

## APRIL 2023

**January-May**  
**Contract Seminar**  
**Breakfast Series**  
*Mason Contractors*

### **APRIL**

**April 11**  
**Contract Seminar #4**  
*Mason Contractors Assoc*

**April 22**  
**Emerald City Awards Gala**  
*The Four Seasons Hotel*

### **MAY**

**May 9**  
**Contract Seminar #5**  
*Mason Contractors Assoc*

**MAY 17**  
**Monthly Lunch Meeting**  
*Syberg's on Dorsett*

### **JUNE**

**June 21**  
**Monthly Dinner Meeting**  
*Syberg's on Dorsett*

*For a complete list of all  
upcoming ASA MWC  
meetings and events visit  
our website  
[www.asamidwest.com](http://www.asamidwest.com)*

April is the time of year when people get out and start moving. Spring is here, and projects are rolling in STL.

Last month 10 members of the ASA Midwest Council attended the ASA SUBExcel convention in Fort Worth, Texas. Those 10 members consisted of board members, past presidents, our chapter attorney & executive director, and members. Let me tell you, this event does not disappoint. It was packed full of breakout sessions covering all the current topics and issues facing our industry today, and in the future. One topic of discussion was the four day work week, it seems to be building momentum (whether we like it or not), so don't be surprised if we are facing the growing topic sooner than later here in St. Louis.

During SUBExcel three of our past presidents sat on two different panel discussions around succession planning and planning for growth and success at the chapter level. The topics were very interesting even to myself, a somewhat new business owner. ASA Midwest Council member Golterman and Sabo was recognized for a national safety award, and our very own Walter Bazan, Jr. was given the Lifetime Hospitality Award. Our chapter had a strong showing, and we hope to recruit even more ASA MWC members to attend next year. Make plans to attend next year's SUBExcel which will take place in New Orleans, LA in March 2024. Stay tuned for details coming later this year.

Next up for the ASA Midwest Council is our Emerald City Awards Gala on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Four Seasons. There is still time to register and pick a sponsorship that helps with your company's marketing goals this spring. I look forward to seeing many of you there, sharing a drink during the president's reception, and celebrating all the award nominees & winners.

Dan Tucker  
MC Mechanical Services  
President, ASA MWC  
314.707.7595 | [dtucker@mcservicestl.com](mailto:dtucker@mcservicestl.com)

Syberg's on Dorsett  
2430 Old Dorsett Rd  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

**May 17, 2023 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Network with the 2023 GC Award Winners|**  
**\$25 ASA members | Lunch & BPI included**

### The ASA WOMEN'S COUNCIL | *She's Built For This*

The purpose of our women's peer group is to become a valuable resource for women in the construction industry and related fields. Our goal is to help woman **Build. Community.** by providing resources needed to build relationships; be a source of information & support; and to provide connections & networking opportunities to all women from our member companies and the STL construction industry as a whole!

For more information & to join our peer group contact the "She's Built For This" committee co-chairs:

Jennifer Church, United Rentals | [jchurch@ur.com](mailto:jchurch@ur.com)

Stephanie Woodcock, Too Creative | [stephanie@toocreativestl.com](mailto:stephanie@toocreativestl.com)

Susan Winkelmann, ASA Midwest Council | [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com)



May 17, 2023  
Monthly **LUNCH** Meeting

*Syberg's on Dorsett*

2430 Old Dorsett Rd / Maryland Heights, MO  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for the ASA Monthly **LUNCH** Meeting on Wednesday, May 17th at 11:30 a.m. for Lunch & program featuring our 3 GC of the Year award winners

Register to attend the May 17th monthly **LUNCH** meeting at Syberg's on Dorsett, where we will hear from our three **2023 GC of the Year** award winners. They will all share company and project updates for 2023 and beyond. So you do not want to miss this meeting!

The three General Contractors of the year will be announced at the Emerald City Awards Gala on April 22, 2023 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Watch your email & check out the [asamidwest.com](http://asamidwest.com) website and all of ASA Midwest Council's social media platforms for the announcement of our 2023 award winners. We will also announce all of the subcontractor, service provider, and safety award winners at the Awards Gala on April 22nd as well, and hope that as many award winners as possible will join us on May 17th.

**SYBERG'S ON DORSETT**

2430 Old Dorsett Road  
Maryland Heights, MO

**MEETING AGENDA:**

Networking | 11:30 to 11:45 a.m.

LUNCH | 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Program | 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

**Registration includes Lunch & Program**

**\$25 ASA Members | \$65 NON ASA Members**

**Register online-[www.asamidwest.com](http://www.asamidwest.com)  
by Friday, May 12th.**

*(Attendees not cancelled by 5.12.23. will be charged per ASA cancellation policy. No refund after 5.12.23. but you may always send someone in your place if you are unable to attend the meeting)*

**ASA MEANS BUSINESS**

**Membership Benefits!**  
**How ASA Helps YOU!**

ASA's Legislative involvement on the State & National Level to provide representation of Subcontractors & Suppliers in the Construction Industry in Jefferson City and Washington DC.

Ongoing Work to Improve Laws & Regulations affecting the construction industry

Protecting Your Contract Rights via legislative and contract review activities

Chapter Contract Review Committee with member access to a library of reviewed GC contracts

Business Practices Interchange (BPI) sessions to gain first-hand knowledge of GC's, from peers

Building Your Business & Management Skills thru relevant training and resources provided locally & nationally

Enhancing Your Professional Status with area General Contractors via networking opportunities at our Awards Gala, GC Expo, and Golf Tournament.

Networking Opportunities with Subs & Suppliers who Share Your Concerns, and the opportunity to share ideas with peers

Outstanding Educational Seminars, Publications and Materials, to build your professional knowledge of the industry.

Assistance with improved Job Safety & Working Conditions with information and resources provided by ASA Midwest Council Safety Committee

Access to MEMBER ONLY Safety information, including monthly **TOOL BOX TALK** topics updated each month

**ASAdvantage** Program & local Affinity Programs to provide member only discounts on important goods and services needed to conduct business efficiently

**Did you know?** ASA offers a discount on all your UPS shipping needs thru our ASA UPS Savings Program

**Member Savings Include:**

50% on Domestic Next Day / Deferred

30% on Ground Commercial / Residential

Up to 50% off International Imports / Exports

Plus, UPS Smart Pickup® service is free

## **BEST PRACTICES FOR RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Construction Industry is facing a number of “external” challenges, ranging from materials price inflation, supply chain delays, to labor shortages, that translate into scheduling, productivity and profitability issues. Although you may have no control over these external factors, you can help control your Total Cost of Risk:

Total Cost of Risk (TCOR) Premiums + Deductibles + Risk Management Expenses/ Construction Revenues= .0050% to 1.5% (acceptable range) and maintain a “competitive” advantage.

Let’s explore the “Best Practices” of a Risk Management Program to achieve these results:

**Safety Program/OSHA Compliance:** Review every element of your program including safety manual, safety orientation & training, and OSHA compliance with your safety director or other responsible individuals. If you use a third-party safety consultant, consider having a mock OSHA audit performed to avoid steep fines and reputational harm should you get pulled into an OSHA situation. Share these results with your insurance carrier’s loss/risk control rep or consultant to demonstrate you’re doing everything possible to mitigate risk.

**Claims Management:** Review your past five years of claim history/loss runs for frequency trends and severity claims to determine how you can either avoid them or mitigate them in the future. You should also perform a periodic claims review with your insurance broker & insurance carrier to close out older claims that can impact your Workers Compensation EMR, General Liability & Business Auto premiums.

**Contract Review and Compliance:** Set up a standard contract review process to make sure your insurance program aligns with the insurance requirements in contracts your signing. This will avoid any surprises that can land you into a “breach of contract” claim and lead to possible litigation with upstream parties with whom you’ve contracted.

**Renewal Preparation:** Making the above steps an “ongoing process” will put you in the most “favorable” position as you start the renewal process three to four months prior to the renewal dates.

First step in prepping for renewal is to meet with your insurance broker to review renewal updates (i.e. Payrolls, Sub-work values, Equipment and Vehicle changes) along with any updates on Safety/ OSHA issues and open claims that will impact your renewal program.

Next, based on market conditions, you should discuss what your current carrier(s) renewal appetite is, and whether you need to go to market and seek alternative proposals. If your current carriers are going to restrict any coverage, require higher deductibles/retentions or increase rates outside of the normal range, then ask your broker to select two or three carriers who fit your risk profile. Have them prepare submissions to go to market and set a deadline of three weeks prior to renewal to review and evaluate proposals.

**Alternative Marketplace:** In going through the renewal process, you may find that you are in a better position to take on more risk by securing higher deductibles/retentions. Conversely, you may be “captive ready” and may want to entertain a Group or Single Cell Captive program to take control over your program.



Follow the Yellow Brick Road to  
ASA Midwest Council's 2023

# Emerald City Awards Gala



**Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.**  
**The Four Seasons Hotel | 999 North Second Street | St. Louis, MO**

VISIT [asamidwest.com](http://asamidwest.com) TO REGISTER BY APRIL 12, 2023 | \$225 PER PERSON | VALET PARKING INCLUDED | BLACK TIE OPTIONAL  
CALL 314.881.5757. TO RESERVE A HOTEL ROOM AT ASA RATE OF \$250 | ROOM BLOCK EXPIRES 3.31.23

6:00 - 7:30 PM - PRESIDENT'S COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:45 - 9:00 PM - DINNER SERVED

9:00 - 10:00 PM - AWARDS PRESENTATION

10:00 - 11:00 PM - CELEBRATION!

CALL 314.881.5757. TO RESERVE  
A HOTEL ROOM AT  
ASA RATE OF \$250  
ROOM BLOCK  
EXPIRES 3.31.23.



VISIT [ASAMIDWEST.COM](http://ASAMIDWEST.COM)

TO REGISTER BY

APRIL 12, 2023

\$225 PER PERSON

VALET PARKING INCLUDED

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

## 2023 NOMINEES

### General Contractor 2023

#### CATEGORY A

BSI Constructors  
Contegra Construction Co.  
Holland Construction Services  
Kadean Construction  
Keeley Construction  
Tarlton Corporation

#### CATEGORY B

Bex Construction Services  
Helmkamp Construction Co.  
Kozeny-Wagner  
McGrath & Associates  
Musick Construction  
Rhodey Construction

#### CATEGORY C

Eagan Building Group  
G.S.&S. Construction  
SITELINES  
Spiegelglass Construction Co.  
United Construction

### MEP Subcontractor 2023

#### CATEGORY A

Bell Electrical Contractors  
Guarantee Electrical Company  
Haberberger, Inc.  
Integrated Facility Services  
J.F. Electric, Inc.  
Jarrell Mechanical Contractors  
Murphy Company  
PayneCrest Electric, Inc.

#### CATEGORY B

BI-State Fire Protection  
O.J. Laughlin Plumbing Co.  
R.F. Meeh Co.

### Specialty Subcontractor 2023

#### CATEGORY A

Affton Fabricating and Welding  
BAZAN Painting Co.  
Flooring Systems, Inc.  
Golterman & Sabo  
Titan Carpentry LLC  
T.J. Wies Contracting

#### CATEGORY B

D&L Painting and Drywall  
Grant Masonry Contracting  
Leach Painting Company  
Meyer Painting Company  
Swanson Masonry, Inc.

### Service Provider/Supplier 2023

Enterprise Bank & Trust  
JD Kutter  
MJ Products  
Negwer Door Systems

SFW Partners LLC  
The Sherwin Williams Paint Co.  
Too Creative

# *Upcoming ASA Midwest Council Meetings & Events*



**January thru May**

**5-part Breakfast Contract Seminar Series**

*The Mason Contractors-1429 S. Big Bend Blvd 63117*

**April 22**

**The Emerald City Awards Gala**

*The Four Seasons Hotel*

**May 17**

**ASA Monthly Member *Lunch* Meeting**

*Syberg's on Dorsett*

**June 21**

**ASA Monthly Member *Dinner* Meeting**

*Syberg's on Dorsett*



**SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT ASAMIDWEST.COM TO REGISTER FOR ANY EVENTS**

**Event registration requires member login, contact [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com) with questions!**

*ASA Midwest Council is on Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn  
Follow ASA Midwest Council  
for the latest news and information!*



## **ASA Midwest Council needs your time and talent!**



**Are you a new member looking to get more involved with the ASA?  
Or perhaps you are a long time member, and have never joined a committee!**

**We are always looking for committee members to assist with our  
quarterly events, as well as the ongoing committees,  
that help run the organization & further ASA's goals!**

**If you are interested in joining a committee, contact executive director,  
Susan Winkelmann 314.845.0855 or [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com)**

### **ATTENTION ASA MEMBERS | Membership Dues Renewal Coming Soon**

**RENEWAL TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

**Watch your email for your renewal invoice | Payment due 6.30.23**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Your ASA membership is a company membership, so all employees  
are members of ASA for the low annual rate of \$945.**

**Questions? Contact [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com) | 314.845.0855**

### **THANK YOU to the MEMBER COMPANIES that attended our last Monthly Meeting**

*AME Constructors  
Armanino LLP  
Bazan Painting Co.  
Bell Electrical  
Corrigan Company  
CSA Advisors LLC  
Enterprise Bank & Trust  
FastTrac Rentals*

*Golterman & Sabo  
Hanenkamp Electric  
Imperial Metal Co.  
Linek Plumbing Co.  
Luby Equipment  
Marsh McLennan-JW Terrill  
MC Mechanical  
Meyer Painting Co.*

*Midwest Elevator Co  
MJ Products Co.  
O.J. Laughlin Plumbing  
Parkway Construction Svc  
Precision Analysis, Inc.  
R.F. Meeh  
RubinBrown LLP  
Schmersahl Treloar*

*SFW Partners  
Sunbelt Rentals  
The Daniel and Henry Co.  
The Stockenberg Law Firm  
T J Wies Contracting  
United Rentals  
Vee-jay Cement Contracting  
Vision Electric*





Mason  
Contractors  
Association

## THE ANATOMY OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

*Stay Healthy by  
Skillfully Using an Addendum  
Smartly Avoiding Killer Contract Clauses  
Properly Exercising Lien and Bond Rights*

*A 5-part Breakfast Series of Educational Seminars for Subcontractors & Suppliers  
Presented by Richard Stockenberg, The Stockenberg Law Firm, ASA Chapter Attorney*

### **2023 Dates & Information | 7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast | 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Seminar**

<b>January 10</b>	<b>The Womb:</b> <i>Scope Letters, Bid Shopping, Bid Qualifications, and Incorporation of Contract Documents-<b>COMPLETED</b></i>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>The Heart:</b> <i>Payment Clauses: Pay-if Paid, Progress, Final; Retainage Bonds; Right to Stop Work for Non-Payment-<b>COMPLETED</b></i>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>The Growth:</b> <i>Change Orders and Back Charges; Indemnification-<b>COMPLETED</b></i>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>The Guts:</b> <i>Price Escalation, Force Majeure, Damages, Labor Clauses, Releases and Waivers of Rights, Termination, Arbitration</i>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>The Protection:</b> <i>Lien and Bond Rights, Lien Waiver Forms</i>

### **Seminars held at The Mason Contractors | 1429 S Big Bend Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63117**

***Register for entire series or individual seminars /  
Scan QR code of visit [asamidwest.com](http://asamidwest.com) to register***



ASA Member Price | Series of 5 \$140 | Individual Seminars \$35 per session  
Non-Member Price | Series of 5 \$280 | Individual Seminars \$70 per session



We are now in the final half of the 2023 legislative session. The second half of the legislative session began when legislators returned to Jefferson City on March 20<sup>th</sup> from their spring break that began on March 10. Lawmakers will spend long hours the final weeks of session as they complete their work on legislative priorities, as well as the FY2024 budget. The budget must be finalized and sent to Governor Mike Parson on or before May 5 and the 2023 Legislative Session will end on May 12.

The House has decided and passed their version of the FY24 budget. During the process, they made several changes to the budget proposed by Parson. One of the changes deals directly with funding the Governor had earmarked for widening and improving Interstate 70. As of the writing of this newsletter, House Budget chairman Cody Smith has cut the entire \$859 million proposal earmarked for the I-70 project. He did state however, that he wanted to revisit the issue when the Budget Committee discusses other large capital improvement projects. It is likely that much of the money will be restored, but some may be targeted for other highway projects, in particular the I-44 corridor through Springfield. The FY24 budget now moves across the building to the Senate, where members of the upper chamber will also have an opportunity to make adjustments to the budget. Other supplemental budget bills will soon move out of the House to the Senate as well. The \$51.6 billion state budget will see numerous changes as it moves through the legislative process.

The House Transportation Accountability Committee met recently to hear testimony on HB1366, sponsored by Representative Don Mayhew (R-Pulaski County). The bill attempts to align fuel tax refunds based on the tax year, instead of the current practice of issuing them based on the fiscal year. The measure would allow a taxpayer to apply for a standard refund in the amount of \$30 for the 2023 tax year, \$45 for the 2024 tax year, and \$60 for the 2025 tax year. Opponents of the bill pointed out that under the bill, a driver may be able to claim more in refunds than they pay in fees, having an adverse effect on the state road fund. The measure could also impact the revenue stream that municipalities utilize to maintain local roads and bridges. It is doubtful that the legislation will advance, but definitely bears watching.

Governor Parson recently announced that he has named Evan Rodriguez to serve as his General Counsel. Rodriguez previously served as Deputy General Counsel to the Governor and also held a position as a legislative analyst for the Missouri House of Representatives. He takes the place of Parson's previous General Counsel, Andrew Bailey, who was named as the new Attorney General for Missouri.

The House Special Committee on Election Contests recently ruled on a request for a recount in House District 105 in St. Charles County. The request came from Democratic nominee Cindy Berne, who lost her bid to oust incumbent Adam Schwadron by 99 votes in the November general election. State law allows for a recount if the margin in an election contest is less than 1%. Statute also allows for the committee to turn down the request if the person contesting the election hasn't shown there were any irregularities in the results. On a party line vote, Berne's request was denied, as Republican members of the committee stated they could find no irregularities in the election process. The decision is final, as the Missouri Constitution dictates that the House makes the judgement on election contests involving its members and there is no right to an appeal.

*We will continue to keep you updated on political events in Jefferson City and around the state as they happen. Nikki Strong, Strong Consulting Group.*



# ASA Midwest Council Members

A-1 Professional Asphalt & Sealing	Foreman Fabricators	Modern Communications
Acoustical Ceilings, Inc.	George McDonnell & Sons	Montgomery Bank
Affton Fabricating & Welding	Golterman & Sabo	Murphy Company
All American Painting Co.	Grant Contracting	Negwer Door Systems
AME Constructors	Grasser Electric	Nu Way
American Steel Fabrication, Inc.	Guarantee Electrical	O.J. Laughlin Plumbing Co.
Aqueduct Plumbing LLC	H & G /Schultz Door Inc.	On Site Companies, Inc.
Archview Metal Systems Co.	Haberberger, Inc.	P & A Drywall Supply
Armanino LLP	Hanenkamp Electric	Parkway Construction Services
Aspen Waste Systems	Hansen's Tree, Lawn & Landscaping	PayneCrest Electric
Bazan Painting Company	Hawkins Construction & Flatwork	Pirtek Overland
Bell Electrical Contractors	Hayden Wrecking	Pipe and Duct Systems
Benson Electric Company	Heitkamp Masonry	Precision Analysis, Inc.
Bi-State Fire Protection Corp.	Imperial Metal Company	Professional Metal Works, LLC
BluSky Restoration	Integrated Facility Services	R.F. Meeh Co.
Boyer Fire Protection	Irwin Products	RJP Electric
Budrovich	JD Kutter	Ravensberg, Inc.
C.E. Bollmeier Company, Inc.	J.F. Electric	Reinhold Electric, Inc.
C. E. Jarrell Contracting	J & S Industrial Services	Rock Hill Mechanical Corp.
C&R Mechanical	J.W. Terrill	RubinBrown LLP
Capital One	John J. Smith Masonry	Sachs Electric Company
Central Power Systems & Services	K & K Supply	Sandberg Phoenix
Century Fire Sprinklers	Kaemmerlen Electric	Schmersahl Treloar & Co.
CK Supply	Kaiser Electric	Seiler Instruments
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	KAM's Mechanical LLC	SFW Partners, LLC
CMIT Solutions	Kay Bee Electric	The Sherwin-Williams Co.
CNA Surety	Kirby-Smith Machinery, Inc.	Siemens
CSA Advisors LLC	Knapheide Truck Equipment	Sikich LLP
Cardinal Elevator	Lawrence Fabric & Metal Structures	Stylemaster Apparel, Inc.
Century Fire Sprinklers, Inc.	Leach Painting Company	Sunbelt Rentals
Cooperworks Industries	Liberty Mutual Surety	Swanson Masonry, Inc.
Corrigan Company	Lindberg Waterproofing	Titan Carpentry LLC
DJM Ecological Services	Linek Plumbing Co.	T.J. Wies Contracting
D&L Painting and Drywall	Luby Equipment Services	Taylor Excavating
Delteck	Marketeer, Inc.	The Daniel and Henry Company
Drilling Service Company	Maxim Crane Works LP	The Stockenberg Law Firm
Dynamic Controls, Inc.	Metal Supermarkets	Too Creative
E. Meier Contracting	Meyer Painting Co.	Total Contractors Services LLC
ELCO Chevrolet Cadillac	MC Mechanical	TROCO Custom Fabrication
Empire Fence & Custom Iron Works	Mid-America Carpenters Reg. Council	UHY LLP
Enterprise Bank & Trust	Middendorf Excavating	United Rentals
Fabick CAT	Midwest Elevator	UNITS Moving and Portable Storage
FastTrac Rentals LLC	Midwest Monogram Promotions	USI Insurance Services
Federal Steel & Erection Co.	MJ Products	Vee-Jay Cement Contracting
Flooring Systems, Inc.	Mold Solutions	Vision Electric & Systems
		Zurich Surety

*Each month you will receive an update on the committees within ASA, to keep you informed on current happenings at the committee level. Below are this month's committee reports. Interested in joining a committee? Contact Susan Winkelmann, ASA Executive Director- [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com) or 314.845.0855*



## **SAFETY**

Lets be **Always Safety Aware!** Check out the Safety page on the ASA website. Member only access to monthly Tool Box Talks is included in your ASA membership! For additional information regarding the ASA Safety Committee, or to join the committee, contact our Safety Committee Co-Chairs: Rose Kastrup with CSA Advisors at (417) 761-4194 or Steve Williams with Bell Electrical at (314) 447-9071.



## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Welcome to our Newest Members:**

- ✓ **DJM Ecological Services**
- ✓ **Middendorf Excavating, Inc.**
- ✓ **Reinhold Electric, Inc.**

If you know a subcontractor who would benefit from the resources that ASA brings to its members, let us know. The benefits of ASA membership are many and our committee is very focused on adding quality new members. For Additional information contact our Membership Committee Chairperson, Chris O'Hagan, JD Kutter. (314) 444-4949 or [chris@jdkutter.com](mailto:chris@jdkutter.com).

## **CONTRACT REVIEW**

Did you know ASA Midwest Council has an extensive library of General Contractor contracts on file? These contracts have been reviewed by the Contract Review Committee, and include comments/suggestions of changes you may want to request during your contract negotiations. The contracts are available to ASA members only, and can be requested by sending an email to [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com)

If you have questions regarding the contract review service offered to our ASA members, please contact the Contract Review committee chair, Dick Stockenberg, ASA MWC chapter attorney, The Stockenberg Law Firm; [richard@stockenberglawfirm.com](mailto:richard@stockenberglawfirm.com)

## **PROGRAMS**

Do you have suggestions for upcoming speakers and seminar topics? We want to hear from our members to ensure we are providing the best content possible to meet your needs! Who would you like to hear from at a meeting? If you have suggestions or feedback, please contact our Programs Committee Chair: Chris O'Hagan, [chris@jdkutter.com](mailto:chris@jdkutter.com) or executive director, Susan Winkelmann; [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com)

## **ASA Announces FASA Cares with Focus on Diversity, Suicide Prevention**



**The American Subcontractors Association recently announced the re-launch of their Foundation with a new initiative called FASA Cares. In 2023, FASA Cares will focus on two important topics currently facing the construction industry: Diversity & Inclusion and Suicide Prevention. These two initiatives were chosen as priorities because they align with the Foundation's vision of a safe, inclusive, ethical, and ecologically responsible workplace.**

**FASA was originally established in 1987 as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt entity to support research, education, and public awareness. FASA's mission is to "educate and equip subcontractors and suppliers with the education and resources they need to thrive in the construction industry. Additionally, FASA raises awareness about issues critical to and about construction in the United States."**

**The FASA Cares initiative is designed to connect subcontractors with the knowledge and resources they're seeking to provide support for those in need.**

**On Diversity & Inclusion, FASA is partnering with BuildCulture.org and their Culture of Care initiative as an Impact Champion. ASA has taken the pledge as an organization and is encouraging everyone in the construction industry to also take the pledge. Access resources and read more here: <https://www.asaonline.com/fasa-diversity-inclusion/>.**

**On Suicide Prevention, FASA has taken the pledge to Stand Up for Suicide Prevention with the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) and is actively offering webinars and education sessions via ASA Chapters and the upcoming SUBExcel conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The construction industry currently has one of the highest suicide rates among all industries. Access resources and learn more here: <https://www.asaonline.com/fasa-suicide-prevention/>.**

**According to ASA CEO Richard Bright, these initiatives have been a long time coming. "With the complex environment that currently exists in the construction industry and society at large, ASA realized that the Foundation is the ideal vehicle to support our members with these key resources. People need help and they need to know that their peers and their profession will support them. That's why ASA is here and that's what the Foundation is for. We're proud to play a role in raising awareness of these critical issues."**

**In addition to FASA Cares, the Foundation also provides the industry with The Contractor's Compass, a monthly educational journal that features information, guidance, and practical business knowledge designed to help subcontractors succeed. ASA officially re-launched FASA Cares at the SUBExcel conference, March 8 – 11, 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas.**

## Electrical Equipment is Like Your Automobile Tires



Do you postpone changing your car tires until they blow out, or do you change them well before the tread is gone — before the “wear out” period? Most of us are smart enough to replace them before a catastrophic failure occurs. But do you do the same thing with your electrical system components? Is your electric room aging and possibly nearing the end of its life expectancy? You want to get the most out of your equipment, but aging infrastructure is an imminent issue for many. The hard truth is that 80% of transformers fail when they are between 40 and 50 years old. By year 10, 50% of circuit breakers no longer function per specification. This statistic jumps to 90% by year 20.

The general rule of thumb for electrical systems is a life expectancy of 20 to 30 years. After that, you’re in the “wear out period.” When planning long-term plant expenditures or electrical system retrofits, a good place to start is determining the age of your electrical system. Once you know this, you can begin to anticipate when your equipment is no longer operating per specification or is likely to fail completely.

Let’s take a closer look at when electrical equipment is likely to wear out. There is a much higher failure rate for equipment at both the beginning and the end of its life cycle. At the beginning of a component’s life, there is a higher failure rate. Failures are typically due to a manufacturing issue, a missing or incorrectly installed part, or a defective piece of equipment. As time progresses, failure rates decrease, and the equipment moves into its useful life period. During this phase, there is a low constant failure rate. While you may have to replace parts or perform maintenance work, this is when fewer equipment failures are encountered. Over time, with wear on the equipment, the failure rate begins to steadily rise. When equipment becomes less dependable, you’re entering the wear out period for the component.

Determining the age of your equipment and system allows you to begin anticipating or planning for improvements or replacements rather than being caught off guard by an end-of-life failure during the wear out period.

Let’s consider a quick example. A transformer’s useful life is 25 to 30 years. After that time period, the end-of-life period begins — with 80% of transformers failing between the 40th and 50th year of life.

In reality, there are a number of factors that cause life expectancies to vary, such as cleanliness, loading levels, ambient temperature, maintenance practices, lightning frequency, harmonics/power quality, humidity, and corrosion.

Loading levels and high ambient temperatures have a tremendous impact on life expectancy. There are a wide variety of insulating materials used in switchgear equipment, but a general rule of thumb is that the life of electrical insulation is reduced by half for every 10°C rise in average temperature. Thus, switchgear run fully loaded at its rated insulation temperature of 105°C has a life expectancy of about 10 years. If the temperature drops to 85°C, that same piece of equipment may last for 36 years. On the other hand, if temperature is increased to 125°C, it may only last two years. In summary, running switchgear at 80% load increases its typical life from about 10 to 40 years.

Returning to the tire analogy, consider the risk of a blowout on a car with four bald tires versus just one, or picture an entire fleet with bald tires. The odds of a blowout just dramatically increased. This also holds true for sites with multiple aging electrical components. Failures are likely as equipment ages and ignoring the signs of aging equipment will likely cost you in unplanned downtime and expensive repairs. Finding replacement parts will also become a challenge as parts for older equipment become obsolete.

To keep equipment running and maximize life expectancy, include regular maintenance as part of your regular work procedures. Keep equipment clean, schedule annual preventive maintenance, and verify the equipment is in safe working condition.

*For additional information regarding the ASA Safety Committee, or to join the committee, contact our Safety Committee Co-Chairs: Rose Kastrup with CSA Advisors at (417) 761-4194 or Steve Williams with Bell Electrical at (314) 447-9071.*



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*All first time non member guests are free of charge.*

*Please register your guest in advance by contacting [susan@asamidwest.com](mailto:susan@asamidwest.com)*

ASA Midwest Council's 2023



**Saturday, April 22, 2023**



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Contact Susan Winkelmann

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