technical meeting will be Friday, February 20 at Maggiano’s at Woodfield Mall (I-90 & IL-53). Meeting information is below.

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 Meal / Cost	Location	Topic	Speaker(s)
February 20	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	Maggiano’s / Woodfield	Round Table Discussions	See description below
March 20	12:00 Noon Lunch / \$25	TBD	Field Trip – Underwriters Laboratories	Todd Honn & Mike Brown Underwriters Lab
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

The February meeting will include four speakers who will each lead a discussion at their table. The speaker will open the discussion at each table for ten to fifteen minutes followed by audience participation. After twenty minutes the speaker will move to the next table. Topics include:

- Importance of clear, concise communication and how Toastmasters can help with improving communication skills. Moderator: Jerry Evans, DTM, is an outstanding public speaker and the only two-time Toastmaster of the Year Award winner.
- Global Safety Vision for Safety Profession. Moderator: Diana Stegall, ASSE Region V Vice President.
- Changes in Illinois Workers Compensation Laws affecting safety profession. Moderator: Patrick Duffy, Partner in the law firm of Murray Pinkerton and Patrick Duffy.
- Physical Therapy, and how to effectively return employees back to work. Moderator: Preeti Maggu, Clinic Manager at Midwest Rehab Center with almost 41 years of experience in the Rehab Center.

Registration and networking at 11:30 AM, the lunch at 12:00 Noon and the Round Table Discussions at 1:00 PM.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

February ASSE Anniversaries

Fred Manual – 60 years

C. James Dahn – 40 years

Peggy Ross – 20 Years

James Edwards – 15 years

Scott Leopold – 15 years

Frank Andrzejewski – 10 years

Coleen Cook – 5 years

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

Welcome New Members

Carlos Garcia – Watlow Electric Mfg.

Tamela Mushrush – AECOM

Brian Czarnecki – Bric Services

Terrence Jagiello

Tyler Sifton

Abhishek Arumilli – Student Member

SOCIETY NEWS

A NEW Practice Branch, Sort Of

By Brian Hammer, Chairperson for the Food and Agribusiness Branch

A recent decision has allowed Agriculture Branch to become The Food and Agribusiness Branch. The branch also moved to the Manufacturing Practice Specialty, which we feel is a better fit than the Environmental PS.

As a member of the Quad Cities Chapter in Davenport, I know that this is especially good news for members in the implement manufacturing arena as they can now join for free if they are a member of the Manufacturing Practice.

Please contact Brian Hammer, Chairperson for the Food and Agribusiness Branch, for more information: bhammer@nationwide.com

NEIL CHAPTER NEWS

Chicagoland Safety, Health & Environment Conference News

Planning has started for the 2015 CSH&EC. Is there a topic you'd like to see covered, let us know. Contact Rich Rapacki, Sheri Lesak or Don Phillips with your suggestions.

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. The conference is sponsored by:

- 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>

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

The ASSE NEIL Chapter is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2-\$500 NIU student grants for 2014: Robell Kumbi and Ryan Hubrich! We are hopeful that both students can join us at our next meeting at Maggiano's-Schaumburg on Friday February 20 to be presented with their checks. Congratulations Robell & Ryan!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Partner organization meetings

ASSE Greater Chicago – February 10; 11:30 AM; combustible dust presented by Fiona Tranter of Abbott Laboratories. Cucina Biagio, 7313 Lawrence, just west of Harlem [RSVP here](#)

ASSE Three Rivers – Friday, February 13, 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/>. Candra Jefferson of the North Aurora OSHA office will provide an OSHA update..

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 Liaison
Dr. William Mills
Student Section Sponsor*

These are busy times for the NIU ASSE Student Section. The first meeting of the term was an organizational meeting held on Monday January 26 and three members were confirmed for the executive to replace 3 students who had graduated or had internships. Ryan Hubrich is the new President. Muhammad Starks is the new Vice-president and Ivanna Khmelovska. Demetrius Carter remains as Treasurer. The plans for upcoming meetings were discussed including ASSE Headquarters staff, Resume critiquing, LEED (joint meeting), EHS Professional Certifications etc. We hope to have the meetings for the Spring term finalized before the February NEIL meeting.

We are currently looking into having a CPR/AED training session for student members in March or April, most likely on a Saturday. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at 5 pm in SG211. Representatives from ASSE headquarters will be attending to provide information to student members about the advantages of ASSE membership, including scholarships from the ASSE Foundation.

There will be a resume critique meeting on Monday, February 16 at 5 pm in SG211. NEIL members who would like to help out can contact Charlie Vasconez or Dr. Mills. On Wednesday February 18 the AIHA Chicago Section Student Night will be held in Countryside. We expect to have a number of graduate and undergraduate student posters. Dr. Mills and several students plan to attend the NEIL meeting on Feb. 20.

Last year was a very successful "Shadow Day" with NEIL Chapter members. We hope that we can have as good a program this year. Please contact Charlie Vasconez if you can host a student for a hour to a day...

We are making plans for ordering student section apparel. We are inviting NEIL members who have assisted to order a shirt too. See our website at <http://www.niu.edu/asse/>, under apparel options. The student section now accepts credit cards. Contact Dr. Mills if you are interested in purchasing.



Practice Specialties Spotlight – CONSTRUCTION

*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: **Construction**.*

The Construction Practice Specialty (CPS) focuses on all aspects of construction safety and is intended to provide industry-specific information and focused networking opportunities to ASSE members. Some popular topics include jobsite safety, LEED, crane safety, communicating to a diverse workforce and contractor relations.

CPS began as the Construction Division in the late 1970s with George Hailey, PM, CSP, of W.S. Bellows Construction Co. as Administrator. In October 1978, the Construction Division established its objectives as “opening up lines of communication between Construction and Professionals of a highly mobile, worldwide industry” and published its first newsletter on December 15, 1978. During ASSE’s Safety 2000 conference in Orlando, FL, the Society’s House of Delegates approved a motion to change the name of all divisions to practice specialties.

Today CPS is the largest of ASSE’s practice specialties. It continues to publish its newsletter, now named *Blueprints*, triennially and assists with the publication of [Construction Safety Management & Engineering](#), which is edited by Darryl C. Hill, CSP, a past CPS Administrator and the 2010-2011 Society President.

CPS sponsors construction-related concurrent sessions as well as a Construction Safety Forum at ASSE’s annual Professional Development Conference.

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



From the Editor

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the price of meat has increased 0.5% to 7.5% annually, every year since 2005. That amounts to an over 35% increase over the last 10 years. At the February NEIL Chapter meeting, your board will ask you to approve a \$5.00, or 33 percent, increase in chapter dues. Percentages are a funny thing; if our current dues was \$5.00, this would be a 100% increase. If our dues were \$25, as greater Chicago, it would be 20%. As a member of the board I support the increase. Actually, I supported a \$10 increase, but I'll settle for \$5. Here's why I support the increase.

The NEIL Chapter is strong and growing. Over the last few years we have increased our monthly meeting attendance from 25-30 to regularly pushing 60. Higher attendance is a good thing: more networking, more information, and more safety ideas. More members is also expensive. Our chapter has survived on the proceeds from the Chicagoland Safety Conference for a long time and taken a loss on our monthly meetings for almost as long as I've been a member. We have reached a point where we can no longer afford to take that loss. So why not just raise meeting fees?

Our costs are not just meeting costs. We also have costs for mailings, attendance at the Professional Development Conference, support for the student section, and cost for supporting benevolence such as the Northern Illinois Food Pantry, grants, and scholarships. Our charter is to support and grow the safety profession and as we all know from our "day jobs", nothing is free and prices tend to increase. We have cut costs by making this news letter an e-letter, changing the menu at monthly meetings, and trimming support of the Student Section at NIU. Of these cost-cutting measures, only one has come with no ill effects, the move to an electronic news letter.

Attempting to trim at the lunch table was not popular so we went back to the family-style meal. The Student Sections, including ours at NIU, are the lifeblood of the ASSE and cutting here is tantamount to cutting off our nose to spite our face. I joined NEIL in 2006 for the members, networking, and overall support of the safety profession. We have a great chapter, not just because of the string of Chapter Star Awards, but because of the member experience we provide. Our members are our Chapter and our strength. Providing the services you, our members, have come to expect costs money and February 20 is your chance to show your support for the Chapter you have built. Please join me in voting "YES" to set our dues at a level that will sustain our chapter.

Don Phillips
NEILetter Editor



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