



AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
SAFETY
ENGINEERS

CNY SAFETY

Volume 64, Issue 7

March 2006

Inside this issue:

Empire State Safety 2006	1
March Chapter Meeting Details	1
2007 OSHA Budget	2
Excavation Safety Training	2
Local Whistle-blower Case	3
Chapter Member Anniversaries	3
ASSE Region 8 Membership Voting Challenge	4

Empire State Safety 2006—Thursday 4/6

Join us for the **Empire State Safety** professional development conference and expo! Hosted by the Central New York Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers, our annual conference and vendor expo typically draws over one hundred local safety and health professionals and company supervisors throughout the construction, manufacturing, and insurance fields. Our conference has been a continued success since 1949. There will be wide variety of presentations available to help you reduce risk, prevent injuries & illnesses, and manage your EH&S responsibilities more efficiently. Many vendors will be on hand to demonstrate the latest in EH&S products & services.

Conveniently located and very affordable, **Empire State Safety 2006** will take place on Thursday, April 6th at the Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center in Syracuse NY. Mark your calendar and support your local ASSE Chapter! Continuing Education Credits will be available.

Topics will include: **Keynote Address, "State of the Safety Professional"**, By Paul Tranchell, CSP, CIH, RBP **The Growing Issue of Methamphetamine Labs**, Paul Watson—ATC Associates **Hurricane Katrina Recovery**, Brian King—HSE Consulting

Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

Use of Photography to Promote Safety, and Helping Non-Safety Professionals at Small Companies with Limited Staff, Mike Woodworth—Colden Corporation **CBRNE for the Safety Professional**, Kenneth R. Waldby—ECMC **Code Rule 56 Update**, Charles Kirch—ECMC **Managing Signage in the Workplace**, Linda Moquest—Seton

Call in your registration to Chapter President Jeanette Kinsella at 315-727-2217. Registration brochure available on our web page soon—<http://cny.asse.org/>. \$100 for ASSE members, \$125 for non-members.



March Chapter Meeting Details

Chapter member and friends are encouraged to join us for the March CNY ASSE Chapter meeting.

Chapter Member Ken Waldby, CSP. Ken will talk about techniques used to lead a safety program.

Lunch will be \$13 dollars and includes your choice off a limited menu and soda.

When: Thursday, March 16
Lunch time meeting beginning at 11:30. **"Safety Supervisory Techniques"**, presented by

Where: Danzer's Restaurant, 153 Ainsley Drive, Syracuse NY

RSVP: by Tuesday, March 14th to Jeanette Kinsella, jkrisk@twcny.rr.com, or 315-727-2217.



President's FY 2007 Budget Request for OSHA Maintains Balanced Approach to Workplace Safety and Health

WASHINGTON -- Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Jonathan L. Snare today announced that President Bush has requested a \$483.7 million budget for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in fiscal year 2007. The request represents a boost of \$11.2 million over final FY 2006 appropriations and includes increases for federal enforcement, compliance assistance and safety and health statistics.

Snare explained that the increase will help the agency maintain its balanced approach to workplace safety and health which includes enforcement programs, outreach, education and compliance assistance, partnerships and cooperative programs. Said Snare, "As we celebrate our 35th anniversary as America's workplace safety and health leader, the President has proposed a budget that gives us the resources we need to continue to improve our efforts

to further cut worker injuries, illnesses and fatalities. This budget reinforces our balanced approach to worker safety and health-an approach that works."

The budget contains two major initiatives to enhance OSHA's mission. First, a total of \$7.5 million has been allocated to develop a new occupational safety and health information system (OIS) that will replace the agency's 15-year-old Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). The new system will ensure OSHA's ability to measure results and provide accurate and timely information on all OSHA enforcement and compliance assistance programs. Secondly, the budget proposal includes \$2.6 million to expand outreach for Hispanic and other non-English speaking workers, as well as for workers involved in cleanup and recovery operations along the U.S. Gulf Coast.

As in previous years, the

President's proposed budget emphasizes a continued strong, fair and effective enforcement program. OSHA has planned 37,700 workplace inspections throughout the year and will continue to focus its resources on workplaces and industries with high rates of injuries and illnesses.

The budget proposes discontinuing the Susan Harwood training grants program-those monies will fund the new OIS system and increased compliance assistance activities. "The availability of a variety of programs and capabilities to provide outreach and training to the regulated community allows us an opportunity to discontinue a rather narrowly-focused training program," Snare explained. "Funding these high priority initiatives is critical and we can accomplish it without compromising the high-quality training available for employers and workers."

Excavation Safety Training Course

The Genesee Valley ASSE Chapter is hosting a 4-hr Excavation Safety Conference on March 29th at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, Rt 48, Canandaigua, NY.

Topics will include Trenching Safety, Soil Testing & Types,

Competent Person Responsibilities, and Protective Systems. Speakers will include Ken Peck of Postler & Jaeckle, Dig Safely NY, and an OSHA Inspector with Actual Case Studies.

Registration is required by March 15th. \$20. Contact Anne

McFarland at (585) 396-8839 for registration information and more details. <http://gvc.asse.org/>



New York Manufacturer Ordered to Pay Back Wages and Punitive Damages to Two Employees Fired for Filing an OSHA Complaint

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- The U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York has ordered a Ransomville, N.Y., tool manufacturer and its president to pay two workers a total of \$35,800 in back wages and \$10,500 in punitive damages for terminating them from their jobs after the men filed a complaint with the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The order, signed Feb. 8, by Chief Judge Richard J. Acara, requires defendants V.R.K. Manufacturing and Tools Co. Inc. and company president Roman Klur to make payment within 60 days and permanently prohibits them from violating the anti-retaliation provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

"No worker should be fired, penalized or discriminated against for voicing workplace safety and health concerns," said Patricia K. Clark, OSHA's regional administrator. "This decision reaffirms that basic right as well as the Labor Department's commitment to taking appropriate and aggressive steps to enforce the law. The awarding of punitive damages is significant, since they can help deter future discrimination by this or other employers."

Two employees of V.R.K. Manufacturing and Tools were fired on May 3, 2003, one week after filing a complaint with OSHA about safety and health issues at their workplace. The workers then filed a whistleblower complaint with OSHA, alleging they were dis-

criminated against for exercising the rights granted them under the OSH Act.

OSHA's investigation found merit in the complaint and the agency sought reinstatement, back pay and benefits for the workers. When the employer repeatedly refused to settle the matter, the U.S. Labor Department filed suit in federal court to enforce the findings.

Information about employees' rights and employers' responsibilities under the whistleblower provisions of the OSH Act and other statutes enforced by OSHA may be found on the agency's Web site at <http://www.osha.gov/dep/oia/whistleblower/index.html>.

Chapter Member Anniversaries

The following Central New York ASSE Members have celebrated / are celebrating their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and even 30 years of service anniversaries in the month of March.

15 Years **Dimitrios Mihou**

Please extend your congratulations to

these outstanding chapter members. Each has contributed towards strengthening the safety and health profession through their continued involvement with ASSE.

Members celebrating 5 year anniversaries are invited to attend any of the next three chapter meetings (March-May)

and enjoy your meal paid for by the chapter. You are also eligible for a free gift from the chapter. Please contact Chapter President Jeanette Kinsella (jkrisk@twcnny.rr.com) for details.



AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF SAFETY
ENGINEERS

Central New York
Chapter
PO Box 42
Dewitt, New York
13214

We're on the web!
<http://cny.asse.org>



Protecting People, Property, and the Environment Since 1911.

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

REGION VIII ASSE 2006 SOCIETY ELECTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Region VIII Chapter Members!

Chapter members—look for your Society Election Ballots coming in the mail soon. You can also complete your vote duties by going on-line to:

<http://www.asse.org/>.

I am pleased to announce the ASSE Region VIII 2006 Society Election Incentive Program. You will need to work fast, because the program ends April 1st! Prizes are awarded to the Chapter treasury. We have a grand prize (\$300) for the chapter with the greatest percentage of Chapter members voting for 2006, as compared to 2005. There is a second prize (\$200) for the Chapter with the greatest percentage improvement over last year. Finally, all chapters that have an

increase of 5% in voting returns when compared to last year will get \$100.

Award:

Grand Prize (1) - \$300 Greatest Percentage Of Chapter Members Voting
Second Prize (1) - \$200 Greatest Percentage Improvement in Voting Over Last Year
Third Prize (no limit) - \$100 Increase of 5% in Voting Returns

Baseline for Performance:

The baseline for determining the percentage increase is the attached list, for the 2005 Election (attached). The Chapter Member count for 2005 is as listed in the 7/1/2005 Chapter Member count (attached).

Award Date:

As soon as election results are

official and available. Should be before May.

