



VETERANS  
of SAFETY

2016

## VOS December Newsletter

**Message from VOS Newsletter editor Warren K Brown, CSP, ARM, CSHM:**

Make sure to visit our website at <http://vetsofsafety.org/> to get more information about VOS. Have a good safe day.

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# VETERANS OF SAFETY

## AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

### Newsletter

## VOS President's Address

Mark C. Rater

Fellow Veterans of Safety,

The VOS board of Directors had our annual meeting in Kansas City on October 29<sup>th</sup> and it lasted from 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

My hope is that all of you are having a great holiday season. Your Board continues to move the organization forward. During our annual VOS board meeting we discussed many different topics. Below is a brief summary.

Safety & Health Hall Of Fame International (SHOFFI) discussion on how we can move this forward to include inducting new professionals. Pat Conroy worked to add a SHOFFI webpage on the VOS website. This was completed and looks great. (<https://www.vetsofsafety.org/shhofi/>) We are also looking to review and update some of the forms if needed.

VOS By-Laws update and discussion on potential revisions was completed. Before the meeting Chris Gates sent out our by-laws for board member review and comments. We had an in-depth discussion and came away with the revisions needed. We reviewed VOS By-Laws during our December meeting and a member ballot is included with this newsletter to adopt VOS By-Laws as amended.

We covered the standard subjects that we are always looking at. This included, approving minutes from last meeting, discussion on Financial Report by Jack Hirschmann, Membership report, newsletter discussion, Ambassador Report, installation of Directors, and Memorial Service. Memorial Service was held to acknowledge the loss of Dr. Bob Baldwin and his wife Jean. They both died on July 12<sup>th</sup>. There were no other lost members known.

A significant amount of time was given to Strategic Planning. There was a wide range of topics discussed. ASSE Foundation application and 2016 VOS Scholarship discussion on how it went this year. (Considering that this is a new format) Hawaii student is still doing good work. How do we plan to commemorate VOS 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. VOS Board and Membership activity and ways we can communicate this better. We would like to hear from you on what you are accomplishing. There were other smaller topics covered. This whole section was about looking to the future. Any members interested in holding a VOS Board position are encouraged to contact myself with that interest.

Remember to go to our VOS website @ <https://www.vetsofsafety.org/>

2016 Kansas City Board Meeting –October 29, 2016



## Treasure's Report 2015

Dear Members of VOS.

For the past few years, Veterans has been run by the members of the Board volunteering their time and serves to maximize the net income to further increase the scholarship fund.

For our small organization, it has been difficult to each year build a pool of scholarship applicants. You will see in the financials \$30,000.00 going to The ASSE Foundation. This transaction is now complete and the donation will not show in future financials. As a member, you can be assured, it will be used into perpetuity to award a \$1,000.00 scholarship. The ASSE Foundation has the investment capability to grow the amount each year.

Your future dues will also go to building the scholarship fund as well as improve the website, [www.vetsofsafety.org](http://www.vetsofsafety.org), newsletter and other VOS activities. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me.

Jack B. Hirschmann  
Treasurer

[Jhirschmann@oberoncompany.com](mailto:Jhirschmann@oberoncompany.com)

## ASSEF Summary of VOS Account

**American Society of Safety Engineers  
FOUNDATION DONOR STATEMENT  
As of March 31, 2016**

As of Date:

03/31/2016

Location:

ASSE - Foundation

Fund:

Interest Bearing - Interest Bearing Funds

**9328--Veterans of Safety-Restr Corporate  
Year Ending  
03/31/2016**

Beginning Fund Balance	0.00
Donations	\$30,100.00
Scholarships	(\$1,000.00)
Fees	(\$300.00)
Subtotal	\$28,800.00
Investment Return	\$1,805.76
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$30,605.76</b>

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THE ONLY THINGS FASTER THAN THIS HAVE WINGS & CAN PROBABLY FLY.

Submitted by Wendell Walstedt

This is going to be one of the most confusing articles ever put into this newsletter because we have so little descriptive written information that came to us from a source directly involved in the accident. The information about the accident mostly came in from the grapevine. Not that you can't get good information from the grapevine sometimes. The pictures came in to us second hand, and the details from ones shot at night are harder to see due to the low light levels.



Nevertheless, any accident involving this much in the way of costs & efforts is too interesting to pass up. Anyone making their living in safety work recognizes the lure of a high speed car capable of driving so fast that it would make a hot rod driver salivate.

The grapevine says there was an area in Italy where there are a lot of fantastically fast cars being constructed for wealthy purchasers who like to run them at speeds that blow anything in their path off the road. After all, if you dropped over \$250,000 of your hard earned money into a car, you want to get your money's worth. Running up to only 100 mph just is not worth it. Besides that, 100 mph is probably still in second gear for one of these racy rockets. Getting your vehicle up to 200 mph however is getting into running your adrenaline pumping faster than the car you are driving.

What a wealthy driver really is looking for is a car right out of Star Trek that would hit Warp Factor three (twenty seven times the speed of light). If he can't get something like that, he buys the fastest one he can & roars down the road with it.

The next information, also coming in from the grapevine, was that the Italian "Polizia" did their very best to catch these race monsters cars so they could write their drivers huge speeding tickets. However the standard police cars had a chance of less than zero that their cars would EVER be able to catch the race cars. Finally, the top police officers couldn't take the humiliation of their officers never being to catch the speeders, so they got enough money together and bought their own race car. I am unsure of what type of race care this is, but the pictures look like this one was a Lamborghini or Ferrari. The police gave the car a full paint job showing this race car was a full race car and the police were now gunning for bear (assuming all the local bears were speeders). They added on flashing lights to the top of the roof, a radar gun to the inside of the front windshield, plus radios to communicate with their base.

As all safety professionals recognize, plans are one thing, and results are another. The closing pictures of the police car & the SUV going the opposite direction at night, does not give us who ran into who, just that the SUV ended up on top of the race car, and the costs on this accident were going to be astronomical. Even if you buy the most expensive vehicle you can find, and train your drivers to be able to drive at high speeds: The "loose nut behind the wheel" can still get you into an accident.





## **WHAT TO TAKE TO BED WITH YOU – NOT A JOKE**

**Patrick J. Conroy**

**Our domestic world continues to change on a weekly basis as witnessed again the weekend of September 16 – 18, 2016 in New York, New Jersey and Minnesota. We want to offer some safety and security advice to our members and their families during their off the job hours.**

**If you are fortunate and own a newer car, you have a key fob that includes a “panic button.”**

**The first idea that is working throughout neighborhoods across the country is placing your car keys/key fob on your nightstand when going to bed. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the “panic button” for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. This practice will work if you park your car in your driveway or in your garage. Test your panic button from your bedroom to be sure there is no interference that could block the signal.**

**The Police and Neighborhood Watch Personnel have reported by using this technique burglars/rapists will not stick around once the alarm goes off. In addition, after a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there. This is further cause for the intruder(s) to get away as quickly as they can.**

**The car key/key fob has other uses that will further provide security outside your home. Maybe a spouse has a health condition but likes to work in the yard. Should an attack occur pushing the key fob will alert the spouse in the home that an event has occurred outside and they can respond to it?**

**In addition, to the key fob helping you locate your car in a crowded parking lot the key fob can also act as a security device when walking to and from your car. Shopping center parking lots have become a breeding ground for unsavory characters. If you are approached while loading, your car, hit the panic button. This will cause the intruder(s) to run away in most cases.**

**We urge you to share this information with family and friends. Maybe by using these simple steps we could save a life or prevent a sexual abuse crime.**

## COMMON SAFETY MYTHS

By Patrick J. Conroy

1. Safety is common sense.
2. Workers' Compensation insurance pays for our accidents
3. We're OSHA-approved and compliant
4. Accidents come in threes
5. Relax we have a good record

A good accident record is no more than a rear-view mirror. It provides no inference or promise about the road ahead. We have all heard the expression; "I'd rather be lucky than good."

**Moral:** *It is considerably easier to be lucky when you are good.*

## Safety Fundamentals:

1. Recognize that safety can and must be managed – **Forever**.
2. Embrace safety as inseparable from cost efficiency, quality and productivity.
3. Reject the mindset that accidents are the inevitable cost of getting the work done.
4. All employees must **Lead the Way** – Safety is a leadership responsibility.

## J. Nigel Ellis, Ph.D., CSP, P.E., CPE

1. July 2016 Newsletter additional clarification. Attached to the last VOS newsletter was the OSHA Alliance Three Point Control document which explained why OSHA has recognized horizontal handholds as Best Practice for climbing ladders and equipment generally. OSHA recognized this not only for designed structures but also for operations including portable ladders. Training workers to hold rungs not side rails is key and may reduce vertical handholds by up to one billion handholds each workday. The goal is to reduce risk to climbers because research at University of Michigan has shown that horizontal handholds are reliable and vertical handholds are not reliable because of hand slippage. Ladders are the greatest single cause of fatal falls from heights per BLS so that any way we can reduce vertical grips and replace them with horizontal hand grips then we are reducing catastrophic fall likelihood to a lower level. Published by OSHA in July 2016.

2. The Slips Trips Falls Conference was held in London UK October 4-5 2016. This was the first worldwide scientific meeting to embrace all types of falls including stairs and bathtubs.

A shower "tray" is intended for overlay in European shower spaces providing anti-slip properties, and use of a bathtub hand towel underfoot provides low cost onsite slip resistance in most baths while accessing and exiting the tub. Copies of papers presented will be added to [SlipsTripsFallsConference2016.com](http://SlipsTripsFallsConference2016.com). Next meeting is June 15-16 2017 presented by Toronto Rehab, Toronto Canada.

Nigel Ellis' presentations for the USA were as follows:

- a. Fall Protection for Towers, Poles and Rooftops for Microwave Tower Climbers



- b. Skylight Fall Protection standards status in USA
- c. Three Point Control for reducing Ladder fall exposures from heights

## **S, H & E Information Update**

Edited by Warren K Brown, CSP, ARM, CSHM

### **Structure Fires Major Cause of Firefighter Injuries**

A U.S. Fire Administration study is indicating that responding to structure fires is more often the cause of injury than non-structure fires. During the study period a firefighter was 11 times more likely to be injured in a structural fire than a non-structure fire. The results can be reviewed at <http://sh-m.ag/2dbR5qB>.

### **MSHA In Effort to Increase Mining Incident Awareness**

Issuing a call to safety, MSHA asked mining employees to engage in walk and talks to improve awareness of the types of hazards that miners are being exposed too on a regular basis. Go to <http://bit.ly/calltosafety> for more details on the effort.

### **Weak Process Safety Culture was Factor at California Refinery in 2014**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) findings in their investigation of incidents at the refinery came down to not having effective continuous improvement programs to deal with safety culture weaknesses occurring at the facility. Details can be reviewed at <http://bit.ly/csbtesoro>.

### **Bathtub Coating Removal Precipitates OSHA Fatal Facts Sheet**

Fatalities resulting from workers using Methylene Chloride to remove bathtub coatings without proper ventilation resulted in the Fatal Facts sheet to provide information to workers involved in these activities on ways to perform the task in a safe manner. See <http://bit.ly/methylenechlorideff> for more information.

### **Declining Numbers of Occupational Safety and Health Professionals**

The National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH) was asked to provide recommendations on how to overcome this reduction in available personnel. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) provided some insight on this concern. ASSE's comments can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2dlevnG>.

### **Safety in the Brewing Industry**

With the growth of the Craft brewing industry the many safety issues that may be encountered by these facilities create a list of potential hazards that need addressed. Information to help deal with these potential exposures may be viewed at [www.brewersassociation.org](http://www.brewersassociation.org).

Edited by Warren K Brown, CSP, ARM, CSHM

## Why Men don't decorate for Christmas

Courtesy: Chris Gates

