Why Do You Participate?

This chapter year, our Fall Regional Officers Committee (ROC) was held September 15 & 16, 2017 at The Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs nestled at the foot of the iconic red-sandstone formations. Leaders throughout our region gathered to share best practices of each chapter and plan the year ahead.

With Region II having 4 Platinum chapters and 5 Gold chapters, there’s no doubt we have great participation, but how is the member experience as an individual? WIIFM means “What’s in it for me?” The new theme this chapter year is: What’s in it for the membership experience? #WIIFME

Questions raised include: Why are members active? Are they really getting value for the membership?

We want to hear from you, our members. What’s your ASSE story? It’s great to share about who brought you into our organization and why you chose to stay and participate. When we hear the stories of our fellow members, we are inspired to ‘pay it forward’ and think about colleagues around us who might also benefit from such an active network of safety professionals. Share it on our Facebook page!
VP Message
Hello and Happy New Year Region II Safety Pros!

2018 is shaping up to be an amazing year. I am so excited about the things that are happening at Society right now. The name change is a done deal and for those of you going to the PDC you will see the finalization of all of this.

If you haven’t already done so, you may want to get your bylaws ready for the name change. If you need help with this, Chapter Community Services can help. Contact Arielle Semmel or Geri Golonka at the ASSE office. In other news related to the Society, all Region II logos have been approved for change to the new name. Even the Region II Logo was accepted.

One more note, our Society challenge this year is to get every chapter to “Gold” Status through their COMT reporting. The Region has created a Task Force to assist all chapters to help achieve this status through their reporting. If you need help with your COMT please contact the Task Force Chairs, Dan Klimek, Dave Jeary or Mark Towers.

Finally, I truly believe this will be the greatest year! In order for that to happen, we will need your help. Ask your Chapter leadership how you can get involved with making this the greatest year ever.

Happy New Year,
Tim Page-Bottorff, CSP, CET
Vice President, ASSE Region II
Deputy VP, Council on Regional Affairs

Spring ROC April
The Spring ROC will be on the tail end of the New Mexico Chapter’s PDC April 13-14, 2018 in Albuquerque, NM. RSVP Here >>>

New Mexico PDC 2018
April 11-12 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, NM. View the details here >>> Register Here >>>

Fall 2018 ROC - looking ahead
Next year’s Fall Regional Officers Committee will be hosted by the Rocky Mountain Chapter in Ft. Collins, CO.
Continuing a Legacy

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn our long time member, Willie Piispanen, CSP, CIH, CEA, CMIOSH. He has lost his battle with a brain tumor. For 24 years Willie has worked tirelessly for the Snake River Chapter, serving on the board in most roles, organizing conferences, seminars, and CSP prep courses, and providing guidance every step of the way.

More importantly, he has spent his life mentoring and helping people build their safety careers. The Snake River Chapter is committed to continue his model so they requested to name the Region II Scholarship in his honor. This request was initiated at our Fall ROC in Colorado Springs, CO and the vote was eagerly approved.

The name of the ASSE Region II Scholarship is now the Willie Piispanen Scholarship.

This scholarship will help eligible students in Region II of ASSE continue with their safety education. If you would like to make a donation, it is tax-deductible and if you can donate $100 or more, you will be recognized in by the Foundation on the published Donor List and invited to the annual Donor Reception held on the second night of the PDC to be thanked personally. Any donation will help someone pursue their safety goals. Please donate via the website at http://foundation.asse.org/donate and specify that it is for the Region II Willie Piispanen Scholarship or send a check (noting it is for the Willie Piispanen Scholarship) to:

ASSE Foundation
520 N. Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068-2538

Thank you very much for helping to continue Willie’s legacy.
2017 Leadership Conference

Each year, the ASSE Leadership Conference brings leaders together from chapters across the nation and the globe. This year did not disappoint. Here’s what our Region II members had to say about it:

“I wanted to thank you and the Region II folks who supported my attendance at the 2017 Leadership Conference last month. It was a great experience not only because of simple networking but I learned some new perspectives on issues and strategies for interacting with peers and workers.

I especially liked the keynote speaker who discussed the ways he improved the performance on his boat (although his book said “ship”), and yes by all things I have ever learned about Navy tradition, he was the captain of a “boat” not a ship. As I read his book I am enthusiastic about how I might adapt his lessons learned to the construction industry and folks I interact with. No doubt, empowering our workers so that they are thinking about the tasks as opposed to simply following our direction is what many seasoned safety professionals understand as a true success in SMS. His perspective was interesting.

Another area I enjoyed were the different roundtables whereby the groups discussed topics and practices in their specific regions. Although there were some that would not be of interest, I did attend two different versions of the communication roundtable in order to get ideas from several others. An ASSE representative explained how we can use the ASSE roster to create interest groups for our members which in turn may assist us in better communication of specific topics of interest.

Overall, the experience was rewarding and I appreciated the support from folks outside our Chapter who recognize the importance of engagement.

I look forward to spreading what I learned among my Chapter peers!”

- Jeremy Bethancourt, CSP, LeBlanc Building Co., Inc.

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“I really enjoyed the keynote speaker, David Marquet, who spoke on “Intent-Based Leadership: Create Leaders at Every Level.” He provided some excellent information on helping people at all levels of an organization become leaders who think about what they are doing instead of just doing as their told.

The best practices round tables were very beneficial, it was good to see how chapters are addressing their challenges. Seeing as how I am in a chapter that covers a big geographic area, I attended the round table on meeting the needs of a large chapter. It was helpful to hear about the successes and challenges with live streaming and video recordings of technical sessions. I found it particularly interesting to hear about chapters that have set up geographic common interest groups in order to provide a better experience for members that are too distant to regularly attend the centrally located chapter meetings.

I came away with an understanding of how ASSE volunteer opportunities can help me to grow as a professional and how our chapter leadership can help provide meaningful opportunities for safety professionals within my region. I enjoyed all of the leadership seminars I attended, including seminars on conflict resolution, the ASSE leadership path, and leading through influence.”

- Trevor Hinckley, CSP, LDS Church