



# Hudson River Valley Chapter Newsletter

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## Useful & Helpful Links

<http://www.assp.org>

*Link to the National ASSP webpage for information on great topics in EH&S. Go look things up.*

<http://hudsonrivervalley.assp.org>

*Link to the Hudson River Valley Chapter web page. Information on the Local items and events as well as good information. Try it, you'll like it!*

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

*Link to the Center for Disease Control. Great current information on health items to help protect us all through illness controlling and prevention. Lots of good items!*

Hotlinks in articles are in **Bold Red font.**

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## Mercury Inventory Reports Due July 1, 2019.

If your business manufactured or imported mercury, or mercury-added products, or intentionally used mercury in a manufacturing process for immediate or eventual commercial advantage during calendar year 2018, you may need to file a report with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by July 1, 2019. This first-time requirement originated in the 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (Section 8(b)(10)) where Congress directed the agency to develop an inventory of mercury supply, use, and trade in the United States and, to assist in that development, to issue a rule requiring that certain commercial entities provide the EPA with periodic reports. The inventory is intended to aid the Agency in its efforts "to achieve further reductions in mercury use." The EPA says it expects to publish the first mercury inventory report by April 1, 2020, and every 3 years after that. The EPA proposed the reporting rule in October 2017 and issued it in final form in June 2018 (June 27, 2018, Federal Register). That gave the regulated community more than 1 year to determine if they are subject to reporting and to grasp the specifics of the rule.

As July 1 approaches, those who must report or are not sure if they must should read the rule, determine if it is applicable to them and, if it is, determine what they must do to comply. It must be emphasized that the rule - called 'Mercury; Reporting Requirements for the TSCA Mercury Inventory' - is somewhat complicated in terms of who must report, who is exempt from reporting, and what information must be reported or may be excluded. The EPA may be tolerant of errors or outright noncompliance for the initial reporting year, but that is not guaranteed. There is no de minimis amount or reporting threshold. In other words, reporting is mandatory no matter the size of your business. Recognizing that some of these businesses may not be familiar with meeting environmental regulations, the Agency has issued a plain-english compliance guide and a list of frequently asked questions, as well as directions for meeting the regulatory requirement to submit information electronically. All the resources you need for the Mercury Reporting Rule can be found here; **[Reporting Requirements for Mercury Inventory.](#)**

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## National Safety Stand-Down May 6 - 10, 2019.

If you have not heard, the 2019 OSHA National Safety Stand-Down was held on May 6 through May 10, 2019. Now is the time to plan this event in your company, if you have not already made your plans, to participate in this annual event for the next cycle in calendar year 2020. Yes, I am aware that this was covered in the January and February 2019 issues of this newsletter, but the reason behind this reminder and the event itself is so important that it cannot be stated enough. This was the sixth annual **National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction**. Get ready for the seventh annual event by utilizing the guidelines and materials presented in the previous link. You might just have some fun, and help prevent a fatality or serious injury.

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## OSHA Sets Third Whistleblower Issues Meeting for May 14, 2019.

On May 14, 2019 in Washington, D.C. a meeting will be held by OSHA to solicit public comments and suggestions from stakeholders on issues facing OSHA in the **whistleblower protection** provisions under the **Occupational Safety and Health Act**. OSHA is seeking input on improving whistleblower customer service and enhancing understanding of whistleblower laws the agency enforces. The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Labor's national headquarters. Those interested must register by April 30, 2019. For more information, see the **Federal Register notice**. OSHA previously held stakeholder meetings on whistleblower protection in the transportation and financial sectors.

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## Hudson River Valley Chapter PDC 2019 Is In Planning Stages Now.

That's right! Hudson River Valley Chapter PDC 2019, the biggest and best PDC in the Hudson Valley is being planned as you read this, and getting closer and closer to a reality event. The designated dates are October 24 & 25, 2019. The contracted location is going to be Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604.

Planning sessions are ongoing concerning the educational tracts to present for your participation. At the current time discussions are being held to determine if we can present the OSHA 10 Hour Construction Safety Course, and our regular informational training tracts to help you stay safe in your job such as lectures, and demonstrations. We will once again have the Vendor Networking sessions as in our past PDC offerings. Please mark your calendars now, and watch for updates as we get closer to the actual event.

If you would like to assist with setting up the spaces, or logistic planning or suggesting Vendors, please contact us via email using my e-mail address as listed on the first page of this newsletter and I will pass it on to the PDC Committee. This is a great way to get involved in the Chapter, meet other chapter members or Chapter Executive Board members. Think about it, and volunteer if you would like become more involved.

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## Hudson River Valley Chapter Election Process Begins.

With this newsletter, the Chapter election process begins. If you are interested in becoming an officer of the chapter, please contact me as soon as possible so we can initiate the formal process. My contact email information is, and will continue, to be on the front page of this newsletter for your use. New candidates for positions on the board will go through a vetting process and be announced to the rest of the chapter in accordance with our chapter by laws, and the national Society process of elections. If no one announces their candidacy, the existing Board can assume the next higher office if interested, and the secession of officers will take place also as per the Chapter By-Laws. Please express your interest to the existing Board quickly if you want to become more involved in the operations of the Chapter as the election process window is here.

## Chapter Executive Board Has Implemented New Procedures.

Our chapter's Executive Board has made and implemented some planning changes to the meeting structure of this chapter. Those new procedures involve more technical meetings and attempting to move the meeting location to different areas of the chapter footprint making it easier for you, the members, to get to and participate in the meetings. This is being done in order to attract more of our members to the meetings if they are closer to the meeting locations. These meetings will be announced and posted on the Chapter Web Page, and here in this newsletter, as soon as arrangements are made in order to give you advance notice of the meeting locations as soon as we can. Please keep checking for announcements on our [web page](#) as we will try to keep that as up-to-date as we can, as well as here in the monthly newsletter. The March meeting was held as announced in the Yonkers location of the Hyatt Place, in the Cross County Center. The intent is to move the meetings to allow the membership more opportunity to attend meetings and be more active in our chapter. The April meeting is an Executive Board meeting to be held in the 4 West Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY location.

As with any democratic election process, the plans and procedures not specifically laid out in the Chapter By-Laws can, and may be, changed at the discretion of the incoming Executive Board if deemed good for the Chapter as a whole should they wish to make changes after assuming the duties of the office elected to.

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## Call For Topics You Want To See Here.

In previous newsletters I asked if you the readers had a topic they felt would be useful and interesting to the general membership, to be summarized in a Newsletter item, or to be presented at one of our chapter meetings. If you do have a topic, please send it to me, Charles Von Dietsch, my email address is on the front page of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board members with any questions or concerns about the Chapter or with Technical or General Meeting topics you would like to see presented. They will be brought to the rest of the Chapter Executive Board for discussion on the possible use of your idea as a meeting topic to be presented. You will be provided with feedback concerning the decision to use your suggested topic or not. Just about any safety related item is welcomed, either an on-the-job topic, or one for family safety at home or on vacation, a near miss incident, local regulation, or federal regulation update will be welcome. There are a few guidelines that we follow which were outlined way back in June of 2016 when we published the first new chapter membership newsletter. Nothing political, inflammatory, or insulting to any other person – member of this chapter, or the Society – or non-member will be put in this newsletter. Items that describe a serious violation of safety standards are encouraged and will be allowed in the newsletter, or as a live topic. Specifics that might be identifiable to a person will be removed unless the suggested item is supplied to us with the required written permissions to use some personalized details for accuracy of the incident or experience. This is an easy way for you to become more involved in the chapter, so give it a try. Remember, this is YOUR Chapter and we need and look forward to your support, assistance, and participation.

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## Did You Know?

“A Heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.” – The Wizard to the Tin Man in Wizard of Oz. The one characteristic the best leaders in the world have from Martin Luther King Jr. to Nelson Mandela, all exhibited one trait that rarely gets talked about: LOVE. According to billionaire philanthropist Melinda Gates in her book “The Moment of Lift”, the best leaders can also empathize with other, which is an extension of love. Love is the most powerful and underused force for change in the world. Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer, Mohandas Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Desmond Tutu, and Dr. King all did hard-headed, tough-minded work for social justice and they all put the emphasis on love. Mrs. Gates and many business leaders around the world now feel that the principles of leading with love can extend beyond politics and into the workplace with positive results.

Managers should express love and empathy for their employees, especially during difficult times in their personal lives. In doing so, workers feel more comfortable being themselves at work. While most employers want employees to leave personal problems at home, an organization that encourages everyone to feel comfortable with one another, has the most success. When you reach out and connect with somebody over their humanity, that ultimately is love – whether you name it that or not,” Mrs. Gates stated in a meeting with Alyson Shontell, US Editor-in-Chief of Business Insider. Mrs. Gates holds a master’s degree in business from Duke University, and worked as a manager at Microsoft, and felt very uncomfortable with Microsoft’s competitive, aggressive environment and was preparing to leave the company. She decided to stay and just be herself at work. The result was she had one of the most successful groups in the company, which had attracted people from all over to join her team.

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, who is one of Mrs. Gates favorite spiritual teachers, states “only love can safely handle power. For me, love is the effort to help others flourish – and it often begins with lifting up a person’s self-image.”

Why is this here? Just think perhaps you can help an associate, co-worker, or employee be better every day by showing empathy, compassion, yes – love to them as I once had to as a manager. Try it, you might like it.

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## Our Scheduled Chapter Meetings.

The Chapter meeting originally scheduled for April 18, 2019, was postponed until May 2, 2019 due to the weather conditions in the area. It will be our Chapter Executive Board Meeting.

The meeting main discussion topics were planning for the PDC, and the Chapter election process now under way, along with various chapter business items that need to be addressed to keep the chapter functioning to serve you the membership. The rumor is that once again Hudson River Valley Chapter has been awarded Platinum status as a functioning chapter of ASSP. Platinum is the highest level of achievement of a chapter in the National Society. The location of the meeting on May 2, 2019 was; QuEST, located at 1376 Route 9, Wappingers Falls, NY.

The regular scheduled meeting for May was held on May 23, 2019, at the offices of D & B Engineers and Architects, 4 West Red Oak Lane, West Harrison, NY, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. This meeting was our scheduled Technical Meeting, The main subject was how to use technology during a training session to get real time data from your audience and prepare accurate and meaningful reports at the end of your inspection or training visit to hand to your clients before you leave the location. It also covered things like which type font is deemed easiest to read in a computer generated report format. The easiest type font to read is Verdana type font by-the-way. The type font used in this Newsletter is called Times New Roman font. Perhaps the next Chapter Newsletter will be done in the Verdana font to see if there is a noticeable difference. You will be told in the cover letter, and your opinion will be asked which font is easier to read. Let us know please.

A secondary discussion was held after the Technical Meeting to resume planning on the PDC and some of the things that needed to be taken care of for the PDC and the Chapter operations.

Our next scheduled Chapter meeting is on June 20, 2019, and will be held in the Offices of Quest, 1376 Route 9, Wappingers Falls, NY.