Message from the Chapter President

Dear fellow ASSE members:

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us. Though the year is coming to a close, we can reflect on the fantastic fall we’ve had here at your chapter. Thanks goes out to all who attended our last engaging and informative Chapter meetings. In October we met at AdvanSix down in Hopewell. Many thanks to our hosts, AdvanSix and Tim Belitz. Craig Collins and Marta Fernandes from VOSH discussed their innovative Onsite Consultation Services. They also reviewed the top 3 hazards observed during these consultations. In November, we held our annual joint meeting with AIHA (Industrial Hygienists) at New Market Pavilion. We had an excellent legislative update from Commissioner C. Ray Davenport, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. Also, Craig Collins offered his insight on the requirements of the new Silica Standard. Both meetings were well received and well attended. We thank you for your support!

Our December 1st social was quite enjoyable at the Hardshell. Many enjoyed shaking off the holiday stress in the relaxed setting. The networking time was well-spent getting to know our safety cohorts and guests a bit better.

We have lots in store for you in 2018 - and don’t forget about our name change! On January 1st, we will be transitioning to the American Society of Safety Professionals. You’ll see these changes reflected throughout the year until we have fully transitioned to our new brand. It’s truly an exciting time to be involved in ASSE as we open our society to a broader array of constituents.

The Holidays can be hectic and fun, full of laughter, family and friends. Please remember to celebrate safely. Enjoy and feel free to share these holiday tips.

See you soon and be safe.

Amy Henderson, CSP, CEAS
Colonial VA Chapter President 2017-2018

NEXT Colonial Virginia ASSE Chapter Meeting

DATE: 4:00 PM (early start) on January 16, 2018
LOCATION: Brio Tuscan Grille Stony Point, 9210 Stony Point Parkway, Richmond, Virginia, 23235
ATTEND: Just meeting: $10; or Meeting (Yes, meeting is FIRST) & Dinner
TOPIC: Speaker will be Justin Billers to discuss “Fire Doors,” Joint with SFPE
REGISTER: via the Colonial Chapter link: http://colonialva.asse.org/

Upcoming Chapter Meeting Dates

February 12th: Joseph V Morrell Jr. of Fareva to discuss LOTO & Electrical Safety at Hard Shell Belgrade
March 19th: Lunch meeting and tour of the Federal Reserve Bank, and Courtney Malveaux will provide a Legislative update
April 16th: Details in the works – watch for the latest at our website or Facebook.
Come to the January Meeting – Joint with Central VA SFPE

MEETING TOPIC: Fire Door Inspections & Field Labeling

Like other fire resistance rated construction materials under the purview of the U.S. system of codes and standards, fire doors have more than a century’s worth of testing experience published in the various listing directories made available for reference in project specifications. This testing and listing experience provides a level of confidence for door manufacturers, insurance underwriters, design professionals and approving governmental authorities that a particular door assembly has undergone stringent testing protocol, and that it can be expected to curtail losses associated with a given building fire event. By looking at the historic development of building codes and test standards related to this specific component, it is helpful to determine what has shaped the current fire door industry and better evaluate future trends in listing and labeling provisions including the increasing use of field-labeling for existing applications. This is a great challenge of compliance that Facility Managers, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction are now facing. **What is SFPE?** The mission of the **Society of Fire Protection Engineers** is “to define, develop, and advance the use of engineering best practices; expand the scientific and technical knowledge base; and educate the global fire safety community, in order to reduce fire risk.” **Central VA SFPE** members work in a wide variety of professions including engineering, consulting, insurance, fire protection contractors, and authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).

**Meet The Speaker:** Justin Biller, Owner, Principal Fire Protection Engineer, Emerson Graham + Associates. Our presenter at the joint meeting starting at 4:00 PM January 16th:

Mr. Biller is a graduate of the Fire Protection Engineering master’s program at California Polytechnic State University and is a registered professional fire protection engineer in several states. He is also a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS), an ICC Master Code Professional (MCP), an ICC Certified Building Official (CBO), an ICC Certified Fire Official (CFO), and possesses ICC certifications for inspection and plans examination in building, electrical, fire, accessibility, plumbing and mechanical disciplines.

**Coming SOON: February 12th:** Joseph V. Morrell Jr. of Fareva to discuss LOTO & Electrical Safety at a dinner meeting at the Hard Shell restaurant in the Belgrade community. Fareva manufacturers OTC pharmaceuticals and other products under contract. Fareva just opened an aerosol line in October expanding employment in eastern Henrico.
LANDIN, INC., PO Box 17590, Richmond, VA 23226

The Landin Companies, an established Third-Party Worker’s Compensation Administrator, is in search of an Occupational Safety and Health/Loss Control Consultant to take charge of the western Virginia territory. The successful candidate will travel to clients primarily in the Western Virginia Region to evaluate safety practices in the field and recommend improvements to client safety programs. This individual will possess strong analytical abilities, exceptional communication skills, report writing skills, and a solid construction safety background.

Requirements:
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From the Hill by Courtney M. Malveaux, Esq., Colonial VA Chapter Legislative Liaison

VPP Legislation: This year, the VPP Act was introduced earlier in the House and in the Senate. The House bill, H.R. 1444, enjoys strong bipartisan support, with forty-five cosponsors, including 21 Democrats and 24 Republicans. Congressman Todd Rokita (R-IN) is the lead sponsor, with Congressman Gene Green (D-TX) and Congresswoman Martha Roby (R-AL) as initial cosponsors. The House bill was referred to the Education and Workforce Committee. Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 1878, which was referred to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

Continued VPP Funding: Last year, Congress and the Obama Administration actively supported VPP in their proposed budgets, ensuring that OSHA dedicate at least $3.5 million each year to VPP, without any fees from participants. This year, Congress has continued its support for VPP funding, and the Trump Administration has been a big advocate. In its first proposed budget, the Administration requested a nearly $4 million increase for enhanced Compliance Assistance outreach programs like VPP, including 20 new full-time Compliance Assistance Specialists (“CAS”) in OSHA’s Regional Offices. If passed, this proposal would replenish most of the Compliance Assistance employees eliminated by OSHA since 2013, and it aims to increase the number of VPP sites by 100 by FY 2018.

The budget language provides, in part:

With the VPP, the infusion of CASs will increase OSHA’s capacity to perform on-site evaluations (which are needed for both new participants and renewals). It will allow OSHA to ensure the quality and integrity of existing VPP participants through the renewal process while increasing capacity to bring in new participants, and addressing the current backlog of VPP applications. (Emphasis added.)

The Trump administration also seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of VPP through enhanced support from their Special Government Employees:

In FY 2018, OSHA will continue to make effective use of its Special Government Employees (SGEs), including more of these individuals on onsite evaluation teams, which enabled the agency to complete additional VPP onsite visits with its existing resources. In FY 2018, with the continued increase in SGE activities, OSHA hopes to reduce the VPP new application backlog while continuing to improve the quality and integrity of the program through activities such as refining how to effectively monitor VPP participants subject to OSHA’s process safety management (PSM) standard. (Emphasis added.)

Electronic Injury and Illness Reporting Rule Delayed: OSHA’s delayed its compliance date for its final rule to modernize injury data collection until December 15, 2017. More importantly, OSHA announced that it is reviewing the regulation and will proposed a new rule in 2018 “to reconsider, revise or remove” some provisions. [Virginia Safety & Health Code Board met Nov 30th to vote on delaying compliance.] The rule requires all establishments with 250 or more employees in industries covered by the recordkeeping regulation to submit to OSHA injury and illness information electronically. The National Association of Manufacturing and other organizations filed a legal challenge primarily over the regulation’s anti-retaliation provisions and the public availability of company-specific data. At the request of the Department of Labor, a federal court issued a stay of the proceedings in the case. Stay tuned!
Workforce Development & Your Company Culture

Understanding your employee demographics is a key attribute in a human resources program. It is a big part of what makes your organization tick, and getting it right can make a significant impact on your bottom line. Ask yourself if you plan on being in business five years from now, or 10 years ahead?

In this brief space we offer tips and truisms that can help you manage the development process in the near and midterm. If you haven’t noticed, the Boomers are retiring and the rules-based conformity mentality is going with them. The game has changed by an order of magnitude. In other words, the days of “Theory X Boss is Right” management are history.

Adjust your HR program and management approach

According to the Supreme Court, corporations are people. This judicial-political absurdity should be reflected in things like:

- Regular company-wide family engaging events, (summer picnics, holiday parties, etc.)
- Employee recognition programs
- Refined and family targeted communications, suggestion programs, enlightened HR programs and policies, etc.
- You may have been in business for 50 years, make sure your thought processes didn't stay stuck in the comfort zone of the 80s.

Safety programs

These are often a good place to start the process because they are pretty much neutral territory and cover a wide swath of inputs.

- Start an Employee Safety Committee, empower it, guide it but let the employees drive. Empower and enable it.
- Put your name and logo on safety gear. In other words, own it!
- Quit buying the cheapest PPE available, it sends the wrong message. The difference in cost in miniscule but the branding message is priceless.

By John Meola
Colonial VA Chapter Treasurer 2017-2018

Have a safety and health article that you wish to share with chapter members? Send it to the chapter newsletter editor, newsletter@colonialva.asse.org.
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