A few weeks ago, the company that I had been with for nearing 40 years did away with my safety position and laid me off, telling me that I will never be back. I have never drawn unemployment in my life, and had signed up, but I still wanted to go back to work ASAP.

I called one company and mentioned that I was laid off and within 10 minutes had a job in my field of safety, without even having to fill out an application or send a résumé. What they saw was the list of WSO certifications on an email I sent them a few months back, which sealed the deal. To top this off, it’s 15 minutes from home.

The moral of the story? WSO Certifications don’t cost … they pay!

James E. Boivin
Safety Engineer
and Member of WSO’s Certification Board

CREDENTIALS
American Welding Society: Certified Welding Inspector; Certified Welding Educator
World Safety Organization: WSO Certified Safety Specialist (Welding & Cutting Processes); WSO Certified Safety Specialist (Loss Control Science); WSO Certified Safety Executive; WSO Certified Safety Manager; WSO Certified Safety Technician; WSO Certified Safety Instructor (Master Level)

Being acknowledged as a Professional Member of a safety organization based upon one’s education, years of knowledge, and experience in the Safety field is a goal for many to achieve. Not everyone has the college or university degree that is sometimes required to compete for an advanced level Occupational Safety Certification. Not everyone enjoys the Classroom environment of classroom training and potentially taking the computer-type exam, which doesn’t always show one’s true abilities in safety management and/or practice.

There are many Safety Directors, Safety Coordinators, and Safety Specialists in the safety arena who have many years of experience but lack the mathematical expertise to pass a specific safety certification exam. However, by a submission of one’s work/career credentials, résumé, professional references, safety seminar certificates, safety education, and several testimonies from peers showing his/her elite level, safety practitioners and professionals can become a WSO Professional Member upon verification and approval.

This membership level gives one a great opportunity to continue to gain knowledge as a member of the WSO, network with and learn from other members, and attend our annual Symposium featuring world-class safety professionals from around the world presenting various types of safety modules.

The minimum requirements can be found on Page 4 or in the WSO Membership and Certification Program booklet. To request a WSO Membership and Certification Program booklet or for more information to apply for or upgrade to the WSO Professional membership, please contact the WSO WMC by phone or email, or submit the ONLINE REQUEST.
Welcome to the World Safety Organization July Newsletter. As always we try to bring you interesting information and flag things and events that are noteworthy.

For the past several months the coronavirus has had everyone’s attention. Unfortunately this has not changed, and the virus remains headline news. This may not change for some time yet, so we hope everyone is staying safe and exercising due caution.

As a result of the virus, we announced earlier that the annual conference was canceled and replaced this year with a virtual YouTube symposium. We have received a few abstracts, but we will need more to make this format successful. I know everyone is probably occupied with other pressing issues, but I want to remind you of the upcoming deadlines. Please make note of the dates, and plan to submit your paper/presentation.

WSO as an organization needs to grow with new certified members. I am asking you to talk to colleagues and associates and recommend to them the value that WSO membership and certification will add to their careers. Along these lines we are introducing the Professional Membership which recognizes a member’s professional accomplishment. I also mention the value of our accredited status for certifications. These are all parts of the value of our WSO membership and certifications.

Have a great and safe July! [CHB]
Do you know an individual, company, corporation, agency, or organization that has had amazing accomplishments or made outstanding strides in the Safety field? If so, why not nominate them for one of the WSO awards?

The WSO Awards are designed to honor individuals, corporations, organizations, and other groups for their concerns in the protection of people, property, resources, and the environment.

A list of the WSO Awards, along with the requirements for each, may be found on our website (click below), or you may request a copy of the guidelines by contacting the WSO WMC by telephone or through email (symposium@worldsafety.org).

Please submit your nominations by mail, email, or ONLINE no later than August 15.

NOMINATE NOW

https://worldsafety.org/award-nomination-guidelines/

Accepting nominations through August 15
Scott’s Safety Share: Safety Awareness

Submitted by Scott Masters, WSO-CSM; Contract Employee, Construction Lead Safety Specialist, Alliant Corporation; Tennessee and South Carolina USA

Safety Awareness is like almost everything else we do…it is learned, not instinctive. We aren’t born with awareness for safety concerns; in fact, anyone who has a young toddler or grandchild knows this first-hand as they see them going around doing unsafe things constantly.

We learn through various means. Some learn by doing, others by watching, some by reading. Others learn by their mistakes or the mistakes of others, which is one reason we post and talk about near misses and direct hits that we’ve had here and at other companies and locations throughout the world.

So how do you know you have developed good safety awareness? Here are some examples of behaviors that suggest you have good safety awareness:

• Before you begin any job or task, you consider how to do it more safely.
• You make sure you know how and when to use personal protective equipment.
• As you work, you check your position to reduce strain on your body.
• While you are working, you become aware of any changes in the area, such as people coming or going, jobs beginning or ending.
• You start talking with others about safety.

Monitor yourself today and see if you have good safety awareness. If you don’t, one of the best ways to gain further awareness is to step back and take a hard look at your or a co-workers’ actions as they are performing a job. Watch for risky actions. You will learn. And if you’re watching a co-worker, share those observations with them to help them go home safely each and every day. ♦

Requirements for WSO Professional Membership

WSO Professional Members are safety, hazard, risk, loss and accident prevention professionals performing full time activities in these fields.

Along with the Professional Membership Application, current résumé, and WSO Code of Conduct, the following documentation is to be submitted:

1) Two Letters of Recommendations as to one’s safety abilities on the job
2) Two Candidate Evaluations from colleagues, associates, or peers who know of one’s abilities and successes
3) Supporting documentation to include professional memberships, industry certifications and registrations, educational transcripts, etc."

Additionally, a minimum of 15 years of verifiable fulltime experience must be met with annual documentation of status or with the following combination of education and experience:

1) An Associate Degree plus 13 years of fulltime experience in safety and/or environmental science field.
2) A Bachelor’s Degree plus 11 years of fulltime experience in safety and/or environmental science field.
3) A Graduate Certificate/Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (or similar/equivalent postgraduate university qualification) plus 10 years of fulltime experience in safety and/or environmental science field.
4) A Master’s Degree plus 9 years of fulltime experience in safety and/or environmental science field.
5) A PhD plus 6 years of fulltime experience in the safety and/or environmental science field.

Degrees should be in safety, physical sciences, engineering, safety management, security, or other curricula acceptable to the WSO Approval Board. Degrees are to be from approved and accredited colleges or universities. ♦