Thank you Greg, Gerry, Cindy and all the Region III and Gulf Coast Chapter folks who made this great conference possible and to those attending. I’d also like to thank former ASSE President Mike Thompson for his hospitality and ASSE Executive Director Fred Fortman for all the work he does in leading ASSE to be the success that it is today. Mike and Fred, please stand – thank you for all of your hard work.

I’m here today to
• share my recent experience involving lack of awareness of the safety professional in the global arena,
• to recognize your ongoing efforts and
• provide you with an overview of the ASSE structure to encourage you to participate.

I feel I know everyone here...and I probably do as I’ve been a member of ASSE for more than 30 years

It has been a wonderful experience --- but times are changing and we need to change with them.

While preparing this speech these were some of the headlines in the news that I want to share with you – I know you are all probably feeling the repercussions from some of these events:

SLIDE 2
Treasury Unveils Vast Plan to Save Mortgage Giants

Apple Sells One Million New Ipohones Over the Weekend

Dr. DeBakey Dies

9 Americans Die in Afghan Attack

“A Pointless Departure” – a New York Times editorial about CDC unfortunately not reappointing Dr. John Howard to head NIOSH, mentioning ASSE and its support of Dr. Howard

Analysts Say More Banks Will Fail

“Dark Journalism” a Forbes article on paying bribes to Chinese “reporters” not to write the news – business as usual -- especially when it comes to covering mining disasters

Olympic Athlete to Swim Despite Cancer

NASA engineers work on alternative moon rocket

Anheuser-Busch agrees to buyout by Belgian brewer

Westboro Baptist Church to Picket Tony Snow's Funeral

Cubs in first place and wait, so are the White Sox --- well that seems just too out of whack—but true

Some are good news and some are bad and, in the case of the Chicago Cubs, almost unbelievable. These represent a cross section of what’s happening today – what you, I and ASSE are dealing with every day…and how it affects our lives, our jobs, and safety
Now let’s glimpse at what was happening about 30 years ago – when I first joined ASSE and you can not only see times have changed, but that some things still remain the same:

**SLIDE 3**

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes December 31 at 850.86, down from 1020.02 at the end of 1972. Much worse is to come in 1974 they noted

- July 1978 - The anti-sex discrimination law known as Title IX requiring high schools and colleges to provide equal athletic opportunity to all students (including women) or risk the loss of continued Federal aid goes into affect.

- July 1978 - Auto sales increased by 5 percent in the middle 10 days of **July**, but GM Corporation, the industry giant, was the only company to report a sales increase.

- January 1978 - Air India Flight 855, a Boeing 747 passenger jet, crashes into the ocean near Bombay, killing 213.

- February 1978 - United States Senate proceedings are broadcast on radio for the first time.


- March 1978 -- Coastal Road Massacre: Palestinian terrorists kill 34 Israelis.

- April 1978- The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is proclaimed

- December 1978 -- - Dianne Feinstein succeeds the murdered George Moscone as San Francisco, California’s first woman mayor (she serves until January 8, 1988) and is now in the Senate
And finally, since I’m from Ohio:

- December 15 - Cleveland, Ohio becomes the first major American city to go into default since the Great Depression, under Mayor Dennis Kucinich.

Ok – so what does this have to do with you and this conference? Is there one thing that you know that has remained constant during this whole time? Anyone know?

That would be the American Society of Safety Engineers, and our members ongoing commitment for almost 100 years to protect people, property and the environment—due to you, the ASSE members— we have stayed the course and continue to move forward.

You and ASSE are the bridge between the origins of safety and the next millennium—as issues evolve so does ASSE.

When I stepped into this role as your Society President I noted four areas that I plan to focus on:

*SLIDE 4*

Chapter Affairs

Virtual Services

Strategic Planning

Global Opportunities

For chapter affairs we are studying the current chapter model and seeking ways to reinvigorate it—looking for ways to engage you our members.
Virtual services are one way we can do this – we are looking at technology and the many ways to deliver information to our members – information they want and can use…

Our strategic planning efforts are aimed at continuing to meet our members’ needs

Global -- yes, when it comes to business there are no global boundaries, yet cultural boundaries still exist – many of you work for international as well as domestic companies – and know full well the need to increase workplace safety worldwide –

ASSE and your leaders are charged with promoting and advancing the safety profession – and July, the day I took office, I found that we have our job cut out for us in reaching out to educate the global arena..

SLIDE 5

I saw this first hand in Seoul, South Korea – I represented ASSE at the 18th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work and addressed a session on the topic of “Safety Professional Competencies Needed for Today’s Worldwide Workplace Safety & Health Challenges”

SLIDE 6

At this 4-day conference with 122 countries represented and close to 20 sessions going on every four hours – I was surprised to see how the safety professional was ignored in talks – opening remarks and more – the ASSE presentation was about the only one that addressed the need or integral role of the safety professional – at the presentation there were about 1,000 people – this showed there is a demand for this information

SLIDE 7
The conference is held every three years and is sponsored by the International Labour Organization – the ILO, and the International Social Security Association – ISSA – both connected somewhat to the UN and based in Europe – the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) was our host

**SLIDE 8**

I’m glad we were there because through our participation we raised awareness of the occupational safety, health and environmental professional and at the same time provided many tools and information the attendees can share back in their countries –

**SLIDE 9**

ASSE will follow up with those that we met in an effort to make sure that the safety professional is incorporated into their key communications and future world congress efforts –

**SLIDE 10**

**SLIDE 11**

Going back to our global outreach --

- a sign of our success to date was seeing close to 40 countries represented at our last annual professional development conference in June --

- two of the five first-place winners of our ASSE “Safety-on-the-Job” poster contest were from Canada and Kuwait—here you see Meghan Baker of Canada, who attended the ASSE NAOSH D.C. events with her whole family – Immanuel Adriana Rakshana, 10, of Kuwait also won first place

**SLIDE 12**
We received hundreds of poster entries from around the world including Kuwait and Egypt – and hundreds from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas and across the U.S.

Looking to our future we will take advantage of new venues and opportunities as they emerge and seek ways to continue to service our global partners in an efficient and economical manner and here’s another reason why:

SLIDE 13

- worldwide, the ILO estimates that work-related incident and diseases kill 2.2 million workers each year (and those are only the ones that are counted…at the Korea Conference it was noted that many workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities worldwide are not recorded) and cost approximately four percent of the world’s GDP…

- a World Health Organization (WHO) report states that little has changed over the past 10 years when it comes to occupational safety and health – and states that employing safety professionals, safety training, and networking can help reduce these incidents --- that we must work together to develop and implement programs worldwide aimed at preventing workplace injuries and illnesses – if not, people as a whole and our world economy will suffer

I agree and ask you to help us continue to address these issues – ASSE has the tools you can use to get the word out

And we ask you to share with us any suggestions you may have

Now about you:

Thank you for continuing to address issues that face members and providing them with updated information they can use – such as with
this conference and other symposiums like the successful one on oil and gas safety held in Odessa

**SLIDE 14**

For bringing into the public arena the importance of fire protection which has led to the new Fire Protection Practice Specialty – I believe Oklahoma’s Mike Messner has played a major role in this (thank you Mike)

This group, again all volunteers, has gone above and beyond in helping us bring attention to on/off campus fire safety each fall and we are doing the same this year

Thank you! For not only supporting North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week fervently every year with proclamations from your governors and mayors, and submitting hundreds of posters in our growing “Safety-on-the-Job” poster contest and much more, but for making so many children, parents and fellow members proud and happy by sponsoring the annual Region III NAOSH “Safety-on-the-Job” poster contestants’ brunch in Washington, D.C., -- this year at the National Zoo -- for not only the winners, but all entrants ---

**SLIDE 15**
You will never know just how you touched their lives, but you did and as one parent from New Jersey—a nonmember, sponsored by an ASSE member, who’s daughter had won third place—wrote “we were very impressed with all the people we met at this year’s brunch and the discussions on safety so much so that our older son and daughter are considering going into the safety profession” ---

SLIDE 16

Your Youth Rules event here in Houston draws record breaking numbers of students and parents to not only look for jobs but to learn about safety, health and the environment, is a template for the country—in the long run it not only helps the attendees, but the community and the economy….

SLIDE 17

….you are also a leader in partnering with other organizations like the Department of Labor’s OSHA and Wage and Hour, the City of Houston and businesses in providing a first rate event on a shoe string budget and on your own time….we applaud you for the Youth Rules event and all the volunteer time you put into it

We know that with Region III behind it the PDC in San Antonio next June will be a fabulous event – we know the talent of this group and
the successes you have had – for the last few years the annual ASSE PDC has broken all attendance and exposition records and I believe we are headed to do the same thing in 2009 –

However, I will not, repeat not, ride a bull if you have a rodeo – although I know many of you folks volunteer your time each year as safety professional volunteers at the Houston Rodeo

**SLIDE 18**

I know you’ve heard this a lot, but thank you for your continuous generosity to the ASSE Foundation…the Foundation awarded 39 people with scholarships this year alone

And if you were at the PDC you saw Texas’ own Eddie Greer provide a $100,000 gift to the Foundation from the Texas Safety Foundation allowing for an award of $4,000 to be given each year in perpetuity for scholarships for students

According to Foundation Manager Mary Goranson, this is the largest one-time donation in the Foundation’s history. In September the Foundation will open up the applications for nearly $120,000 in scholarships…so help us get the word out….

I could go on for the next two days congratulating you for all that you do, but I can’t--- let’s just say you’re all very special and considered to be a key component of your Society’s success…now I’d like to move on to how you can get involved in your Society’s leadership…

It’s true, ASSE has been a constant over the decades and here’s how and why, first there was:

**SLIDE 19**
ASSE was founded on October 14, 1911 in New York City as the United Society of Casualty Inspectors (USCI) with 62 members.

25 March 1911
146 female garment workers died

At the time of the fire the factory fire exit doors were locked — the doors that were not locked only opened inwards and were effectively held shut by the onrush of workers trying to escape the fire. The only safety measures available for the workers were 27 buckets of water.

1914 the USCI name changed to American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)

SLIDE 20

ASSE – By The Numbers

• 32,000 members- located in 75 countries
• 151 Chapters & 28 Sections
• 58 Student Sections

SLIDE 21
We are always looking for new leaders, from the grass roots level to the board level – it is a great experience and we urge you to participate in ASSE, please see Greg, Mike, Cindy, Fred or myself if you have any questions on the simple steps needed to get involved --remember the rewards are many…. 

Please take a copy of our ASSE fact sheet listing information on the several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committees and projects that ASSE manages in the development of these consensus standards;

- the 14 Practice Specialty groups which you can easily become a part of to share expertise, to network and to participate in many professional activities – 
- also pick up our resource guide which has a listing of the latest technical publications available 
- go to our web site at www.asse.org to garner even more information on professional and government affairs issues, membership questions, free brochures and tools on a variety of topics you can share at work and in your community, for career assistance, and upcoming professional development opportunities
Before I close, I would like to note that at the PDC, an extremely busy time, especially when it’s in Las Vegas – I was extremely pleased to see standing room only crowds on a Tuesday night for the:

**SLIDE 22**

New Blacks in Safety Engineering (BISE) meeting

**SLIDE 23**

The Safety Professionals & Latino Workforce (SPALW) Group

The author celebration event for the new Safety Professionals Handbook
These folks, the authors – in all about 80 people – donated their time and expertise to develop the first-ever two-volume Safety Professionals Handbook – taking almost eight years – and I believe some of you in the room are pictured here…this was a major undertaking and it is a fabulous product –

I highlight all of the these people to show you that we are growing and more and more people are participating – I’d like to harness that power in an effort to continue to serve our members…

As you can see from these groups there are so many ways you can get involved in ASSE – from the chapter level, to common interest groups, to ASSE committees, to Practice Specialty groups, to government affairs and much, much more.

It all ads up to an increase in the power of the occupational safety and health professional worldwide. We need to hold onto this energy and continue to move forward to be not only a constant, but to make a difference like you folks do every day…..

SLIDE 24

Some day we may see this headline ----

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today that there were Zero on-the-job fatalities in the U.S. last year
I thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and am looking forward to the year ahead as I hope you are. Please let me know at any time if you have any questions.

SLIDE 25

Thank you again and have a fabulous conference!

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