



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Midnight Sun Chapter

Newsletter October to December 2018

P.O. Box 72703 Fairbanks, AK  
<https://midnightsun.assp.org>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Midnight Sun Chapter President: Seth Wilson**      **sawils064@gmail.com**

I hope everyone has enjoyed the holiday season, and that you are all doing well. I am happy to report that we have had a successful rigging training this fall, and that we (myself and the Executive Committee) are working hard at bringing more training opportunities to the Fairbanks area for our Chapter members. Not only has this training brought valuable safety education to our members, and their respective employers, it has also benefitted the Chapter by providing the financial means for us to continue our mission. I am happy to say that we will be able to keep carrying out this year's primary goals for the chapter by providing more training opportunities and in the process, attract new members.

The only way this organization can meet the needs of the group and the community is by having participation from our ASSP members. Even the smallest of effort helps us, whether it is taking the time to complete a nomination form, completing an opinion survey, or bringing guests to our monthly meetings, all of it has a positive effect. I want to give a big thank you to those of you who have been participating, and keeping the energy of this organizing moving forward.

On a more serious note, there have been several work related incidents or fatalities within Alaska recently. I would like to point out that the line of work we have chosen to be in does matter; it does have an effect. Safety Professionals are more relevant than ever, and through ASSP we have an opportunity to promote safety in the community, assist other organizations in developing safety programs, and provide networking among safety professionals so that we can support one another to better address the issues we may be experiencing at our individual places of employment. It does matter, and I hope all of you agree with me.

**#SafetyMatters**

Should anyone have any questions regarding our plans in the upcoming quarter please contact one of the Executive Committee members or myself directly. We will happily answer any questions you may have. Thank you again for your participation, and I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future during our Chapter meetings.  
- Seth Wilson ASSP, Midnight Sun Chapter President



**"My goal as President is to generate meaningful membership engagement through quality training and professional development"**

Seth Wilson  
ASSP Midnight Sun Chapter President



*Midnight Sun Chapter*



*Midnight Sun Chapter*

## Midnight Sun Chapter Training Events

The primary goal of the 2018-2019 Midnight Sun Chapter Executive Committee is to bring meaningful training to our Chapter members and our community. We are proud to announce that our first training event was a success. One day General Industry Crane Rigging and Signaling training was provided over four days, from October 29th to November 1st. We had 56 registrations and have received lots of great feedback on the great training provided. We were also able to raise over \$10K for our Chapter, which will greatly aid us in continuing our mission. A huge thanks to all those that supported this endeavor, to include Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA), Alaska State Department of Transportation (DOT), Golden Heart Utilities (GHU), and Everts Air for the many registrations, and to GVEA for also providing the training facility. Our Executive Committee is dedicated to providing more beneficial training in the very near future, and your input is very welcome. Stay tuned!

## Midnight Sun Chapter Member Appreciation at Our December Chapter Meeting (and more to come in January!)

To show our appreciation to our highly dedicated members, a special Christmas gift was created this year. A chic Hydro Flask®, engraved with the Midnight Sun Chapter ASSP logo, was available to the first 15 members that arrived to our December Chapter meeting! We also celebrated the holidays by holding a white elephant gift exchange and all present participated in a JHA on Santa Claus. It was great fun and a big thanks to all that joined in! Did you miss out? Not to worry; One engraved Hydro



Flask®, will also be an additional prize to those that join in our 50/50 raffle at our monthly Chapter meetings. Also, mark your calendar for our January Chapter meeting, which is dedicated to appreciating our Chapter members by providing a free lunch to members, and presenting our annual Chapter awards. Not a member yet? That's ok, we still want you there, and lunch will be available for purchase for non-members.

## Become a Chapter Leader!!!!

### Upcoming Executive Committee Elections for 2019 - 2020 Chapter Year

Do you want to be a part of making our Chapter great again? Have you wanted to participate and weren't sure how? Consider being a part of the action and running for the Chapter Executive Committee! The Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee for the 2018-

2019 Chapter year has been appointed to oversee the election of our 2019-2020 Chapter Executive Committee. Elections will take place in April 2019 and the term for the elected Chapter officers will be from July 1st, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Anyone interested in running for an Executive Committee position should email the Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Shane Burnett at:

[shanearcfire@yahoo.com](mailto:shanearcfire@yahoo.com)

Other committee members are Kelly Lawson and Sheila Gwizdak.



Midnight Sun Chapter

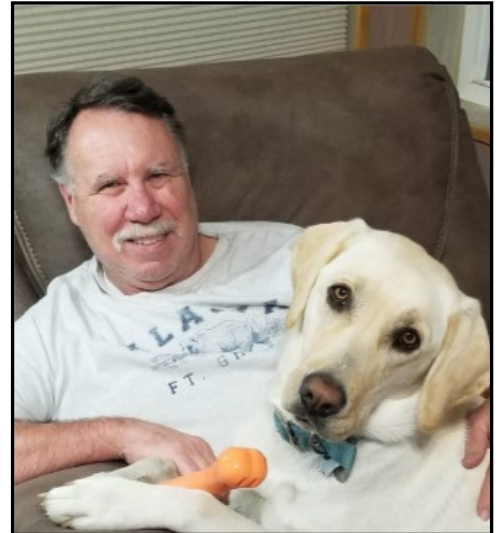
## Member Spotlight - Mr. John Marquart, Doyon Utilities

John Marquart, otherwise known as "Safety John", works for Doyon Utilities on Ft. Wainwright. He has been a member of the Midnight Sun Chapter and in Fairbanks for 1.5 years, but associated with ASSP for nearly 20 years. John is very passionate about the organization and helping the community as well. He has turned Doyon's safety culture in a whole new direction.

John's accomplishments since moving up here include implementing a monthly training program that is suitable to the employee's schedules in lieu of past annual training for three days.

When he arrived, there were 140 unresolved near-misses and now they've all been resolved. The program has also gone from three recordables a year to one.

John is also working on procedures, document control and safe work practices. John is currently coordinating bringing the OSHA 30 training for his Site Safety Advisors, and bringing a training group to Fairbanks to specifically train on loading/unloading rail cars, and other equipment safety. John has a 75% physical presence and says the greatest reward is the joking around with the employees and that they accept what safety wants to accomplish. John says, "I want everyone to go home with 10 fingers, 10 toes, 2 eyes and a nose."



### WISE Updates from our Chapter WISE Representative, Tina Holland



# WISE

Women in Safety Excellence

*ASSP's Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) Common Interest Group advances ASSP members and the safety profession through education, mentorship, networking, collaboration, research and innovation.*

amazing venue in the warehouse district of New Orleans called Fulton Alley. Thanks to WISE Assistant Administrator Christina Roll for scouting the location and ASSP staff including Ash Leigh and Cherri Thomas for making this happen!! We all can't wait for WISE to take over this prohibition style gaming parlour! Hone your bowling, foosball, and board game skills - there will be challenges...Remember to register for this event when you register for Safety 2019. [www.fultonalley.com](http://www.fultonalley.com)

We are going to have ChapterWISE and Mentoring sessions in the WISE lounge. We are working on the details.

The Famous WISE PPE fashion show- we will have two sessions so we can meet everyone's schedule.

WISE will have an open call to all who are interested. Please [register today](#) for the annual WISE Open Call on January 30! You won't want to miss hearing about all the amazing WISE happenings!

Registration is open for Safety 2019 (New Orleans)! The WISE networking event at Safety 2019 will be at an



January 24-31, 2019  
Las Vegas, NV

Registration is Now Open

<http://www.assp.org>

Seminarfest 2019 features more than 90 courses from 40 expert facilitators, covering the industry's most relevant topics, specifically curated to support your professional development. Earn up to 5.6 CEUs in one week and increase your depth of knowledge to advance your career.





Midnight Sun Chapter

*American Society of Safety Professionals is your source for insights on trends in the safety profession, including developments in safety management, worker safety, government and regulatory affairs and standards.*



**Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference & Exposition.**

Sunday, June 9 thru Wednesday, June 12 | Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center | New Orleans, LA

## Registration Opens for ASSP's Safety 2019 in New Orleans

Dec 10th, 2018

PARK RIDGE, Illinois — Registration is open for the nation's largest conference for occupational safety and health professionals. The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) expects to draw more than 5,000 attendees from 40 countries to its [Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference and Exposition](#). The event takes place June 9-12 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center along the Mississippi River.

More than any other professional event, Safety 2019 connects workplace safety and health professionals to new ideas and to each other. It offers the richest networking experience in the industry. It exposes attendees to best practices, industry trends and the latest product innovations. A wealth of educational sessions provides practical information that safety professionals can put to use now and in the future. A survey of past attendees found that 98 percent would recommend the global conference to a colleague.

"ASSP members around the globe protect workers in every industry, so this dynamic event goes a long way in supporting their professional mission," said Mary Silva, chair of the

ASSP Professional Development Conference Planning Committee. "It's a place to find real solutions to your top challenges while meeting and learning from industry trendsetters."

ASSP's signature event – in its 58th year – will offer more than 240 concurrent educational sessions categorized by experience level and taught by some of the greatest minds in safety. More than 600 exhibitors will present the latest products, technologies and techniques in the field. Attendees will experience a spirited plenary town hall and a mix of engaging general sessions, including an inspirational address from Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton who has fought through childhood illness, a cancer diagnosis and recurring pituitary tumors.

All paid attendees will receive free access to more than 150 concurrent session recordings, enabling them to catch sessions they missed.

ASSP's annual safety conference was last held in New Orleans in 2005. The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center features America's largest contiguous-space exhibit hall that offers 1.1 million square feet of exhibit space. The facility is a short walk from the city's world-famous French Quarter and historic St.

Charles streetcar line.

Safety and health professionals can register [online](#) for Safety 2019. To learn how groups from the same company can save on the entire conference, contact ASSP group coordinator Nancy O'Toole at 847.768.3466 or [notoole@assp.org](mailto:notoole@assp.org).

### About ASSP – Working together for a safer, stronger future

For more than 100 years, the American Society of Safety Professionals has been at the forefront of helping occupational safety and health professionals protect people and property. The nonprofit society is based in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge. Its global membership of over 38,000 professionals covers every industry, developing safety and health management plans that prevent injuries, illnesses and deaths. ASSP advances its members and the safety profession through education, advocacy, standards and a professional community. Its flagship publication, **Professional Safety**, is a long-time leader in the field. Visit [www.assp.org](http://www.assp.org) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

**Media contact:** Blaine Krage, 847.768.3416, [bkrage@assp.org](mailto:bkrage@assp.org)



## **Worker Fatalities Slightly Decrease, But ASSP Wants Safer Workplaces**

Dec 20, 2018

PARK RIDGE, Illinois — The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), the world's oldest professional safety organization, is calling on employers to take well-known steps to protect America's workers from fatal injuries in response to newly released data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). While the BLS reported this week that fatal occupational injuries decreased in 2017 for the first time in four years, the drop was minimal. There were 5,147 workplace deaths in the United States last year, down just 0.8 percent from the 2016 level of 5,190. The fatal injury rate per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers decreased from 3.6 to 3.5.

"This level of worker safety and health is not acceptable," said ASSP President Rixio Medina, CSP, CPP. "There needs to be greater energy and a stronger national focus on preventing serious injuries and fatalities on the job. Most of these incidents are preventable, and they are occurring far too often in every industry."

The BLS data also showed that a disproportionate number of Hispanic and Latino workers die on the job, with the 2017 rate remaining at 3.7 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. It's the highest rate for any race or ethnic origin. Fatal falls were at their highest level in the 26-year history of the report, accounting for 887 worker deaths (17.2 percent). Transportation incidents were again the most frequent fatal event in 2017 with 2,077 workplace deaths (40.4 percent).

"We will continue to push for greater education and widespread improvement through a multi-stakeholder approach that must involve government agencies, business leaders, advocacy groups, labor unions and professional associations," Medina said. "Significant change is needed in workplace safety cultures to better protect workers and ensure that they return home to their families every day."

While the 5,147 fatal occupational injuries in 2017 reflected a slight decrease from the previous year, the number is significantly higher than other years, such as the 4,551 worker deaths reported in 2009. Improvement may be anchored in the adoption of occupational safety and health management systems such as the new ISO 45001 global standard, greater implementation of managed fall protection programs, stronger fleet safety programs and the use of proven risk assessment techniques.

"It's really about bringing best practices into the spotlight at all companies in every industry, such as prevention through design and risk management approaches," Medina said. "We believe the proper implementation of a safety and health management system can help protect workers and improve a company's bottom line. Then everybody wins."

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Safety Professionals—  
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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
**SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

Midnight Sun Chapter

<https://midnightsun.assp.org>

1. The purpose of the Midnight Sun Chapter is to promote the advancement of the safety profession and safety professionals in the geographical area served.

2. In fulfilling its purposes, the Chapter shall have the following objectives within the geographical area:

- To develop and/or promote educational programs for obtaining the knowledge required to perform the functions of a safety professional.
- To develop and/or disseminate locally, information and materials that will carry out the purposes of the Chapter, the Society, and serve the public.
- To provide and/or support forums for the interchange and acquisition of professional knowledge among its members.
- To foster liaison with local organizations of related disciplines.
- To inaugurate and implement such other programs and projects that are consistent with the purposes of the Charter and the Society.
- To conduct its affairs in a manner that will reflect the standards, purposes and objectives of the society.

### **Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

The Midnight Sun Chapter meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11:45am to 1:00pm. All meetings take place at the [Westmark Hotel](#), located at 813 Noble Street #1, Fairbanks, AK 99701

- ♦ Thursday, January 3rd, 2019
- ♦ Thursday, February 7th, 2019
- ♦ Thursday, March 7th, 2019

### **Member Milestones**

*The following Members are being recognized for their continued dedication and service to the Profession and our Chapter as we recognize membership anniversaries (and member years as calculated by Society) this quarter:*

Catherine Apicella - 22 Years	Don Maynor - 12 Years	June Moore - 9 Years	Don Werhonig - 5 Years
Michelle Young - 17 Years	Brian Ellingson - 11 Years	Gregory Conley - 7 Years	Patti Sellner - 3 Years
Ryan Wade - 16 Years	John Taylor - 10 Years	Kent Freeman - 5 Years	Danielle Wiley - 2 Years
			Rob Morris - 1 Year

### **New Members Welcome**

The Midnight Sun Chapter continues to grow! The following individuals recently joined our Chapter this quarter. On behalf of our Membership, Welcome!

**Michael Abels    Robert Merchant**