



# NewsFlash

## WORLD SAFETY ORGANIZATION

www.worldsafety.org

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*from the desk of Dr. Charles H. Baker*  
**CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**  
WSO World Management Center

*Greetings, everyone! With this newsletter, I am starting a column to keep you, our membership, fully informed of the news around World Safety Organization. There are many interesting things happening, and **your** organization is on the move. As you read this NewsLetter and think of other things you would like to hear about, please let me know so we can address those subjects. (CHB)*

### World Safety Organization Achieves International Accreditation!

The big news is that World Safety Organization is now accredited by the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC)\*. The WSO Certification Program has been evaluated, audited to, and deemed in compliance with the ISO/IEC 17024 Standard. Our membership has asked for this accreditation for a long time, and we are proud to announce that it is now here. This is a big, important step in making our certifications more meaningful and valuable in the workplace. Please spread the word of this important development. Also, if you have questions or would like a copy of the accreditation certificate, please let the staff at the World Management Center know. Again, congratulations to everyone on this important addition to our Membership and Certification Programs!

*\*See "About ICAC" on Page 2.*



## WSO Membership and Certification Fees to Increase Nominally on January 1

At the 2017 Board meeting in Las Vegas, the Board of Directors voted for a fee increase for WSO memberships and certifications, effective 1 January 2018. We have not had a fee increase in some time, and costs of processing memberships and certifications continue to rise. We continue to be one of the lowest priced certifications in the business. A brief overview for the new fee structure is shown below:

- **Each Membership increases \$10.00 USD**

*If your annual membership fee is currently \$75.00, it will increase to \$85.00; if \$80.00, it will increase to \$90.00; if an Institutional membership at \$185.00, it will increase to \$195.00; and so on.*

- **Each Certification increases \$5.00 USD**

*If you hold one WSO certification, your annual certification fee will increase \$5.00; if you hold two WSO certifications, your annual certification fee will increase \$10.00; and so on.*

The Board also voted, on strong recommendation from ICAC, to institute a \$20.00 Membership Application Fee, as well as a \$45.00 Certification Application Fee. These application fees go into effect immediately.

Submit questions or comments via email to: [charles\\_baker@worldsafety.org](mailto:charles_baker@worldsafety.org).

## Membership Drive Underway



With our newly-accredited status, we are pushing to significantly increase our membership. We are asking that each of you, as a valued World Safety Organization member, assist in the process.

Please suggest to your colleagues and associates that they join WSO as a professional member and pursue WSO certification. If each member were to add one new member over the next year it will help build our membership ranks and make the organization stronger. Please help us with this task.

## Temporary Amnesty Offered for Lapsed Memberships / Certifications

Some of you have let your memberships lapse. This may simply be due to an oversight, but a reinstatement fee will be assessed for you to rejoin the organization.

Now that WSO is accredited by ICAC, we believe our membership and certifications are more valuable and useful for our members. Because of this, we strongly encourage you to reinstate your membership and certification.

For a brief period of time, we will waive the reinstatement fee to make it easier for those wishing to reinstate their membership and certification. **This waiver expires December 31.**

## WSO Certification Exam Study Guides Now Available for Purchase



In response to requests from WSO members and inquiries made by potential WSO certification candidates, we have developed three study guides that will be of interest and benefit for those preparing to sit for a WSO certification examination.

To help familiarize a certification candidate with what they'll encounter during a WSO certification exam, these study guides are presented in the same format as the WSO exam content and come with an answer key at the back of the booklet. The study guides are currently available as PDF downloads.

A big THANK YOU to those who participated in this summer's "Study Guide Trial." We were able to collect data that showed improved test scores after using the study guide.

If you are a current or potential WSO certification candidate and are interested in purchasing the appropriate study guide, please contact WSO-WMC at 1-660-747-3132, or send an email to [certification@worldsafety.org](mailto:certification@worldsafety.org).

[FROM THE ICAC WEBSITE] — The **International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC)** is an alliance of organizations dedicated to assuring competency, professional management, and service to the public by encouraging and setting standards for licensing, certification, and credentialing programs.

In 1996, a group of association executives chartered the ICAC as a not-for-profit organization with the purpose of evaluating certification programs at a reasonable rate that smaller organizations can afford. Over the years the ICAC has developed a comprehensive process to evaluate certification programs against international standards. In this way, accredited organizations can both improve existing certification programs as well as demonstrate to the public that their programs comply with industry best practices.

By accrediting certification programs, the public and the industries represented have an additional level of assurance, knowing that the program has been reviewed by a neutral third party and been found to meet or exceed reasonable levels of record keeping, security, objectivity, and professionalism.

The ICAC itself operates under the international guidelines established as a quality assurance regime for accreditation bodies (*ISO/IEC 17011 – Conformity Assessment: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*), and has established assessment tools and processes that assure certification bodies are in compliance with *ISO/IEC 17024 (2012): Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons*.

Members of the ICAC Board of Directors and its various committees are volunteers who draw from many years of experience in managing not-for-profit organizations.





## The 30th WSO Symposium Is in the Books

The Las Vegas Symposium is now history. Congratulations to all who assisted in organizing and participated in the September symposium. There was an opportunity to attend the technical sessions and also to interact with other safety professionals. The symposium was a big success, and we heard many good comments. We also heard a few comments on how we could improve the format and topics for presentation. These comments will be incorporated into future Symposiums.

Photos and highlights from this year's Symposium will be uploaded to the WSO website over the next few weeks. We'll send out an eNewsFlash when those are available.

## 31st WSO Symposium Set for Charleston, WV



More information will be distributed over the coming months, but plans are already underway for the 2018 annual Symposium to be held September 17-20 at the beautiful Marriott Charleston Town Center in Charleston, West Virginia. Mark your calendars for this important event ... we heartily encourage everyone to plan to attend. Also, we ask that you pass the word to other interested safety professionals. Let's work together to make this next Symposium another great success.

### Call for Speakers

We had several comments (mostly good!) about subject matter and other things related to presentations at the annual Symposium in Las Vegas this year. Please be assured that we have a strong commitment to only offering technical presentations that add value and relevance to each Symposium. Because we rely heavily on our membership for filling the program at each Symposium, we are asking that you consider making a commitment to be a speaker/presenter during the 2018 Symposium. We welcome a range of topics, but special interest is in those topics that would detail your professional field or address a specific issue relevant to your field. As an alternative, if you are not comfortable participating as a speaker/presenter, please suggest subject matter you would like to see presented. We want these topics to be dynamic, informative, and relevant to our membership ... worldwide. We will be distributing information on the 2018 Symposium in the coming months, and we'll appreciate your sharing the information with your colleagues and associates.

## Subscribe to WSO's YouTube Channel!

WSO is committed to increasing our online presence through social media and website development. You may already follow WSO on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, and we are excited to announce that, with the help of **Dr. Michael L. Thomas** (WSO Board of Directors), we have also launched a channel on YouTube! Currently uploaded are 18 videos from the 2017 Symposium. Dr. Thomas was our videographer during the 2016 and 2017 Symposiums, and we greatly appreciate his assistance and service to the organization.

You can view all the videos by searching "World Safety Organization" on YouTube, or by typing in the following URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUGBOJlxRus>

**Happy viewing** ... and let us know what you think!

## World Management Center Staff Update

We are pleased to announce that **Ms. Stephanie Jewell** has joined our World Management Center staff as Member Services Coordinator. She replaces Marsha Sites who left the organization back in July. We are also pleased to announce that **Ms. Leigh Tomich**, Certifications Coordinator, will be taking on the added responsibilities of Office Manager. I'm sure both of these staff members will be eager to help with all your needs. Do not hesitate to contact the office if you have questions or need assistance.

## Final Thoughts

We are always open to suggestions on how to make our organization better. Do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions or questions. Also, please take this opportunity to pass this newsletter on to your associates and ask that they consider membership.



*"Making Safety a Way of Life ... Worldwide" since 1975*

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