

# Region X News

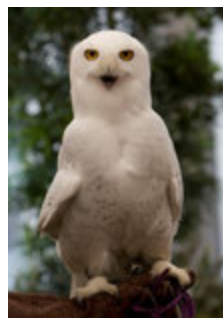
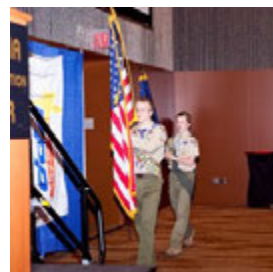
## Safety as a Value — a message from Bonnie Anderson, Region X Chairperson



Most of the VPP sites across Region X have a Value Statement similar to this ; *“I will actively care for my safety and the safety of those around me”*, what do you think it means? Is this statement a prerequisite that just applies to when we are working on a particular task? Does this apply to when you and your child or friend are replacing a water heater at your home? Could this even apply to carrying groceries into your home? When safety becomes a value, it applies to everything we do no matter where we are or what we are doing. So what is a value? Good old Webster says that Value is a principle, standard or quality consider worthwhile or desirable, a family value. Webster also says that a Priority is a precedence established by order of importance or urgency. With this in mind, *I will*

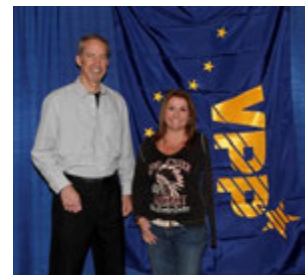
*actively care for my safety and the safety of those around me”* is considered a Value or a Priority? Using the Value definition, the message is that safety is important and will not be compromised. Values do not change because of deadlines, budget, or anything else. If it cannot be done safely, it will not be done period. In 1970, OSHA was established with President Nixon signing it into existence. OSHA’s main objective is, “To assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women”. Both OSHA and DOE recognize that physical compliance with safety requirements alone will not prevent injuries. Although OSHA and DOE have tried to write safety requirements for every possible or potential hazard in the workplace, success in building a truly safe workplace lies with an environment where safety has truly become a value of workers and management. An environment where management and workers don’t just do things right but they do the right thing.

When we take safety personally, “no one can put you in danger unless you allow them to” quote from former ICP employee and union safety representative, Dave Fox. Safety as a value means that we take that value home with us every day. We put into practice those safe behaviors that we learn at work home with us and apply them to the tasks we perform whether we are at home and at play.



## Region X and National VPPPA Award Winners

Volume 1, October 2014



*Keynote Speakers:*

*Jim Wetherbee*

*Kina Repp*

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## Special Government Employee (SGE) of the Year



Don King , Michelle Steeler and Jacob Ewer

Michelle Steeler was the 2014 SGE of the Year in Region X. She works for URS in Boise Idaho. She earned this

prestigious award for her involvement participating as a team member with OSHA performing onsite reviews and recertification's. Michelle has been in the safety field for 18 years and currently works in the Environmental, Safety and Health department of the URS Corporation as a Substance Abuse Prevention Administrator, Return to Work Injury Counselor, and Safety Coordinator for the Boise office. As the Boise office safety coordinator, she handles safety training for new hires, addresses safety issues at the Boise office and is the captain of the safety committee. Michelle is also the Vice Chairperson for Region X VPPPA.



## Special Service Award



Left-Dan Miller, Jeff Carlson

Dan Miller is the recipient of the special service award for the presentations and workshops he has lead in Region X. He's motivated individuals and organizations to created lasting change using proven results-based interventions and follow-up reinforcement strategies that focus on improving performance. Dan is also a gifted percussionist and tuba player and passionate volunteer in the local- Music in the Schools program.



Left to right: Don King, Dan Miller, Sharell Lien

## Chairperson Award



Left-Don King, Tim Taylor

Tim Taylor is the winner of the Chapter Chairperson Award. He has been instrumental in setting up the Region X Annual Golf Tournaments along with other duties of Safety Summit Planning. Tim is an operator at ConocoPhillips at the Kuparuk oil fields in Alaska. He also serves on the Region X BOD as a Director at Large-from a site without a bargaining unit.



## Safety & Health Outreach Award



Left to right-Don King, Michelle Steeler, Andy Foster and Rocky Simmons

The Mission Support Alliance LLC. of Richland WA. was the recipient of the Safety and Outreach award for their

efforts helping the Boys Scouts earn Safety and Traffic Safety and Fire Safety merit badges. Earning merit badges gives scouts a glimpse of occupations in the subject areas as well as some hands-on experience under the tutelage of experts in those fields. Each merit badge has a different set of specific requirements. Scouts must earn 21 merit badges to obtain Eagle status.

Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting.

- In 2013, 56,841 Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank.
- From 1912 to 2013, 2.3 million Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank.

- Around 7 percent of all Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank in 2013.
- In 2013, the average age of boys earning the Eagle Scout rank was 17 years of age.



## Innovation Award

PLUMMER Forest Products of Post Falls Idaho was the winner of the Innovation Award. The site manufactures particleboard, some of their customers require special packaging with numbers stenciled on the ends to determine board thickness. For approximately two years the stenciling was done by hand using spray cans of paint exposing employees to paint fumes and working under elevated loads to stencil the undersides. PLUMMER recognized the

hazard and started shopping around for a solution. None of the systems available met their requirements, so they built their own automated and programmable ink stripping system which eliminated the safety concerns. Employees love the new system, their input was solicited throughout the process. A non toxic ink is also being used instead of aerosol paints. This process also cuts down on disposal costs and the elimination of employees exposed to

punctures and exposures draining the empty cans.



## Board Member Service Award

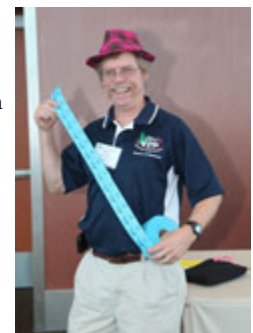


Left-Don King, Brian Stevens

Brian Stevens of BP Alaska receives the BOD service award for the outstanding job he has done as the Director at Large-site without a bargaining unit. Brian has been a key player with the Safety Summit planning team taking care of logistics in Alaska.

Brian has worked in the oil & gas industry for BP Alaska, Inc. as a Production Operator on the North Slope for

twelve years. He has been involved with the Voluntary Protection Program since 2000.



## Safety and Health Outreach Award

The VPPPA Safety and Health Outreach award went to Washington River Protection Solutions of Richland Washington. The Safety and Outreach Award provides recognition to the VPP models who reach out to share the safety, health technical and management expertise developed at their site.

The Annual Awards for Outreach and Innovation recognizes those VPPPA member sites and individuals that have made exceptional contributions to the mission of the VPPPA during the previous year. These pioneers in safety and health have shared their knowledge of safe practices with others or developed new techniques to create a safer, healthier work environment.

VPPPA Annual Awards are as follows:

- VPP Outreach Award
- Safety and Health Outreach Award
- VPP Innovation Award

For more information on VPPPA Awards visit [www.vppppa.org/recognition-programs/52members/327annual-awards](http://www.vppppa.org/recognition-programs/52members/327annual-awards)

## Scholarship Winner

In 2007 the National Board of Directors established the VPPPA William “Sully” Sullivan Scholarship. During the 30th Annual National VPPPA Conference held in National Harbor MD, the William “Sully” Sullivan Scholarship went to William Turner of Washington River Protection Solutions of Richland Washington. This scholarship recognizes an employee at a Full VPPPA member site who has made significant contributions to the VPP program at his site. This scholarship is open to employees enrolled in or enrolling in a vocational school, college or university.

Additional Scholarships:

The VPPPA June Brothers Scholarship—for students pursuing either an undergraduate or graduate degree in the Safety/health/environmental field. This scholarship is open to students enrolled in or enrolling in a college or university.

The VPPPA Steve Brown Scholarship—for students pursuing a degree in the trades. This scholarship is open to students enrolled in or enrolling in a vocational school, college or university.

**The VPPPA June Brothers and Stephen Brown scholarships** were established in 2005 to recognize students who are leaders and role models in their schools and communities and who are entering either the environmental, safety and health areas or the trades (respectively). Each of these annual scholarships is granted to one student who is either employed at a VPPPA Full member site or to the child/grandchild of a member.

- Applications will be accepted from students who either work at a current VPP site or who are the children/grandchildren of an employee of a VPP site. The VPP site must be a VPPPA Full member in good standing to qualify.

- Students must be pursuing a degree (undergraduate or graduate) in the either the trades or the environmental, safety and health areas. Students can be either full-time or part-time.

- All applicants must complete the application for the scholarship program that they are eligible for and submit an official transcript, reference letter from a high school teacher, a professor from the University they are attending or a supervisor at a current job, and a reference letter from the relative working at the VPP site. All applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA on a scale of 4.0.

- Other criteria used to evaluate all applicants include demonstrated leadership skills in extracurricular activities, involvement in professional organizations, communication skills and other awards and honors earned at educational institutions.

## Department of Energy-Contractor Award



John Fulton, President and CEO of CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company of Richland was the recipient of the prestigious DOE-Contractor Award. John earned this award for his dedication and commitment to VPP at a number of DOE sites that successfully attained “Star” status in the DOE-VPP under his leadership.



## Additional Department of Energy Awards

This recognition is only for Star participants. To be eligible for recognition, the contractor must demonstrate through its annual report that they meet three fundamental criteria:

1. The site must clearly demonstrate that it is using its annual self-assessment to establish challenging annual safety and health goals, and that it is achieving those goals;
2. The site must clearly show the extent and effect of the site’s mentoring and outreach efforts; and
3. The site must have calendar year TRC rates and DART case rates that are significantly better than its comparison industry.

For those sites that demonstrate the effective use of challenging goals, as well as significant mentoring and community outreach efforts, the award level will be determined as follows:

**Superior Star:** “Superior Star” sites should approach a recordable incident injury rate that is 50 percent better than the average of other U.S. businesses in the same industry code;

**Star of Excellence:** “Star of Excellence” sites should approach a recordable incident injury rate that is 75 percent better than the average of other U.S. businesses in the same industry code; or

**Legacy of Stars:** Those sites that would have achieved the “Star of Excellence” for a fourth consecutive year shall be awarded the “Legacy of Stars” in lieu of a fourth “Star of Excellence”. However, the Legacy of Stars award will only be awarded if a DOE HQ triennial review has been performed in one of those four years. The following contractors have earned DOE awards in 2014:

### **Superior Star Award:**

Bechtel National Inc./Waste Treatment Construction Project

Mission Support Alliance, LLC-Mission Support Services

### **Star of Excellence:**

Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International

Washington Closure Hanford

Intermech, Inc., Waste Treatment Plant Construction Project

Idaho Treatment Group, LLC/Advanced Mixed Waste Project

Mission Support Alliance, LLC/Safeguards and Security

### **Legacy of Stars:**

CH2M Washington Group Idaho, LLC, Idaho Cleanup Project

# Thank You to our Sponsors

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 CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC-CWI  
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Alaska Clean Seas  
 BP Gas Plants  
 CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company  
 Clearwater Paper  
 Nana Development Corp.  
 URS  
Agency support – Oregon OSHA, DOSH, OSHA-Reg X, AKOSH, DOE



## Region X Communications Team

Jack Griffith-Communications Chairperson.

Andy Foster-Mission Support Alliance, Richland WA

Saprena Lyons, Idaho Falls ,Idaho

Cheryl Rickertson, Spokane WA.

Jacob Ewer, Federal OSHA

Mark Hurliman, Oregon OSHA

Darrin James, DOSH

Over the next few additions of the Region X News you will meet the rest of the Communications Team. Our team is looking for new members, if you are interested please contact:

Jack Griffith at (509)373-5157 or [jack\\_e\\_griffith@rl.gov](mailto:jack_e_griffith@rl.gov)

The communications team is here to serve you, if you have good news stories , VPP celebrations or noteworthy information sent it to Jack or any of the committee members listed.

### Meet Saprena Lyons



As a Cause Analyst for CH2M-WGI (CWI) Performance Assurance, Safety and Health Group, I Lead and conduct formal investigations, provide guidance

### Meet Mark Hurliman



Mark is an CSHM, he has an occupational background that includes work as a dairy farmer, self-employed commercial fisherman, construction worker, logger, and mill worker. He has worked at Oregon OSHA since 1990, as a Compliance Officer and a Safety Consultant. The VPP Coordinator since 1996, Mark has been manager of the VPP and

SHARP programs since 2001. Mark has been recognized by the Institute for Safety and Health Management as a Certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM). He has developed and presented a variety of training presentations on SHARP and VPP as well as other safety and health management related topics. His workshops and classes have been presented throughout Oregon as well as at Regional and National safety and health conference Professional Associations:

- Oregon SHARP Alliance Board, OR-OSHA Liaison (since 2000)
- Institute for Safety and Health Management (Member since 2003)
- Chairman, Redwood Safety Association, (Member since 2001)
- Ex-Officio Board Member, Conference Planning Committee, Region X VPPPA since 1998

and support for the conducting of apparent/formal cause analysis for the Operations, Liquid Waste Facility Closure (LWFC), Maintenance & Engineering organizations; provide guidance to management for lessons learned information; as Price Anderson Amendment Act (PAAA) compliance coordinator I conduct numerous screenings for worker safety and health applicability, perform validation assessments to determine effectiveness, perform trending analysis, lead discussions and facilitate fact finding meetings; analyze data for system health reports/Engineering Design Files (EDF) corrective action plans, service on the Idaho Nuclear Technology & Engineering Center (INTEC) Medical Response team and a member of the CWI scholarship committee & representative for the INL Education Program; serve as Company Employee Safety Team Chair

for 1000+ safety team members, planning and implementation safety awareness activities, including Changing our behaviors reduces accidents (COBRA) (behavior based safety) initiatives; facilitate resolution for safety concerns, conduct readiness and Safety and Health (S&H) assessments with Department of Energy (DOE), and OSHA, perform Safety & Health (S&H) Facility Inspections; conduct / participated in workshops at regional and national VPPPA conferences, and perform in an acting capacity for CWI's VPP lead. Additionally, I work part time as a registered nurse! Safety is a value that I embrace and is fundamental to achieving and maintaining a safe work environment. At CWI we are proud to promote and encourage safety 24/7 at work, at home and at play!

## Region X Board of Directors



Back row left to right: Jack Griffith, Michelle Steeler, Bonnie Anderson, Liz Norton, Don King, Rocky Simmons. Front row left to right: Brian Stevens, Jeff Carlson, Tim Taylor



*Region X Board of Directors and Northwest Safety & Health Summit Planning Team.*

*Planning Team: Jacob Ewer, Mark Hurliman, Darren James, Sharon Perkins, John Geppart, Carol Henning, Eddie Larson Max VanValey and Kerry Clark.*

*Missing from the picture and a Key component to the planning team is Sharell Lien of Oregon OSHA*

## 2015 Region X Annual Northwest Safety & Health Safety Summit

### Start planning now to attend

The 21st Annual Region X VPPA Safety & Health Summit will be held at the Red Lion on the River-Janzten Beach Portland, Oregon. May 12-14, 2015.

If you attended last years Safety & Health Summit in Anchorage Alaska and thought it was great, then you don't want to miss this one. The Safety Summit Planning team is going all out to make this one just as exciting. If you have any suggestions to improve the Summit or workshop sessions please send your comments to:

Thank You and we hope to see you in Portland Oregon.

