2001 Leadership Conference: Building a Bridge to Leadership

“Building a Bridge to Leadership” was the theme of ASSE’s 2001 Leadership Conference, held this fall in Chicago. Leaders representing 61 chapters and six practice specialties shared ideas, networked and received direction and guidance from ASSE’s top elected and staff leaders.

Roundtable discussions, breakout sessions and workshops served as a venue for Society leaders to develop effective ways in which to address daily functions of chapter, region and practice specialty administration. Attendees learned effective leadership skills, financial management planning and governmental affairs procedures, as well as member recruitment methods, newsletter production, long-range planning and public relations strategies.

This year’s program featured a “birthday party” at ASSE headquarters to kick off the Society’s year-long 90th anniversary celebration. A special “Breakfast With Your RVP,” facilitated idea sharing among region members for strengthening region communications.

Rather than hold a raffle giveaway as in previous years, this year’s Leadership Conference hosted a silent auction, which raised more than $500 for the ASSE Foundation’s America Responds fund.
A Letter from the VP, Council on Professional Affairs

Recognition of the Safety, Health and Environmental Professional

Many safety professionals will agree that Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) training is an important element of an effective overall safety management program. However, there have previously been no accreditation processes or standards of practices to ensure that workers and SHE professionals have the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to provide such training. In others words, anyone could develop and provide SHE training regardless of his/her experience. As a result, worker protection and overall safety management programs could suffer.

In response to members’ growing concerns regarding the overall quality of SHE training, ASSE has embarked on developing a standard to address this issue. Using the national consensus process, ASSE initiated a project under the American National Standards, and acted as secretariat for ANSI Z490.1 “Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health and Environmental Training.” This national consensus standard was developed to establish standards of practice for development and delivery of educational training programs in the safety, health and environmental areas. The standard attempts to increase the professionalism of those who provide training in these areas and is intended to improve the quality of SHE training with the ultimate goal of improving worker protection. In summary, the standard addresses five key areas:

• training management/administration;
• training development;
• training delivery;
• training evaluation;
• and documentation and recordkeeping.

The standard acknowledges the integral role that proper training plays in an overall SHE program and addresses trainer criteria for organizations that provide these services. The minimum criteria requires an instructor have experience and education in the subject matter in which s/he plans to teach. The criterion goes further—it addresses the need to maintain those skills through either continuing education or experience. The trainer must be familiar with adult learning principles and establish evaluation tools to measure the delivery effectiveness. In short, the standard addresses a variety of practices that an instructor should consider and incorporate into the training program.

The national consensus process is just one approach to ensure that entities which procure safety services—and the workers who rely on a professional to teach proper SHE practices—will receive the services of an instructor who possesses the proper credentials and appropriate knowledge and skills to conduct such training. In the end, the development of standards of practice as well as recognition of the safety professional will increase the public’s knowledge of who we are and what we do. Ultimately, this will improve worker protection by ensuring quality and professionalism in safety services.

A key goal of the Council on Professional Affairs is to continue the development of similar standards of professional practice and recognition. The Council is looking for the best approach to increase recognition and professionalism—interested parties are always invited to assist us in advancing this cause.

James D. Smith, CSP
Vice President, Council on Professional Affairs
Society Urges MSHA to Suspend HazCom Rulemaking Efforts

In a recent letter to Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), ASSE commented on the agency’s reopened HazCom Interim Final Rule. In its letter to David Meyers, director of MSHA’s office of standards regulations and variances, the Society urges the agency to suspend its rulemaking effort to ensure the rule effectively provides greater worker protection.

The letter cites several concerns, including injuries already addressed by other standards, outdated analysis, potential conflict with OSHA regulations, and other concerns regarding training, labeling requirements and title protection for safety professionals.

Complete text of the comment is available at www.asse.org; follow the government affairs link to “ASSE correspondence, statements and testimony.”

Meet David Heidorn, ASSE’s Manager, Government Affairs

David Heidorn has been brought on board as ASSE’s manager, government affairs and policy. He will be involved in government relations and helping to ensure ASSE’s message in policies are heard in the regulatory and legislative process. Heidorn holds a B.A. and a J.D. from Valparaiso University, and has extensive experience in federal and state legislation. He is available to answer questions at (847) 768-3406; dheidorn@asse.org.

SDC Successfully Addresses Issues Impacting the Safety Profession

Over the past year, ASSE’s Standards Development Committee (SDC) has addressed numerous standards development issues.

- Z390.1 Accepted Practices for Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) Safety Training Programs was reaffirmed.
- Z117.1 Standard for Confined Spaces is being revised. Ongoing discussions continue, and a preliminary committee ballot is planned to be distributed this month.
- Z126.2 Coefficient of Slip Resistance on Walking/Working Surfaces was approved and is currently being printed.
- Z87.1 Practice for Educational Eye and Face Protection is currently being revised. Recently, the standard has experienced significant exposure through links and recognition on the OSHA and NIOSH websites. Council on Practices and Standards (CoPS) and the Council on Professional Affairs (CoPA) commended OSHA on the inclusion of Z87.1 on its website.
- Z117.1 Standard for Confined Spaces is being revised. Ongoing discussions continue, and a preliminary committee ballot is planned to be distributed this month.

The committee has drafted a series of comments to the National Safety Council which address the proposed revision of Z244.1, the lockout/tagout American National Standard.

The committee has assisted CoPS in revising the Society’s position statement on the use of voluntary national consensus standards.

- The SDC has begun publishing standards development information on ASSE’s website.
- The Z15 committee, which addresses motor fleets, is in the process of formation.
- The Z590 projects are under the direction of CoPA; the ballot recently closed on the Z590.2 and Z590.4 draft standards.

Practice Specialty Newsletters: New Look, New Names, Expanded Content

ASSE’s Practice Specialty newsletters have a new look, new names and improved editorial content. Along with expanded technical content, the redesigned newsletters better articulate each Practice Specialty’s message and focused, individualized programs.

The 13 practice specialties and their newsletters present trade-specific news and information, and serve as an extended resource to Society members.

In addition, practice specialties offer referrals to experts; convenient contact with peers; technical information and news; and educational programming assistance.

When you join a Practice Specialty, your ASSE membership works harder for you. For more information, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Practice Specialties” link, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.
SeminarFest: Comprehensive Educational Opportunities in One Location

If you are looking to fulfill your safety training needs, there is still time to register for SeminarFest, slated to run Jan. 20-26, 2002, in Primm, NV. This week-long program offers more than 40 technical, management and skill-development seminars for the safety, health and environmental professional—in one location.

Attendees may register for one or more seminars throughout the week, and earn up to 5.0 CEUs/COCs or 7.0 CM points. During the week, attendees will also have the opportunity to establish professional contacts at two receptions and two luncheons.

Improve Your Technical Knowledge With Focused Seminars
SeminarFest offers a variety of seminars that focus on the latest technical information, including electrical safety, ergonomics, incident investigation, lockout/tagout, hazard analysis, conducting a safety audit, fire protection, mine safety, industrial hygiene and environmental exposures, as well as fall protection, confined space entry and warehouse safety.

Learn New Management Techniques
Choose from a variety of offerings to learn the latest management techniques and methods. Topics include safety and health process certification, six sigma, benchmarking and root-cause analysis. In addition, sessions on topics such as claims management, finance, solutions to occupational health risk, line management safety and health leadership, safety manual development, international management systems and cost analysis will also be offered.

New Sessions, Required Skills, Timely Topics
Whether you are interested in brushing up on important management skills or investigating a new approach, SeminarFest has something for everyone.

Check out one of this year’s four new sessions on behavior-based safety, including culture change implementation, discipline and behavior-based safety, attention control and improving participation. Communicating the importance of your safety management program is key. Attend a seminar on business communication skills, effective training techniques or safety leadership skills.

Stay current with today’s changing environment. Attend sessions on timely topics such as pre-disaster planning, international standards, global safety management or OSHA recordkeeping.

Earn ASSE’s Certificate in Safety Management; Prepare for a Certification Examination
The Certificate in Safety Management (CSM) signifies your attainment of an educational step recommended for the safety professional by ASSE. SeminarFest offers the opportunity to complete all requirements of the program. The CSM is an excellent way to further your career in safety. For information on the CSM program, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Professional Development and Education” link.

SeminarFest offers exam preparation workshops for ASP, CSP, OHST and CHST certification. Designed to help identify problem areas and assess preparedness, these courses include review of sample problems, lecture and discussion on material relative to each exam.

ASP and CSP workshops offer preparation for the new Board of Certified Safety Professionals examination for these designations. However, instruction delivered in these workshops also benefits those scheduled to take the old version of these exams.

Register now for SeminarFest’s cutting-edge educational offerings—all in one location. For more information, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Professional Development and Education” link, or call ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

Primm, NV: The Perfect Setting for Learning and Networking
The Primm Valley Resort and Casino in Primm, NV, host for SeminarFest 2002, is located just over the California/Nevada border. It offers nonstop gaming, various attractions, designer outlet shopping, fine dining, championship golf courses and deluxe accommodations. Outdoor recreational sites abound, including the nearby Mojave National Preserve and historic Goldspings, home to one of Nevada’s oldest establishments, the Pioneer Saloon. Hourly shuttle service is available from the resort to downtown Las Vegas, which is just 40 miles away.
Construction Safety Symposium Receives Rave Reviews

ASSE’s Construction Safety Symposium, held recently in New Orleans, received rave reviews for its presentations, speakers, solutions and best practices to help construction safety professionals tackle the challenges they face while providing solid leadership. “The symposium was unique in that it was aimed at leadership in construction,” says Trudy Goldman, ASSE’s manager, education and program development. “The person at the top level has a vested interest in the survival of the organization, and the program applied business management skills training where it applies—at the top.” Said by an attendee to be the “best [he’s] ever been to,” the symposium offered sessions on effective leadership strategies, crane safety, the steel erection standard, multi-employer workplace liability, fall protection and training techniques, and construction certifications.

Presentations and speakers were well-received among the 240 attendees, who came away with updated information on methods to enhance leadership skills, training and assessment techniques. Many of the concurrent sessions, which were held twice daily to better accommodate all who attended, hosted standing-room-only crowds; attendees were able to query speakers, and exchange ideas and discuss successful safety initiatives. R. Bruce Swanson, head of OSHA’s Directorate on Construction, provided updates on construction-specific federal regulations and the evolution of contractor safety expectations since promulgation of the agency’s Process Safety Management standard.

Some 200 participants attended the topical luncheon presentation on the construction of Jazzland, a New Orleans attraction that showcases the roots of jazz. The presentation outlined safety aspects, obstacles and challenges in the building’s construction, and offered ideas on effective training techniques and how to apply them when working with non-English-speaking workers.

ASSE Publishes Two New Books


By Dan Petersen. Published by ASSE. 2001, hardcover, 382 pp., $54.95 members; $89.95 nonmembers. Order #4389.

Safety Management: A Human Approach, an updated edition of Dan Petersen’s classic management text, explains how to deal with the human—as opposed to the technical—side of safety and discusses how organizations modify and control behavior. The book provides information on safety culture, behavior-based approaches, team management, and overtime and shiftwork. Other topics include motivating key people, building a safety culture and system, the subjective injury, increasing worker involvement, barriers to safety excellence and the future of safety management.

Lockout/Tagout: A Practical Approach

By Stephen Kelley. Published by ASSE. 2001, softcover, 208 pp., $34.95 members; $42.50 nonmembers. Order #4390.

Stephen Kelley’s Lockout/Tagout: A Practical Approach is a basic handbook for achieving compliance with OSHA’s lockout/tagout standard and implementing a comprehensive energy control program. Kelley uses case studies to present effective techniques for ensuring 100 percent protection of personnel during service and maintenance of machines, equipment and processes. The book, which includes useful illustrations and a sample format for equipment-specific energy control procedures, covers protective appliances and energy isolation, verification methods for specific types of energy and the continuity of protection during shift or personnel changes.

To order either book, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Publications and Standards” link, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.
The Business of Safety Symposium: Strategies to Improve Management Skills & Effectiveness

Safety programs are an investment in any organization’s bottom line. To manage these programs, today’s SHE professionals must effectively communicate with senior management and demonstrate strong leadership, as well as employ best practices. Master the techniques necessary to exceed your organization’s expectation of the safety function at The Business of Safety Symposium, slated to run March 7-8, 2002, in Dallas. SHE professionals will learn methods to measure, strengthen and better manage the business aspects of safety and health.

Concurrent sessions will cover safety management techniques such as risk mapping, six sigma, benchmarking and cost analysis. General sessions will review performance measures and evaluation tools; analysis of financial impact; risk management and assessment; strategic planning and positioning; communication and presentation skills; and change management.

Math Review Seminar, ASP/CSP Workshops Available

In conjunction with The Business of Safety Symposium, ASSE will offer a math review seminar and examination preparation workshops for the Associate Safety Professional and Certified Safety Professional designations. These seminars will be held March 3-6 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. The math review will cover essential skill areas including conversions, dimensional analysis, number manipulation, shapes and formulae, graphing, algebra and trigonometry. The ASP workshop will review more than 400 problems addressing all four sections covered by the exam, while the CSP workshop consists of lectures, sample problems and discussion on the four sections relative to the exam. Attendees will receive 0.7 CEUs/1.0 CM point for the math review seminar and 2.1 CEUs/3.0 CM points each for the ASP/CSP workshops.

For more program information or to register online, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Professional Development & Education” link, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

The keynote presentation by Andrew Razeghi, “Are You Relevant?,” is designed to stimulate thinking on change, innovation and growth strategies to help safety professionals support an organization’s goals. Friday will feature a presentation by Nicole Schapiro, “How to Successfully Lead Without Authority.” Schapiro will discuss ways in which those who are not always empowered to act—but must get others to comply—can effectively lead and model the way for team members and coworkers.

The program’s practical, take-away techniques can be implemented immediately, says Trudy Goldman, ASSE’s manager, education and program development. Attendees are also invited on a tour of Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., one of the world’s leading helicopter and vertical rotorcraft companies. Members of the Ft. Worth facility’s senior management, union, SHE staff and others will discuss how Bell integrates safety, health and environmental issues into its business strategy. Participants will also visit the site’s final assembly area and composite center.

To register or for more information, visit www.asse.org and click on the “Professional Development & Education” link, or contact ASSE’s Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699-2929.

Spivak Receives Cavanaugh Award

National Capital Chapter member Steven M. Spivak, Ph.D., was recently awarded American Society for Testing and Materials’ (ASTM) William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award in recognition of his prominence in the voluntary standards system. An ASTM member since 1969, Spivak has been involved with standards work at the General Services Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Throughout his career as a University of Maryland faculty member, he has promoted standards education and development for consumer products and textiles, including fiber and textile labeling, care and maintenance, and safety and performance.

Spivak is a member of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and E05 on Fire Standards, and has contributed widely to the development of national and international standards for consumer products and services. He has authored more than 80 scientific-technical publications and some 200 trade press articles on fiber and textile science, consumer product standards, standards education and standardization policy and practices.

Beginning in March 2002, Honor Roll will appear online in Society Update. It will no longer appear in Professional Safety magazine.
Della-Giustina Inducted Into Safety & Health Hall of Fame

ASSE professional member Daniel E. Della-Giustina, Ph.D., was recently inducted into National Safety Council’s Safety and Health Hall of Fame International, dedicated to recognizing acclaimed leaders and pioneers for their innovative contributions to the safety, health and environmental industry worldwide.

Della-Giustina was selected for his commitment to promoting safety and for building West Virginia University’s (WVU) graduate safety and environmental management program into one of the finest of its kind. The author of many textbooks, his writings have positively impacted corporate accident prevention programs. Della-Giustina was also instrumental in identifying early warning signs of workplace violence and developing innovations to address the problem, and his research recommendations to improve the safe transportation of handicapped students have been implemented by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

As a faculty advisor for WVU, Della-Giustina has served as chair of the university’s Dept. of Safety & Environmental Management, where he revised and improved courses and teaching methods. Della-Giustina is a member of ASSE’s Northern West Virginia Chapter and a member of the Society’s Public Sector Practice Specialty.

Medina Named Citgo-Tulsa Manager of Corporate Health, Safety and Security

Rixio E. Medina, CSP, has been appointed Citgo Petroleum Corp.’s manager, corporate health, safety and security. In his new position at the firm’s Tulsa facility, Medina will work closely with field and corporate employees to develop policies and procedures to provide a comprehensive approach to the corporation’s safety and security.

Medina earned a B.S. in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University and an M.S. in Industrial Security from Central Missouri State University. With more than 22 years of professional experience in occupational health and safety in the petroleum and petrochemical industries, Medina is an Approved Professional Source by the Texas Workers’ Compensation Commission.

Medina is a member of the Civil Service Board for the City of Corpus Christi; the Local Emergency Planning Committee for the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County; and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Corpus Christi. A professional member of the Coastal Bend Chapter, Medina is also a member of the Society’s Engineering Practice Specialty.

ASSE Members Honored for Distinguished Service

Honored for their outstanding service in the safety field, several ASSE members were recently presented the National Safety Council’s Distinguished Service to Safety Award, that organization’s highest award to individuals. Selected by their peers, recipients are responsible for saving countless lives. The award recognizes their longstanding commitment to public safety.

• Thomas A. Broderick, executive director, Construction Safety Council, Hillside, IL. Broderick is a professional member of the Greater Chicago Chapter.
• Michael J. Fagel, Ph.D., with North Aurora, IL-based Aurora Safety. A member of the Three Rivers Chapter, he is also a member of the Society’s Management Practice Specialty.
• South Florida Chapter member C. Gary Lopez, CSP, corporate director of EHS with Boston Scientific, Miami, FL.
• Greater Chicago Chapter member Elizabeth A. Marcucci, safety director, Gonnella Baking Co., Chicago.
• McKinley Chapter member Cameron H. Speck, president, Safety Resource of Ohio, Massillon.
• Central Valley Chapter member Michael J. Waite, associate professor, California State University, Fresno.
• C.T. Watkins, administrator with Molena, GA-based Georgia Electric Membership Corp. Watkins is a member of the Risk Management Practice Specialty and a professional member of the Georgia Chapter.
Members in the News

In Memoriam

The Society remembers the following members who passed away in recent months. Our thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues.

Donald M. Beccaria, Rohnert Park, CA
Lorin A. Benson, Monroe Township, NJ
Paul R. Bolton, Boulder City, NV
Ned O. Dunford, Santaquin, UT
Bruce P. Frost, Las Vegas, NV
Debra L. Gibson, Hackettstown, NJ
Naresh K. Gupta, Burbank, CA
David Johnston, Houston, TX
Jeffrey W. Johnston, Spring, TX
Edward L. King Jr., Liverpool, NY
Henry G. Lamb, Westbrook, MA
Gregory E. Raymond, Daly City, CA
Robert Rowland, Austin, TX
Maynard S. Spence, Douglasville, GA
Justin E. Wilson, Baton Rouge, LA

Conflict Resolution Subject of Orange County Chapter PDC

Conflict and strife affect everyone at one time or another, and the ability to bring about peaceful resolutions can save time, money and lives. The Orange County Chapter’s recent PDC, “Conflict Resolution: What You Need to Know,” provided an introductory view of conflict resolution from the workplace level to public safety. The chapter, whose PDC committee members include chapter president Terrie S. Norris, CSP, ARM, SPSI, Philip A. Combest, CSP, Robin E. Woolson, OHST, CET, Jose R. Bermudez, CSP, and Marjorie Powrzanas, presented the PDC as a preliminary training resource on the subject. “Our intent was not to make anyone an expert, but to allow us an overview of these specialties,” says Powrzanas. The one-day event hosted some 60 attendees, including safety and risk managers, security directors, labor leaders and construction contractors.

Several speakers provided perspectives and discussions of real-world conflict-resolution applications. Mediator Kathryn Blankinship discussed training’s role in power struggle avoidance, and discussed ways to recognize and resolve conflict at its earliest stages. American Arbitration Assn. representatives JoAnn Miller and Kimberely Himes defined alternative dispute resolution, a method that allows involved parties to be more actively involved in decision making. Powrzanas says active participation between attendees and speakers, both during and after presentations, helped articulate methods for dispute resolution. “Most professionals in safety, health and environmental sectors must interact with people throughout their working careers . . . so issues of individuals, groups and conflict [present] common challenges and opportunities,” she adds. “By the end of the seminar, participants were better able to settle disputes.”

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Henry G. Lamb

Dedicated to Safety

Henry G. Lamb, CSP, ASSE Fellow and professional member emeritus, recently passed away. Prior to his retirement, Lamb was a nuclear standards engineer at the National Standards Institute in New York City, where he produced hundreds of national standards.

As 1968-69 Society President, Lamb encouraged safety professionals to keep up-to-date with the latest developments and techniques affecting the profession. Impressed by the spirit of friendship and cooperation among Society members, he advocated participation in activities at the chapter and regional levels as a means to share knowledge and enrich Society values. A 59-year ASSE member, Lamb was also active on NSC’s industrial section standards committee, Greater New York Safety Conference executive committee, the President’s Conference on Occupational Safety, and advisory committees of the U.S. Dept. of Labor and State of New York.

News From Headquarters

Fisher Promoted to Director, Practices and Standards

Tim Fisher, CSP, was recently promoted to Director, Practices and Standards. In this position, he will be responsible for standards development and issues that impact safety professionals and the profession. Fisher, who joined ASSE in 1995, holds Masters’ degrees in public administration and industrial management with a concentration in safety and industrial hygiene. He is available to answer questions at (847) 768-3411; tfisher@asse.org.

Meet ASSE’s Manager of Chapters Carla Rea

Carla Rea has joined ASSE as manager of chapters. She will be involved with all matters related to chapter and student sections, including new section/chapter formation, bylaws maintenance and other chapter-related activities. Rea holds an M.B.A. from Dominican University with a concentration in international business and has association management experience in publications, education and member services. She is available to answer questions at (847) 768-3403; crea@asse.org. 
New Jersey Chapter Donates Safety Manuals in Memory of Member Lost in WTC Collapse

The New Jersey Chapter recently donated several professional safety and health publications to the Hunterdon County (NJ) Library in memory of R. Mark Rasweiler, CSP, who is among the missing persons from the World Trade Center collapse on Sept. 11. “During the past 29 years, Mark was a well-respected mentor for many of the younger members of our chapter,” says Chapter President Joe Schwed, CSP. “These reference publications will serve as a testimonial to his willingness to help others as they begin their careers in safety management.” A book plate will be added to the inside covers to recognize Rasweiler’s contributions to the profession and commemorate the donation.

AZ Chapter, UCSD Partner to Provide Safety Training

The Arizona Chapter has partnered with University of California at San Diego (UCSD) and several state organizations to provide safety training at the OSHA Training Institute Region IX Education Center in Phoenix. The alliance will help concentrate training efforts and provide opportunities for safety practitioners to obtain college credit. “This will be a valuable tool for safety personnel to obtain recognized training that may have been out of reach if classes were only offered out of state,” says Chapter President Kenneth E. Lewis, CSP. “It also brings the safety community in Arizona together to provide the synergy of a united group.” Lewis and chapter member Stephen C. Healey, CHST, are among the program’s instructors.

The training resource is being promoted via group sponsorships, referrals and distribution of course announcements. In addition, website links have been established between many of the partnership’s members. “This is a program that we feel will be beneficial for both safety personnel and organizations,” Lewis adds. “We are very grateful to UCSD for helping this effort to become a reality.” For more information, visit osha.ucsd.edu/AZPartnership.htm.

Sacramento Chapter Scholarships Foster Teen Driver Safety

The Sacramento Chapter is doing its part to help area teens better understand the complexity and hazards that can accompany driving a motor vehicle. The chapter is finalizing plans to award several annual scholarships to enable area high school students to participate in the Sears Point Raceway Highway Survival program. The four-hour course is designed to help improve teenage drivers’ car-handling skills via real-world experience under the guidance of seasoned racecar instructors. Using a special “skidcar,” the program involves threshold braking, skid control and accident avoidance drills within the confines of the Sonoma, CA, racetrack.

“I thought [the program] would be a good thing to share with teenage drivers,” explains chapter member and planning committee chair Ann Pudoff, CSP, CPE. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, automobile accidents involving young drivers are typically single-vehicle crashes—primarily run-off-the-road crashes that involve driver error and/or speeding. According to the institute, this is due to teenagers’ lack of experience behind the wheel, which can make it difficult for them to recognize and respond to hazards. The program not only enhances basic driving skills, but helps teenage drivers experience how easy it is to lose control of an automobile. “I strongly believe that hands-on training is the most effective,” says Pudoff.

Planning committee members Pudoff, Susan Noyes, Rich Crouch, CHCM, Cliff Hilligoss, Juanita Fitzpatrick and Paul Hayes have discussed awarding scholarships based on the best driver safety essays received. The committee hopes to have the program in place by early 2002. The group will visit with driver education class students in Sacramento area high schools to promote driver safety, scholarship opportunities and the raceway program. “I think the thrill of working with a racetrack like Sears Point [will] stir up quite an interest,” Pudoff adds.