



Central Illinois Chapter

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Members at Large

Matt Kubsch

James McNiff

Stig Ruxlow

Student Affairs Chairperson

Paul Ronczkowski

November Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Location: Social 5:15-5:30
Dinner 5:30-6:00
Presentation 5:50-6:20
Plant Tour 6:20-7:00

Vactor Manufacturing
1621 S. Illinois Street, Streator, IL 61364

Program: **Vactor Manufacturing**

Please join us as Roy Snyder, Safety Manager at Vactor Manufacturing hosts the November chapter meeting. Begin gathering at 5:15, with dinner and a tour of the facility to follow. Please wear closed toed shoes, safety glasses and hearing protection will be provided. Register by clicking the link below and hope to see you there!

See the eVite for additional information

Cost: Members No cost
Non-Members \$20
Student Members No cost

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

December 13 **Joint Meeting with Central Illinois Chapter of Healthcare Engineering**
Holiday Inn and Suites Peoria at Grand Prairie

January 8 OSHA Update with Brian Bothast
The Lariat Steakhouse; Peoria, IL

Slate of Officers for 2018-2019

President

Patrick A. Costello, PE, CSP

President-Elect

Colin Corcoran, CSP

Secretary

Russ Prechtel, CSP, EMT-P

Treasurer

David C. Greishaber, PhD

Past-President

Audra K. Sargeant, CSP, OHST

Members at Large

Audra K. Sargeant, CSP, OHST
James D. McNiff, CSP, ARM
Stig T. Ruxlow, CSP, CXLT, ALCM

Student Affairs & Membership Chairperson

Paul Ronczkowski, CSP

Chapter Delegate

Paul Ronczkowski, CSP

Important CIL Announcements

ASSP would like to recognize the following individuals for their 25 years of service:

Jon N. McNussen

Philip J Niemer

We will recognize Philip J Niemer at the December 13th meeting.

Thank you for your support of ASSP and the safety community!

Upcoming Chapter Events

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 13 | Joint Meeting with Central Illinois Chapter of Healthcare Engineering - Annual Conference
Holiday Inn & Suites Peoria at Grand Prairie |
| January 8 | OSHA Update with Brian Bothast
The Lariat Steakhouse; Peoria, IL |
| February 12 | TBD |
| March 12 | TBD |
| April 9 | TBD |
| May 14 | Chapter 2019-2020 Elections |
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Mark your calendars for these dates!

Society News

ASSP Calls for Awareness of Fall Protection Management Programs

- In a recent letter to OSHA, ASSP calls for stronger emphasis on the need for comprehensive fall protection management programs. The Society notes that while fall protection is a specific topic within OSH management system standards such as ANSI/ASSP Z10 and ISO 45001, more must be done to improve fall protection management.
- The letter recommends several ways for the agency to enhance its efforts. [Read the complete letter.](#)



J.A. Rodriguez Elected Chair of VPPPA

ASSP member J.A. Rodriguez was recently elected chair of the VPPPA Inc. board of directors. In the role he will oversee the actions of the board of directors and protect the interests of the members of the association. Rodriguez will serve a 2-year term. He is a professional member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, the [Consultants Practice Specialty](#), and the [Hispanic Safety Professionals Common Interest Group](#).

We recently spoke with J.A. about his new role and how he believes his involvement with ASSP can spark collaboration.

SU: How will your OSH experience help your work in this role?

J.A.: I've always said that one can really never truly understand the challenges faced by someone like a lineman, pilot, construction worker, leader or any other professional unless at some point in your life you really become one. The same is true for an OSH professional. Having experienced and fulfilled the OSH needs of really complex organizations over the last few decades and through the fostering of sustainable business partnerships, I feel as though my OSH experience provides valuable insight into the needs of our VPPPA member organizations who are laser focused on safety management system excellence.

OSH professionals are risk ninjas. We seek, we find, we conquer. We slay dragons—the risk dragons. OSH experience nurtures risk management thinking, which drives innovation and continuous improvement, which drives higher competitive advantage, which drives market share. It's no secret that those who drive market share become true partners. I believe my experience will help derive better solutions in helping VPPPA members continue to achieve safety management system excellence by design. In the same way OSH professionals deliver world-class solutions to the toughest challenges in the workplace, that's going to be my approach as chair of VPPPA.

SU: What are your goals while in this position?

J.A.: My three primary goals are simple. They are to be of service, to exceed VPPPA members' expectations and to be of value at every opportunity. Our focus at VPPPA is on the 2022 strategic plan, which highlights four priorities. The first is to demonstrate value. The second is to grow strategic partnerships. The third is to enhance global presence. And the fourth is to be the resource for safety management system excellence. I think that focusing on these areas of service, exceeding expectations and providing value is going to be valuable for VPPPA's membership going forward.

SU: In what ways do you envision ASSP and VPPPA collaborating?

J.A.: I cannot stop thinking about the ways that my beloved ASSP and VPPPA can collaborate. ASSP's primary focus is on the safety professional and the advancement of the safety profession. I've been living that for 25 years. VPPPA's primary focus is safety management system excellence and worker protection. There are, of course, areas of concentration that overlap, as both organizations share a common goal: injury and illness prevention for every worker everywhere. This inherently creates opportunities to collaborate and bring shared resources to address our challenges.

We had the honor of hosting the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Alexander Acosta, at our recent symposium, and he reported that the most recent data for more than 1,100 participants—employers representing nearly 400,000 employees—showed that compared with businesses and respective industries, the nonconstruction VPP participant rate was 50% below the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) rates for case incidents and 47% below the BLS rates for days away from work. Secretary Acosta also reported that VPP construction participants did even better. On the construction side, businesses were 65% below the BLS rates for case incidents and 73% below the national rate for days away from work. Although incident rates alone do not provide a good measure of risk, VPP members have figured out how to implement and design effective safety management systems to limit risk and protect workers. ASSP members have figured out how to develop talent and leadership and deliver performance excellence in the profession. I believe that bringing these strengths together collaboratively can help eventually protect more lives.

SU: How will your background as an ASSP member benefit your work at VPPPA?

J.A.: After 25 years as an ASSP member I have come to really appreciate the power of community, the strength of collaboration and the force of will to really overcome the biggest of challenges. As chair of VPPPA, I bring that foundation to its membership. My ASSP family is very large. Everyone at ASSP now has a colleague in a leadership position at VPPPA where they can come exchange ideas and collaborate. It is an awesome and unique position to be in, and as an ASSP member for a long time, being able to leverage our collective network is where I think that my background will come in handy.

SU: Final thoughts?

J.A.: The honor I feel in being elected as chair of VPPPA is indescribable. In life, each of us is bestowed moments. What we do with them defines who we are and the constructive influence we have on others. The secret is to capture these impactful moments and unleash them for positive change. Henry David Thoreau said, "The price of anything is the amount of life you pay for it." That's pretty powerful. I believe ASSP and VPPPA can capture more than one impactful moment, more than one positive change, for the protection of every worker everywhere.

Acing Your Interview: Five Tips for Safety Professionals

Sitting in a job interview can be a nerve-wracking experience for any potential candidate. You want to say the right things, present yourself well and make sure that the position is the right fit. Whether you're a young person looking for your first position or a seasoned safety professional seeking to take that next step, here are five tips to keep in mind when preparing for an interview.

1. Polish your resume.

Whether you are just out of college and looking for your first job or a seasoned professional wanting to take the next step, your resume is a potential employer's first impression of you. As such, make sure that the skills and experience required for a particular position are included in your resume.

"If you're going for an engineering position, for example, let employers know that you have the proper education and certifications, so that the employer understands that you have undergone the training or have the experience to assume a position or become the engineer that you are trying to be," says Cleo Palacios, lead recruiter, industrial, at Brookwoods Group.

2. Do your research.

Before applying or interviewing for any position, it's important to learn as much as you can about the job and the company. While your resume is an employer's first impression of you, this research will give you an initial impression of them. From looking at a company's website, to reading reviews, to speaking with employees, there are numerous ways for candidates to learn about a potential employer.

"Job seekers should research the companies that they think they'd like to work (for), read reviews and talk to individuals who work at those companies if they can," says David Drake, business development manager at Brookwoods Group. "Employees and former employees will give honest feedback on working conditions and the like."

3. Highlight your accomplishments.

A pitfall that candidates at times fall in to is filling their resumes with skills and responsibilities instead of accomplishments. It's important to let a potential employer know what you have achieved and the impact those achievements have had on the business.

"Talk about what you're capable of, what you've really done and what you can do," says Drake. "Be able to communicate to a potential employer the type of opportunity you're looking for and what you will bring to their organization."

4. Help employers remember you.

After the interview, it's always helpful for the employer to have a reason to remember you. If they want to ask any follow-up questions or schedule a second interview, having your contact information can help speed that process along.

"It's good to have a business card, on which you can list your occupation as safety professional, and if you're in an interview or feel that someone would be a good contact, give them a business card as a way to remember you," says Drake.

5. Find the right fit.

Accepting a position is a major decision. Along with pre-interview research, use the interview to learn as much as you can about the potential employer, what your role would be and how it fits into the organization. The interview process provides insights into the organizational culture and how you, as a safety professional, fit into that.

"It's important for young professionals in particular to broaden their outlook and keep their options open," says Drake. "Don't put yourself in a corner and be seen as only fitting in one particular position, when you've received the training and education to become something better," adds Palacios.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Delegates,

The House of Delegates has voted to approve the proposed bylaws changes, including

1. Changing the title of Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer
2. Updates to the Nominations & Elections section
3. Remove the Bylaws committee as a standing committee

Voting began on August 30, 2018 and concluded on October 13, 2018. 49% of the delegates voted. The voting breakdown is as follows:

Motion 1: Changing the title of Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer

- In favor of the motion: 115
- Opposed the motion: 5

Motion 2: Updates to the Nominations & Elections section

- In favor of the motion: 118
- Opposed the motion: 3

Motion 3: Remove the Bylaws committee as a standing committee

- In favor of the motion: 115
- Opposed the motion: 6

We appreciate the time taken by delegates, community leaders and involved members to consider the motion and cast a vote on the future of this Society. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to your profession and its professional society.

Please direct any questions about these changes or the voting process to delegatefeedback@assp.org.

Sincerely,
Rixio E. Medina, CSP, CPP
President and Chair of the House of Delegates

cc: Area Directors, Chapter Presidents, Practice Specialty & Common Interest Group
Assistant Administrators