



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Alabama Chapter

March 2020 Newsletter

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Message From The President

Dear ASSP Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you doing well. And while we're on the subject of doing well, I guess this would be a good time to talk about staying well and preparing for an outward spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. As safety and health professionals, people will understandably be looking to us for guidance on how to reduce risks and deal with local communicable infections. Linked here are two very fine articles released by ASSP on how to prepare for what may come next. We are seeing respiratory protection products, particularly N-95 and 100 filtering facepiece units in critically short supply. Clearly, the direct and ripple effects of COVID-19 will continue to teach us lessons on how to better prepare for these situations in the future. For now, however, I'd suggest you get a look at both of these articles for some good guidance on creating contingency plans and training your people on how to respond to what's happening now.

[The Safety Professional's Role in Planning for Pandemic](#)

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf \[who.int\]](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf)

Our next ASSP Chapter lunch meeting is planned for Friday, March 20 at AGC in Irondale. Our presenter is Frank Wampol, Vice President and chief of safety and health at B.L. Harbert International. His topic will focus on a different kind of epidemic – that of Death by Suicide in the Construction Industry. You may not realize this, but, according to the CDC, the construction industry is currently experiencing the highest rate of suicide, as well as the highest number of suicides across all industries. Multiple data sources indicate that suicide in construction is 4 times the national average and 5 times greater than that of all other construction fatalities combined. The underlying causes are universal – they affect all of us. I believe Frank's research, intellect, and personal experiences with this issue will make his presentation one we should definitely not miss.

See you on March 20! Be sure to RSVP through our Events page on alabama.assp.org.

Finally, not trying to sound like mom, but wash your hands! Probably a good bit more than you usually do. And best wishes for continued good health to all.

Matt

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Member: Kurt Friend

1. **Where do you live?** I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, have lived and worked up and down the East Coast from Maine to South Carolina before settling in Shelby County, AL twelve years ago.

2. **How did you get your start in safety (or safety & health)?** I entered Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a biology major and was introduced to the field of safety & health by a fellow undergraduate. At the time the school was one of only a handful of universities with an ABET accredited safety program. The field of study along with my interest in all manner of industry and construction led me to change majors embark on what has now become a 30+ year career.
3. **Tell us something we may not know about you.** I enjoy reading and studying history, military and industrial.
4. **Tell us something on your bucket list.** Visit and attend Mass at all the great cathedrals of Europe.
5. **Tell us something you aspire to do.** Restore/rebuild a classic automobile.
6. **What are your hobbies?** Although by no means very good, I enjoy machining, metalworking, mechanical work, and woodworking.

[Click Here to Submit Your Pick-Six](#)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Current Chapter Membership: 427

New Members

- Morgan Dill
- Joyce Perry
- Jennifer Kiker
- Matt Jackson
- Mark Thomas
- Ladedra Ruffin
- Cody Payton

Long Service Recognition of Chapter Members

- Jeffrey Odom, 34 years
- Robert Forrester, 32 years
- Jim Tillery, 26 years
- Ross Boeker, 21 years
- Roy Rigney, 19 years
- Perry Hawkins, 18 years
- Charles Gironda, 16 years
- Diedra Ward, 14 years

- Tony Davis, 14 years
- Jonathan Rearden, 14 years
- Edward Grzybowski, 13 years
- Eric Worley, 10 years
- Tom Gilbert, 10 years

[See All March Service Anniversaries](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Chapter Meeting

Friday, March 20 from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Frank Wampol from B.L. Harbert will discuss a troubling epidemic – *Death by Suicide in the Construction Industry*

[For More Information and to Register Click Here](#)

Annual Chapter Recognition Luncheon

Wednesday, April 22 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

[For More Information and to Register Click Here](#)

[To View All Upcoming Events Click Here](#)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking to network and find out if there are job openings. The jobs must be in an Environment, Health and Safety function. For example: Fleet Safety Manager, Director of Environmental, Health and Safety, Risk Manager, etc.

We will post the jobs to our website at southtexas.asse.org. This is done currently at no charge, but the chapter is always accepting donations to help establish our scholarship fund. Your contribution is appreciated.

Please e-mail the job information to updates@alabama.assp.org

Visit the ASSP Alabama Chapter Jobs Website Page



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