

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS PINE BELT CHAPTER

## Mission Statement

The Pine Belt chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is a regional association, which provides professional development, a network of practicing safety professionals, and resources for those engaged in the practice or study of safety, health and the environment. The Pine Belt chapter of ASSE provides services to the private and public sector to protect people, property and the environment.



## The President's Pen

October 2009

Dear Friends:

What a welcome change in our weather! There is a distinct feel of fall in our temperatures and this is also a sure sign that the holidays are just around the corner.

A copy of the revised Bylaws for our chapter has been uploaded to our web site under the *Resources* link. We will vote to adopt the revised Bylaws at this month's meeting. A copy has been sent to our ASSE Area Director and Regional Vice President for their signatures.

The executive committee met on 9/29 and developed a Strategic Plan for our chapter. The Chapter Strategic Plan may be viewed on our website in the *Strategic Plan* link area.

Start planning now to attend the 2010 Regional PDC to be held in Baton Rouge, LA, starting on March 24. We will discuss this event in more detail during future meetings. I would like our members to have a good showing at this conference and because it is so near to us, we may be able to attend at little cost for travel.

Please review the September 27, 2009 meeting minutes for approval at our Tuesday, 10/27, meeting.

Yours in safety,  
*Doris A. Kemp*

Be sure to visit the Pine Belt Chapter's web site:  
<http://icee.usm.edu/pbasse/Home.htm>

**October Meeting: Tuesday, 10/27/09**  
**Location: Holiday Inn Restaurant – Hwy 49 Hattiesburg**  
**Time: Noon**  
**Cost: Members --\$12.00**

09/27/2009 Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting was held at the Holiday Inn located at 10 Gateway Dr., in Hattiesburg, MS. There were 7 members and guests in attendance. Doris Kemp called the meeting to order at noon. We reviewed and approved the minutes from the August meeting. Joyce reported that the Chapter had a balance of \$1,176.88 at the time of the meeting. A blessing was given by Kent Graham and lunch was served.

Doris provided the following information while we ate:

- Chapter Executive Committee met prior to our regularly scheduled meeting to provide input and suggestion to the Chapter bylaws.
- Proposed bylaws will be posted on the website for membership review. Members are strongly encouraged to review the bylaws as the membership will be voting on the at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Handed out an Ergonomic Conference flyer scheduled for Jacksonville, Florida in November.
- Announced that the Chapter membership now stood at 53. Great news, now we just need to increase meeting attendance!
- Mark Beisecker has formed a consulting company, South Mississippi Safety Associates, LLC. He can be reached at 601.434.6837 or [smsallc@comcast.net](mailto:smsallc@comcast.net).
- No other news or updates from the members.

Doris then introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Terry Steed and his associate Ms. Debbie Windom of the Emergency Management District. Terry and Debbie have been long time supporters of our Chapter and we appreciate them taking time to join us. They gave us an overview of the 911 system as follows:

- Formed in 1986 and was the first in the state.
- Services Forrest County and the city of Hattiesburg, inclusive of the area within the City limits of Lamar County.
- Address conversion was a two year process.
- Over 100,000 911 calls in calendar year 2008.
- Over 60,000 911 calls within Hattiesburg city limits.
- 4 main Public Safety Answering Points, (PSAP's are where your cell phone is routed to) Forrest County Sherriff's office, Hattiesburg Police Dept., Petal Police Dept., & USM Security Dept. A backup PSAP is with AAA Ambulance.
- The EMD updates the mapping system on a quarterly basis to stay current.
- Reverse 911 system is in Forrest and Lamar County only.
- Biggest challenge for the EMD is repeat 911 phone calls and system abuse.
- An actual 911 call wanted to know what the score of the USM football game was.
- Biggest reward was saving a lady and small child stranded on I-10 during Hurricane Katrina when their 911 system was down and call routed to their office.

Terry also provided a H1N1 (Swine Flu) weekly bulletin update he receives. He stated that this issue is taking quite a bit of time and energy of his office, and that companies need to take precautions to be able to continue their operations.

Doris adjourned the meeting shortly after 1:00 PM.

*Submitted by Mark Beisecker*