



News & Views

*Always Seeking Safety Excellence
through
Growth, Challenge & Change
1939-2004*



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

General Chapter Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 2nd, 2004
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Brady's Landing
8505 Cypress, Houston

Topic: State of the Profession

**Speakers: Panel Discussion -
Cindy Lewis, Marks Hansen, and
Frank Perry**

Construction Division Meeting

Friday, Sept. 17th - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Brady's Landing - 8505 Cypress, Houston
Topic: TBA

North Section Meeting

Monday, Sept. 13th - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn North - I-45 & 1960
Topic: TBA

West Section Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 8th - 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.
Cameron Headquarters
Topic: TBA

President's Update— Mike Narvaez, CSP

The Bell has Rung

Beginnings to me are a great thing; maybe the best of things. The start of something new is always filled with hope and enthusiasm of things to come. I still remember the feelings I had the day before school started. My anxious demeanor was not the result of upcoming school work or new courses of study, but rather the anticipation of seeing my friends again. The first day of the school year signified the rekindling of old friendships that were suspended by time and location. Even as an adult I still remember the ritual of selecting my favorite newly purchased outfit, not being able to sleep, wanting to be the first at the bus stop, and looking for my friends the minute I walked through the doors.

Now that I am a professional, the beginning of the Chapter year, kicked off by the September meeting, has become my first day of school. I feel confident I will sleep just fine the night before and there is no new outfit to layout. However, I wait with great anticipation to see my friends. During planning meetings this summer I have seen some of you, but nothing tops the feeling of seeing so many professionals with similar passions gathering together at the first Chapter meeting of the year. I always enjoy talking with everyone about summer vacations or trials and tribulations at work that occurred while we were apart.

I hope this year, as in years past, we will be successful in fulfilling the needs of our membership. The Gulf Coast Chapter has an outstanding tradition which has allowed us to provide many quality services not often seen in other chapters. Whether you value the ASP/CSP classes, Vendor's Night, or our numerous community service projects, all of these services are provided by your friends in ASSE that dedicate their time and talent into making this a great chapter. There has been a lot of preparation for the upcoming year and I look forward to seeing everyone on "the first day of school" to share what the chapter has in store.

If you've made it this far in the article you may think that I am being dramatic, or exaggerating the benefits I receive by attending the Gulf Coast Chapter meetings. For those that do not normally attend I completely understand, but like most things what you get out of ASSE is directly related to what you put in. I encourage you to attend at least one meeting this year in hopes that you will experience even a hint of what I receive as a regular attendee. For those that do normally attend I will be waiting and looking for you the minute you walk through the doors, after all I don't have to wait at the bus stop anymore.

Vendor's Night!

Vendor's night sponsored by the Gulf Coast Chapter's of AIHA & ASSE is coming!

Tuesday, October 26, 2004
Hobby Hilton
8181 Airport Blvd.
4:30 – 8:00 pm

Members, be sure to bring plenty of business cards to enter all of the vendor's door prize drawings. Drawings will be held from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Vendors, if you are interested in obtaining booth space at the event please contact Kevin Roberts at krroberts@mdanderson.org or call 713-563-3730.

See you there!

Student Corner

The student section has been working hard at planning their upcoming year and welcomes the Chapter's involvement.

Student Officers for this year are:

- President - **Rebecca Diaz**
- Vice-President – **Christi Ringuet**
- Secretary – **Mary Stakes**
- Treasurer – **Carmen Madriz-Quiros**

Upcoming events include:

- August 31st - Meeting @ 6 p.m.
- September 21st - Meeting & Resume Workshop @ 6 p.m.

(Meetings held at San Jac Health & Science Bld.)

The student section also has six on-campus fundraising events planned during the month of September. You can get more info by contacting Rebecca Diaz at diazpalencia@houston.rr.com

A New Year – John Kerker, OHST

Your new officers have been working behind the scenes to plan the new year, which promises to be filled with lots of occasions for seeing old friends making new friends and lots of opportunity to learn something new.

As you all already know ASSE is the premier Safety society and the Gulf Coast chapter is the largest chapter in ASSE. We are currently more than 1,300 members strong!

There are many ways for members to help with running an efficient chapter. Please think of volunteering by devoting some time to our Societies' many worthwhile functions. There are still open chair positions, if you'd like to get involved contact anyone of the officers.

Congratulations!

Jody Jackson, CSP

Intercontinental Terminals Company

2004-2005

Gulf Coast Chapter's

Safety Professional of the Year

Jody is pictured below in the blue long sleeve shirt receiving his award from Cindy Lewis.

The Awards and Honors Celebration

was held on the 19th of June 2004 on one of the Star Fleet cruise ships on Clear Lake. Volunteers' efforts were recognized throughout the year and our new officers were inducted. Everyone who attended had a great time as we cruised the night away while enjoying some good food and drink while visiting with fellow safety professionals



Chapter & Society News (Cont.)



Those who were honored for their contributions to the Gulf Coast chapter were:

Officer Induction: Mike Thompson, CSP
– Past Vice President of ASSE-Region 3

2004-05 GCC Executive Committee

Mike Narvaez, CSP – President
Jerry Cumby – V.P. Communications
John Kerker – V.P. Membership Services
Tara Falin – Secretary
Lawrence Schulze, PhD. – Treasurer

Awards:

President's Award: John Kerker
Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) Award: Jody Jackson
The Gussman Award: Cindy Lewis

Recognition of the 2003-04 GCC Executive Committee:

Robert Gussman
Mike Narvaez – V.P. Communications
John Kerker – V.P. Membership Services
Ted Low – Secretary
Lawrence Schulze – Treasurer

North Section Leadership:

Robert Tucci – Chair
Bruce Berry – Secretary
Randy Thomas – Treasurer

West Side Section Leadership:

Karen Carter – Chair
Jack Thompson – Vice Chair
Scott Bergeron – Secretary
Jack Philley – Program Chair

Construction Practice Specialty Leadership:

Thomas Scott – Chair
Chris Mack – Vice-Chair
Bill Blaney – Secretary

Greater Houston Area Student Section

Rebeca Diaz – President
Ronnie Prebilsky – Vice President
Rebecca Ginsburg – Secretary

Recognition of Student Section Advisors

Lawrence Schulze, PhD. – University of Houston, Main Campus
Jan Barton – San Jacinto College
Jeff Oakley, PhD. – University of Houston – Clear Lake

Community Involvement Recognition:

Boy Scouts Fair Risk Management Committee:

Gary Cizek – Coordinator
Cindy Lewis
Jack Philley
Mike Thompson
Thomas Ross
Mike Hagerty

OSHA Youth Rules Rally:

Cindy Lewis

Science Engineering Fair of Houston – Rules/Safety Committee:

Walter Chmiekewski – Coordinator
Alan Barbee
Alex Benoit
Steven Boydston
David Byers
Brian Calcote
Patricia Ferrell
Armand Giannini
Don McKee
Jack Philly
J. Roger Pompa
Franklin Poston
Vedma Rupnarrain
Joseph Rush
Travis Tipton

General Chapter Leadership:

Melanie Richmond – Program Chair
Tara Falin – Membership Chair
Jerry Cumby – Public Relations Chair
Debbie Girouard – Newsletter Editor
Jody Jackson – Golf Tournament Chair
Eric Bowers – ASP/CSP Review Coordinator
Susan Harms – Governmental Affairs Chair **Frank Baker** – Risk Management Chair
Kim Carlson – Roster Chair
Cindy Lewis – School Safety Chair
Ron Elliott – Historian

CAN-SPAM Act

A new federal spam law is in effect and the Gulf Coast Chapter will no longer be maintaining a local database of members. Therefore we are encouraging our members to go to the ASSE Headquarters website to update their contact information, especially e-mail, ASAP. Starting October 1st we will be utilizing the ASSE headquarter database of members. If you are not an ASSE member, but would still like to receive communications please send an e-mail identifying yourself to Kim Carlson, Roster Chair, at kcarlson@claytongrp.com. Please change your information by going on-line to www.asse.org, e-mailing customer service at customerservice@asse.org, or calling headquarters at 847-699-2929 between 8:30 to 5:00 CST.

Why All the Fuss?

E-mail has rapidly become a popular and efficient way to correspond but this popularity greatly affects day-to-day business for all corporations. The increased use of this media has lowered productivity in the American workplace and has cost businesses between \$10 and \$87 billion annually in increased software and hardware for e-mail alone. An estimated 15 billion messages per day are sent out via e-mail and 75% of all e-mail is estimated to be spam! In the interest of rectifying the problem, Congress passed the CAN -SPAM Act.

All e-mails must include the following information:

- If the notice is for any event that charges a fee, including a Chapter meeting, information identifying the e-mail as an advertisement or solicitation (which does not have to appear in the header or subject line).
- A clear statement that the recipient has the ability to opt-out of receiving future unsolicited e-mail (all opt out request must go through ASSE headquarters)
- The sender's physical postal address.

For further information regarding this legislation, please contact ASSE's Director of Marketing, Kelly Fanella, at 847.768.3409 or via e-mail at kfanella@asse.org

Chapter of the Year!!

During this year's professional development conference in Las Vegas, the Gulf Coast Chapter was honored with the Chapter STARS Recognition Award for the 02-03 chapter year. The Chapter Stars Recognition Program (CSRP) is designed to recognize Chapters that give their members superior service and programs to advance continued professional growth.

We were also honored with the prestigious Chapter of the Year Award for large chapters. Large chapters are defined as those chapters with more than 450 members. In receiving this award the Chapter received:

- A \$1,000 award to send members to the Annual Leadership Conference
- A \$500 stipend to send a Chapter representative to the PDC to receive the award
- Recognition on a plaque in perpetuity at ASSE HQ which includes the name of the Chapter, the President's name, and the year.
- A duplicate plaque for the Chapter President of the award-winning year.

Cindy Lewis was the President during the Chapter Year that received both of these honors. Congratulations to Cindy for her efforts and those of the chapter that made the awards possible!



Chapter Eternal

Lee D. Tracy, P.E., CSP

Mentor. What is a mentor? This word is used so very often today that I wonder if people truly know what the word means. The dictionary gives the following definition:

a trusted counselor or guide; also : TUTOR : COACH

On April 5, 2004, I lost one of my mentors in the safety profession, **Lee D. Tracy, P.E., CSP**. Lee fought the good fight against major surgery and health complications, but eventually succumbed. I worked with Lee for five years at Mitchell Energy & Development Corp. You noticed I said I worked “with” Lee, not “for” Lee. In reality I did work “for” Lee, but he never made me feel that way. It was always “with.” What an influence Lee was on me.

In 1981, Lee inherited this inexperienced safety professional just finishing my third year in the profession. I can't tell you what Lee thought as he got to know me and me him. I'm sure he had his doubts from time to time. You see, Lee had between 25 – 30 years experience on me. Needless to say, I wanted to learn all I could from such a person. But was he willing to mentor me?

In the next five years, Lee did just that. He taught me how to control my emotions when things didn't go just the way I thought they should go. He taught me to write in such a way as to tell the other party just how the cow ate the cabbage and have them thank you for doing so. He taught me how to deal with the various levels of management. He took me under his wing and taught me, and included me, in the ins and outs of running a department, including the financial aspects. He taught me so much more that I could go on and on.

In all the years I worked with Lee and knew him, he never once talked down to me. He always treated me as an equal. I'm not saying he didn't get irritated with me. That goes without saying. But he never talked to me in a rough fashion. He used those times to mentor me in what should have been done. I respected him for that.

In 1986 I left Mitchell for what I thought were greener pastures. And as the years flew by, Lee and I kept in contact, even after his retirement, either by personal visits, telephone, or as in later years, by e-mail. I would tell him how business was going; the ups and downs. But he'd always tell me he had no doubt I would succeed. He truly believed in me.

John D. Williams, a former Mitchell safety administrator in North Texas, told me after being notified of Lee's passing; 'There are many of us that owe our careers to Lee.' No truer words could have been spoken.

When I was notified of Lee's passing, a void was forever left in my heart. I've lost a true friend and my mentor. I will always cherish the relationship Lee and I had. I will always owe him for what he taught me, what he gave me; a life full of experience. A debt I cannot and will not be able to repay.

So if you have the opportunity to positively influence a young, inexperienced safety professional's career, take it. They will forever thank you. I can only hope that I have and will.

Submitted by: Joel N. Tietjens, CSP, CSHM - T-JENS & T-JENS, INC.

L. Wayne Kinison

L. Wayne Kinison, passed away on July 19th of this year. Perhaps there are still chapter members who might like to know of his passing. He was a CSP and a Member Emeritus of your fine organization. He was very proud of that honor and his association with ASSE, continuing to attend meetings for years after his retirement in 1981. His obituary can be read online at:

<http://www.legacy.com/houstonchronicle/LegacySubPage2.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=2440188>

This article was submitted by Dave Kinison, P.E., son of L. Wayne Kinison

Good News Never Sells

Ever notice how a big story in the news never gets a follow up? Here is a follow up on the “ricin found in baby food story”.

From the FDA website: “ Contrary to the impression given by some early reports, FDA did NOT find purified ricin in two baby food jars involved in an apparent tampering case in the Irvine, California area. To date no injuries have been reported, and these problems seem to be isolated within the immediate Irvine area. FDA, which conducted the analyses of these products, found what appears to be the ground-up remnants of castor beans. Although ricin can be purified through chemical extraction processes from castor beans, the material found in these jars was far less toxic than purified ricin. Nevertheless, consumers who find anything suspicious concerning the packaging or contents of baby food products should not feed it to anyone, but instead notify their local FDA office. As with all baby foods, caregivers should carefully examine all food product packaging, including such anti-tampering devices as “lid safety buttons.” *For more information on food tampering, consumers can go to FDA’s web page at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fstamper.html>.*”

Risk Factors

One of my favorite pastimes is critiquing news stories with the headline, “ Persons eating AGENT X are Z times more likely to get Dread Disease Y” Recently I have seen stories on soft drinks and obesity or Type II diabetes; teeth whiteners and cancer. Every week it is something new. These stories rely on the fact that the majority of the public has little understanding of the epidemiological terms “risk factor” or “relative risk”. Here is an excellent article by Dr. Jon Robison: <http://www.techcentralstation.com/082504D.html>

Dr. Robison critiques an article in the August 25th issue of the Journal of The American Medical Association, "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, Weight Gain, and Incidence of Type 2 Diabetes in Young and Middle-Aged Women." He describes the article as “a textbook case study in the misuse of epidemiological research for the development of health recommendations for the public.” He points out that this JAMA article blurs the distinction between correlation (or association) and causation. Dr. Robison’s article is a clear and concise explanation of risk factor and relative risk and the misuse of these terms. How is this important to a safety professional? Understanding these epidemiological terms can enable you to understand risk factors for the worker population.

Professional Development

New - A10.32 Fall Protection Systems for Construction and Demolition Operations Technical Conference Call

Join us for this special Technical Conference Call on Wednesday September 22, 2004 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm CST, Visit the ASSE website for more details and to register.

www.asse.org

Society of Petroleum Engineers Meeting Sept. 8th 11:00-1:00

Society of Petroleum Engineers – Gulf Coast Section
Safety & Environment Study Group Luncheon
Presentation

**Topic: Process Safety: Beyond the OSHA PSM Rule
Speaker: Dr. Harry West**

**Event Contact: Gaurav Sharma
713-260-8459**



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Expo: September 13-15
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For more information visit www.nsc.org

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Thanks a Million!!

Our highly successful Awards and Honors Banquet would not be a reality without the continued support of local vendors. The ASSE GCC Executive Committee would like to sincerely thank these vendors for their support of chapter activities.

Effect of Hearing Loss on Speech Discrimination

Individuals who have a hearing loss and working within manufacturing/petrochemical facilities may pose unique challenges for the individual assigned responsibilities for safety and health. Significant hearing loss likely lessens speech discrimination especially in the presence of competing background noise. Communication in any environment is critical; impaired communication may have a potential severe impact in this challenging environment.

To fully appreciate the devastating effect hearing loss has on speech discrimination, consider that sounds generated by the speech mechanism possess specific and replicable acoustical properties. While the human ear is capable of detecting sound with energy between 20 to 20,000 Hz, most sounds generated in human language are comprised of speech energy in the 125-6000 Hz range. Vowel sounds generally hold low frequency energy (125-1000 Hz). Consonants on the other hand, hold mid to high frequency energy (1000-6000 Hz). Vowel sounds generally have higher intensity levels than consonants.

A common complaint heard from those with sensorineural hearing loss (nerve deafness) is that speech sounds “garbled”. This is a loss-related complaint consistent with less than normal speech discrimination performance. Unlike their normal hearing counterparts, hearing-impaired persons have difficulty discriminating subtle acoustical difference between sounds- like T” and “S” for example.

If you have high frequency hearing loss, your ability to discriminate between consonants greatly diminishes. When placed in situations with moderate to high background noise levels, speech discrimination performance further deteriorates.

To gain some appreciation of poor speech discrimination, consider the phrase:

“Tom, I asked you to take out the trash last night!”

In worst case scenarios, hearing impaired persons might perceive this same passage as:

“_om, I a_ked you _o_ake ou_ ___ e _ra__ la__ nigh_ !

When communicating with hearing impaired persons, here are helpful “Do’s and Don’ts”:

- Select acoustically friendly spaces to communicate. Carpeted rooms or areas where dampen acoustical reverberation may add clarity.
- Position yourself in front of the hearing impaired person. Lip reading helps.
- Don’t talk between rooms within an area or office.
- Don’t shout! Remember, many hearing impaired persons hear speech but just cannot decipher it. Shouting may distort your voice to the hearing-impaired listener.

If an individual has a hearing loss, which potentially affects speech discrimination, has this individual been seen by an Audiologist? Has the individual been fitted with an appropriate *occupational* hearing device for amplification? What affect does the hearing device have on speech discrimination? Are visual aids needed for the workplace to assist in the communication? Unique challenges for the individual assigned responsibilities for safety and health – absolutely. Creative solutions needed to solve the problem – definitely. Impossible to overcome – NO.

Robert Williams M. Ed., CCC-A is the Director of Audiology for TK Group Inc. Robert J Reda CIH, CSP has been a Professional Member of the ASSE and the Gulf Coast Chapter for over thirteen years. Mr. Reda is President of Robert J Reda & Associates LLC, a safety, health, environmental consulting firm. Additionally, Mr. Reda is the Regional Manager for TK Group Inc. in the State of Texas. Questions or requests for information can be obtained by calling Robert Reda at 281-437-2945 or e-mail at reda@ev1.net. TK Group Inc. is one of the largest mobile Audiometric testing companies in the United States with over 6000 clients. For more information about TK Group Inc. visit their web site at www.tkontheweb.com.

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