



## **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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*Al Bressler*

### ***Vice President:***

*Maralee Sartain*

### ***Secretary:***

*Chris Chaffin*

### ***Treasurer:***

*Marlena Fox*

### ***Advisory Board Rep:***

*Maralee Sartain*

### ***WebMaster:***

*Matt Parker*

## **December 2023 Chapter Treasurer's Message**

### **Season's Greetings to all ASSP Pensacola Chapter Members.**

Because December is a month of celebrations and obligations, the Chapter takes a brief break and resumes Chapter meetings in January. Please keep alert for an email in early January from us for the date and time of our next meeting.

During this break let's reflect back to July when James Thornton (2023-24 ASSP President) encouraged all of us with, "GIVING BACK MOVES US FORWARD". In response to that directive, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as your Chapter Treasurer for the 2023-24 chapter year and share why participating in ASSP is so important to me as a Safety Professional.

Initially, I sought out my local ASSE and AIHA chapters to be able to hang out with a few like-minded persons. Since typically Health & Safety Departments are usually only one to several persons large, it was refreshing to meet with other Safety people to know that there was a whole profession of us out there. Meeting at chapter luncheons, dinners, training conferences was enabling. It served me well to meet with my peers, share similar frustrations, successes and network. Attending ASSE (ASSP) chapter meetings introduced me to new safety concepts and tools. For instance, I can recall when one of the principal partners of SafeStart, Inc came to an ASSP lunch meeting and shared their critical error concepts: eyes not on task, mind not on task, line-of-fire, and balance/traction/grip. It was my first exposure to their four critical error reduction techniques. To this day, I still keep their card in my wallet and integrate those concepts into my training projects.

What with work, travel, and raising a family – I can't tell you I attended ASSP meetings in a regular consistent manner. But, over 33 years I have enjoyed numerous informative ones. And let me tell you, over all those years, I have never attended a more interactive fun meeting than the one we had here back in April. Maralee Sartain and Chris Chaffin held a meeting entitled, "Are You a Sponge for Learning?". It was all hands-on and in-person interaction and I never attended an ASSP meeting I enjoyed more because of those reasons!

Because of my current less demanding personal schedule I can give more of my time, I did volunteer to be the Chapter Treasurer this year. And just like our ASSP Pensacola Chapter President, Al Bressler, wrote in his first newsletter for the year, I also encourage each of you to become more involved in ASSP.

Attending meetings and forming new useful relationships with other Safety people is a great simple start! Your participation in the Society helps position ASSP as a leading voice in our chosen profession. And by strengthening the Society, ASSP can be a stronger advocate for community and workplace safety.

Thank you for your time and attention. Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!

Success isn't  
permanent, and  
failure isn't fatal.

*Mike Ditka*

## Chapter Meetings for 2024

The following meetings have been scheduled:

### January Chapter Meeting

**TOPIC:** Scissor Lifts: A study of fatalities

**Speaker:** Bruce Higdon

**Location:** Windstorm Mitigation Training Center

3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**Time:** Noon until 1 PM (social time: 11:30 -Noon & 1 – 1:30 PM)

### February Chapter Meeting

**Topic:** OSHA UPDATE

**Speaker:** Francisco Garcia

**Location:** DeVillier's Square

321 N. De Villiers Street, Pensacola

**Date:** February 15, 2024

**Time:** Noon until 1 PM (social time: 11:30 -Noon & 1 – 1:30 PM)

### March Chapter Meeting

**Topic:** UWF Public Health Program

**Speaker:** Dr. Justice Mbizo

**Location:** DeVillier's Square

321 N. De Villiers Street, Pensacola

**Date:** March 14, 2024

**Time:** Noon until 1 PM (social time: 11:30 -Noon & 1 – 1:30 PM)

### April Chapter Meeting – two opportunities: lunch or dinner

**Topic:** Hurricane Preparedness

**Speaker:** Carrie Stevenson

**Location:** Windstorm Mitigation Training Center

3740 Stefani Road, Cantonment

**Date:** April 11, 2024

**Time:** Noon until 1 PM (social time: 11:30 -Noon & 1 – 1:30 PM)

5:30 to 6:30 PM (social time: 5 - 5:30 PM & 6:30 – 7 PM)

### May Chapter Meeting

**Topic:** Hurricane Preparedness

**Speaker:** Eric Gilmore

**Location:** Escambia County Emergency Operations Center

6575 North W Street, Pensacola

**Date:** May 9, 2024

**Time:** Noon until 1 PM (social time: 11:30 -Noon & 1 – 1:30 PM)

## **The Man and the Birds**

*Author Unknown*

*As told by Paul Harvey*

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The man I'm going to tell you about was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family and upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe in all of that incarnation stuff that the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

He told his wife I'm truly sorry to distress you, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said he would feel like a hypocrite and that he would much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. So he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then he went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.

Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another ... and then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against the living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled outside miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. That is what had been making the sound.



Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures just lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter. All he would have to do is to direct the birds into the shelter.

Quickly, he put on a coat and galoshes and he tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light so the birds would know the way in. But the birds did not come in.

So, he figured that food would entice them. He hurried back to the house and fetched some bread crumbs. He sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail of bread crumbs to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs.

The birds continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them but could not. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction ... every direction except into the warm lighted barn.

And that's when he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Any move he made tended to frighten them and confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

He thought to himself, if only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm ... to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see ... and hear ... and understand.

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind.



He stood there listening to the bells, *Adeste Fidelis*, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

And he sank to his knees in the snow ...

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Merry Christmas