

MARCH 2025, ISSUE 49

ASIS CHICAGO NEWSLETTER

THE ASIS CHICAGO CHAPTER'S
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- March 2025 Message from Your Chapter Chair
- Meet Your Chapter Officers and Volunteer Chairs for 2025!
- Thank You! - Climbing the Ladder – How to Go From Good to Great
- Upcoming Chapter Events
- March Meeting Information
- March Meeting Speaker Information
- ASIS Chicago Chapter Golf Outing
- Professional Security Experts Needed!
- ASIS Chicago Chapter Certification Crew Positions Are Available!
- 2025 Study Group Update!
- The Value of an ASIS Certification
- Fast Facts: Red, Blue, or Purple Team Exercises?
- How Priorities Work in U.S. K-12 School Safety Grants
- Keeping Convenience Stores Safe From Physical Threats
- Government Security Professionals Grapple with Following Procedure Amid DOGE Demands
- ASIS International 2025 Member Challenge
- ASIS International Announces the Launching of a New Join Process
- ASIS Chicago Chapter Event Registration Information
- Making Profile Changes to your ASIS International & Chicago Chapter Profile
- Do You Feel Overwhelmed by the Emails Being Sent From ASIS?
- Update: Meeting Announcements From Chapter Webmaster
- New Chapter Luncheon Ticket Price for Active Law Enforcement
- Chapter Events for 2025
- Make Sure to Follow the ASIS Chicago Chapter LinkedIn Page!
- 2025 Membership Renewal
- Follow us on Social Media

March 2025 Message from Your Chapter Chair – *Mary Therese Tylus, MA*



Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone! Hope everyone is getting ready to celebrate a day when everyone is Irish!

Just want to remind everyone we have a great speaker for our Thursday, March 20, 2025, upcoming Monthly Chapter Meeting – Sean Ahrens. He will be speaking on a topic that he is truly passionate about – “Breaking up does not have to be hard to do” – focusing on separating an employee from your employer. Tickets are now on sale so get them while they are hot!

A huge shout out to our NextGen Chair – Andrew Bartol – and Mentorship Chair – Mike Ortiz for an outstanding event on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Despite the weather, we had 55 people show up to Buddy Guy's to hear our awesome panel of speakers talk about Climbing the Ladder - Going from Good to Great. Thank you to our guest panelists, James Taff, CPP, Karen Gana of CBRE, and Eddie Sorrells, CPP, PSP, PCI, and sponsors. A huge thank you to our panelists who came out in the weather as well. Everyone in attendance had a great time networking and hearing the pearls of wisdom from our guest speakers.

I would like to welcome to our 2025 Board the following Officers and Chairs:

- Val Mertens, CPP, -- Treasurer
- Lisa Menner – Co-Treasurer
- Leo Jimenez – Membership Chair

As you attend our meetings and other functions, please welcome them to our Board.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of the newsletter!



Meet Your Chapter Officers and Volunteer Chairs for 2025!



- Mary Therese Tylus, MA, Chair
- Suzanne Monreal, CPP, Vice-Chair
- Val Mertens, CPP, Treasurer
- Lisa Menner, Co-Treasurer
- Amy Hanks, CPP, PSP, Secretary
- Paladin “PJ” Jordan, CPP, Chapter Certification Chair
- Jason Ortiz, CPP, Military Chair Liaison
- Jack Phillips, Law Enforcement Liaison
- Mike Ortiz, Mentorship Program Chair
- Wendy Young, Alex McNulty, and Brandi Srda, CPP, Women in Security Co-Chairs
- Andrew Bartol, NextGen Liaison
- Leo Jimenez, Membership Chair
- Jaxon Taff, Communications Chair (Newsletter Editor & Social Media)
- Bob Long and Connika King, Chapter Co-Webmasters
- Hamid Chaudhry, CPP, Program Chair
- Andy Hollinger, Golf Co-Chair
- Chuck Slaybough, Golf Co-Chair

Advisors to the 2025 Chapter Officers and Chairs:

- Matt Maravilla, Past Chair
- Ken Wippich, Past Chair

Thank You to Everyone Who Attended “Our Climbing the Ladder – How to Go From Good to Great” Event!



Thank You to All Sponsors for Making This Event Possible



ASIS Chicago Chapter

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

MAR. 20

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

ASIS Chicago March
Meeting and Seminar

 Harry Caray's
Italian Steakhouse
- River North



JULY 28

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

2025 ASIS Chicago
Chapter Golf Outing

 Ruffled Feathers
Golf Club



ASIS CHICAGO CHAPTER

MARCH MEETING

MARCH 20, 2025
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM



**Sean A. Ahrens,
CPP, CSC**

Leads the Security
Consulting Practice at
Affiliated Engineers, Inc.

Breaking Up Does Not Have to Be Hard to Do

Involuntary separations are stressful for everyone involved and can come with significant costs and risks, including potential workplace violence. This presentation provides practical steps to handle these situations with respect, including checklists and tips for before, during, and after the conversation. It also covers the importance of staying connected to former employees to address any concerns.

ASIS Chicago Chapter

MARCH MEETING

SPEAKER INFORMATION



Event Speaker:

**Sean A. Ahrens,
CPP, CSC**

Breaking Up Does Not Have to Be Hard to Do

Mr. Ahrens leads the security consulting practice at Affiliated Engineers, Inc. he has twenty-plus years of experience in the security industry. Known for his expertise, he has been asked to sit on a variety of standard setting panels including Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Security Industry Association (SIA) and most notably the ASIS Commission on Guidelines. Mr. Ahrens has conducted 50+ workplace violence assessments and has used that information to create guidance for clients to prevent these occurrences. He provides security threat and risk analysis, contingency planning, loss prevention, force protection design and planning for domestic/international commercial, government, educational and institutional Clients. He spearheaded and continually updates a guide on involuntary separation, which will be the topic of the presentation. That document was recently recognized as an authoritative reference to the DHS guide with the same namesake.

Get it here. www.InvoluntarySeparation.com

REGISTER TODAY!



ASIS Chicago Chapter Golf Outing



July 28, 2025 • Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, Lemont IL

Registration at 7 AM and Shot Gun Start at 8:30 AM

Golfer and Sponsorship Information:

Foursome

\$750

Single Golfer

\$200

Lunch Only

\$85

Platinum ▶ \$2,000

- (1) Golf Foursome
- (1) Year Website Advertising
- Registration Sign
- Tee Sign
- Banner
- (4) Drink Tickets + (4) Lunches

Gold ▶ \$1,500

- (1) Golf Foursome
- (1) Year Website Advertising
- Registration Sign
- Breakfast and lunch Sponsor Sign
- (4) Drink Tickets + (4) Lunches

Silver ▶ \$1,000

- (4) Months Website Advertising
- Registration Sign
- Banner
- Tee Sign
- (2) Drink Tickets + (2) Lunches

Trophy Sponsor or Hole Contest ▶ \$600

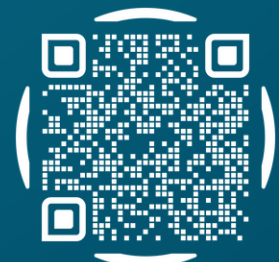
- (1) Drink Ticket + (1) Lunch
- Tee Sign
- Banner
- Table at hole

Tee Sign ▶ \$300

Register Here ▼



If you are interested in sponsoring or learning more about the 2025 ASIS Chicago Golf Outing, please contact Chuck or Andy using the information below.



Chuck Slaybough ▶ [✉ chuck.slaybough@axis.com](mailto:chuck.slaybough@axis.com)

[☎ 253-987-9448](tel:253-987-9448)

Andy Hollinger ▶ [✉ andy@athena-security.com](mailto:andy@athena-security.com)

[☎ 610-505-2572](tel:610-505-2572)

ASIS CHICAGO CHAPTER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Professional Security Experts Needed!

- ASIS Chapter Certification Crew
to assist Certification Chair

**Must be a dues paying member of ASIS
International and the Chicago Chapter**

Interested In Joining Us?

Call us at:

Mary Therese Tylus, MA – Chapter Chair > **773-318-6901**

Sue Monreal, CPP – Chapter Vice Chair > **312-519-4588**

or Email:

Mary Therese Tylus, MA – Chapter Chair > **marytylus@comcast.net**

Sue Monreal, CPP – Chapter Vice Chair > **smonreal@titan-security.com**

ASIS Chicago Chapter Certification Crew Positions Are Available!

Hey there! We're on the hunt for awesome ASIS Chicago Chapter members to join our certification crew! If you're a member in good standing with both International and our Chicago Chapter, and you've got one of those nifty ASIS certifications (or you're working on it), we'd love to have you!

Here's what you'd be doing:

Our certification crew is responsible for assisting members with ASIS exam prep. This includes tasks such as coordinating and scheduling study groups, sharing effective exam prep tools and methods, and ensuring that our members have all the necessary resources and support to achieve their certification goals.

As a member of the crew, you'll play a crucial role in helping our chapter maintain its high standards of professional development and excellence.

One of the key aspects of the role is communication. You'll be the point of contact for our members regarding certification-related information and updates. This could involve sending out reminders about upcoming exam deadlines, providing study materials, or answering queries about the certification process. Effective communication is vital to keep our members engaged and informed throughout their certification journey.

Moreover, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of our certification process. We're always looking for ways to enhance our members' experience and make the certification process more efficient. By providing feedback and suggesting improvements, you can help us make our chapter even better.

Lastly, being part of the certification crew is a fantastic way to network and build relationships within our chapter. You'll work closely with other dedicated members who share your passion for professional development and security. This can open up opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and lifelong learning.

So, if you're passionate about helping your fellow ASIS members achieve their certification goals, and if you're eager to contribute to the betterment of our chapter, we'd love to have you on our certification crew.

Interested? Contact Certification Chair, Paladin "Pj" Jordan, CPP at info@pjda.net.



2025 Study Group Update!

Greetings Security Professionals,

As we embark on 2025, ASIS Chicago is reviewing and updating our ASIS certification Study Group programs and presentations. We want your feedback re: the most efficient and effective ways to deliver these resources to meet our community's learning needs.

We kindly request you share your thoughts on the following matters:

1. When/where: When would you find the programs and presentations most convenient to attend or access?
2. Format: What modes of delivery would be most suitable for our community's learning preferences and schedules? Please consider various options such as in-person, virtual, or hybrid formats, as well as the potential use of recorded content.
3. Additional: ASIS Chicago Study Groups are not free. The benefits and reduced costs are derived from burden-sharing and collaboration among participants. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

We appreciate your time and consideration. Your feedback plays a pivotal role in shaping our updated programs and presentations; enhancing the learning experience and value for our community members.

Please click the link below to access and complete the survey!

Yours sincerely,

Paladin "Pj" Jordan, CPP
Certification Chair, ASIS Chicago Chapter



The Value of an ASIS Certification

Enjoy personal satisfaction and professional achievement by:

- Validating your security management expertise
- Elevating your stature in the profession
- Gaining a competitive edge in the marketplace
- Enhancing your career and earnings potential. ASIS certificants earn an average of 20% higher salaries than those without an ASIS certification (per ASIS Certification Survey – April 2019)
- Broadening experience and training from law enforcement and military backgrounds

The Value of an ASIS Certification to Your Employer

- Build a strong, dedicated team committed to high standards and continuing professional development
- Promote ongoing enhancement of critical job knowledge and skills
- Feel confident that your staff are using best practices
- Recruit the most qualified professionals
- Reinforce or elevate your organization's reputation and credibility

Learn More



Fast Facts: Benefits of Business-Enabling Security

Is your security department viewed as a cost center or a business enabler? This perception has a bigger effect than you might think, going beyond C-suite attention and budget allocations. Security's effectiveness across the organization depends on how it is viewed, according to new ASIS International research, sponsored by Resolver.

The report, *2025 Security Trends: Understanding the Evolving Role of Security*, found that security leaders' work to demonstrate that their mission extends well beyond the "guns, guards, and gates" stereotype is paying off. But there's still room to grow.





**Vishing is Calling.
Don't Answer.**

Who's on the phone? It might be cybercriminals.

Cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike recently reported a 442 percent increase in vishing intrusions between the first and second halves of 2024. Vishing—also known as voice phishing—is a type of social engineering attack where scammers use phone calls to trick victims into revealing information.

As technological cybersecurity defenses get stronger, experts predict a rise in social engineering-centric attacks that target the weakest link: people. Vishing is particularly effective because it exploits human weakness rather than technology flaws, and it's easier to obfuscate, delaying detection and response.

[Continue Reading](#)



How Well-Being Can Bring Value Back to In-Office Work

In the mid-2010s, the debate on the benefits of hybrid work was in full swing. From the rise of third places like WeWork to the high-profile announcements by major companies to reverse hybrid work options kept the debate fresh and in focus.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, and what was once seen as a choice became a mandate. Since then, the arguments over the value of hybrid work and its relationship with productivity have subsided little, with research affirming the benefits of work from home but anecdotes and stories fueling suspicions on the option's impact to culture, innovation, and creativity.

[Continue Reading](#)



Fostering Employee Success and Retention Through Inclusive Workplace Safety Training

Workplaces are evolving more rapidly than ever as a result of major technological advancements, including artificial intelligence (AI) and automation. Providing workers with a safe environment has always been important, but in this quickly changing landscape, it is growing more difficult to navigate. Companies must balance the pace of innovation with the well-being and expertise of their workforce.

Despite the increasingly available access to training materials and safety resources, a growing number of workers face on-the-job dangers. Work-related deaths are on the rise, with an estimated **2.9 million annual deaths globally** attributed to work-related diseases and occupational injuries. Implementing comprehensive company training programs is crucial in addressing these challenges.

[Continue Reading](#)



ASIS International 2025 Member Challenge

At its core, *ASIS* is its members. The opportunities, relationships, and resources we offer are possible because of the security professionals like you from around the world that join to share, learn, and connect.

Spread the word to your peers and colleagues through our Member Challenge so they too can be a part of our valuable community Plus, you'll earn a digital recruitment badge that will display in your *ASIS Connects profile*.

And through November, they can use promo code 75NOV for \$75 off membership*.

Invite Friends and Earn Rewards

When it comes to expressing the power of ASIS membership, nothing is more valuable than the impassioned perspective of our engaged members. Reach out to your network to share why joining ASIS was the right move for you, and help your colleagues and peers discover the enormous opportunity, community, and resources available to them as ASIS members.

Refer New ASIS Members and Everybody Wins

Share your ASIS journey and earn rewards in the process!

Ready to get started? Post the sample messages from the Social Media Toolkit (below) to your social networks and begin racking up rewards.

[Contest Rules](#)

[Refer Your Colleagues](#)



ASIS International Announces the Launching of a New Join Process

Effective February 14, 2024, ASIS International will launch the new join process. What does this mean for our new International members?

1. It will be easier to join ASIS International – the application stays the same, but the payment process will be easier. The website to join International remains <https://www.asisonline.org/join>
2. If International members want to purchase multiple products from the ASIS store with their membership – they will receive the membership discount. For example – someone may decide to add membership and a webinar to their cart – the webinar will be discounted to FREE at checkout due to the customer being recognized as a new member upon purchase.
3. Regardless of when someone joins, their International membership will be good for one FULL year (At this time, if you joined in March – though you'd pay full price, you'd only receive membership for 9 more months).
4. Expiration dates will appear in an International member's My Account section and multiple reminders will be sent out via ASIS International upon renewal time.
5. International members continue to have the ability to sign up for auto renewal and save 5% or renew for three years in advance to save 10% AND lock in the current price.
6. Soon International members will have the option to pay by PayPal.

Once you join – your International expiration date always stays the same. Unless you let your International membership lapse – then you would need to rejoin the International Association and you will receive a new International expiration date.

And when you join the Chicago Chapter as a new member and pay your dues what happens next? Your expiration date for your Chapter Dues will now be the same as your International Dues expiration date.

For now, those of us who have joined International and the Chapter prior to February 14, 2024, your International and Chapter Dues Expiration Date will continue to remain 12/31 of each year.

ASIS Chicago Chapter Event Registration Information

We always look forward to having everyone join us at our monthly chapter events and we welcome all guests! However, it's essential to ensure that you have provided your up-to-date contact information when signing up for yourself or a guest. We require this information to inform all attendees in case of an emergency, such as a cancellation or change in venue. Unfortunately, during our January meeting, we had to cancel due to a burst water pipe, and we were unable to reach everyone. We noticed that some people did not enter a phone number when registering, or if someone registered a guest, they did not include their contact information. Therefore, please make sure to add your contact information when registering for our events, including your phone number and email address. Current ASIS members can keep this information updated from their International and Chapter profiles, while non-members can update this information when registering for an upcoming event. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our future events!

Making Profile Changes to your ASIS International & Chicago Chapter Profile

Did you know that if you make changes to your ASIS International Profile, you have to go into your Chicago Chapter Profile and do the same? Yes, unfortunately, when an International & Chicago member makes a change to their profile in either system, the changes do not carryover. Thus, if you change jobs, change emails, add a certification, etc., you must make those changes in both systems. So, periodically check your International and your Chicago Profile for accuracy and up-to-date information. Your profile is only as good as you keep it current.

Do You Feel Overwhelmed by the Emails Being Sent From ASIS?

We have heard from several Chicago members that they feel inundated and overwhelmed with emails from the Chapter. We as a Board and Chairs, do our best to keep our Chapter communications to a minimum. We send out one to two announcements per week for our upcoming events and increase the frequency the week of so that those whose schedules free up at the last minute can attend.

As we investigated this issue further, we believe that perhaps the root of the “too many emails from ASIS” are from International, specifically, the Community Connections emails. Based on your selected preferences in your International profile of interests/expertise, International will then send those applicable Community emails. Those notifications can be modified by going into your ASIS International profile and changing your ASIS Connected Community Settings and/or your email & communication preferences as follows:

Step 1: After logging into ASIS International, click on My Information, select My Account, and then in the ASIS Links box to the right – My Communication Preferences.

Step 2: After making and saving changes scroll to the bottom of the page and click on ASIS Connected Community. Click on My Connections to see which ASIS Communities you are enrolled in and determine how often you want to receive them – daily or weekly. Make your changes and then hit save (also check to see who you are following).

Step 3: Move to the My Community Tab and select Email Preferences and verify or change your preferences and hit save. In this same tab, select Communication Notifications and do the same.

Need help? Call ASIS International Membership (703-519-6200) and they can help walk you through the process.

Update: Meeting Announcements From Chapter Webmaster

Below is an article from StarChapter, our website service and the service we use to send out mass emails to our Chapter members and nonmembers explaining a change in the From Address from mass emails coming from our Chapter. In the past the announcements about our meetings and events used to come from ***webmaster@asischicago.net***. The new email address being used is now: ***postmaster@mg.asischicago.net***. Please make sure that you check your junk and spam folders in case these emails are going there and unblock that new ***postmaster@mg.asischicago.net***. Thanks.



StarChapter made some updates to our mass emailing features to comply with new guidelines required by Google and Yahoo. This change in From Address is in place to ensure to those providers that mass emails coming from your organization are authentic, and not spam. It may take some time for all email providers to adapt based on those guidelines, as all bulk email tools are experiencing an increase in delivery issues immediately following these new requirements. This issue should improve as email providers adapt to the new policies.

Moving forward, all mass email sent through your StarChapter system will be from ***postmaster@mg.yourdomain.ext***. ***Yourdomain.ext*** will be replaced with your organization's domain name. You will still have the ability to add a unique reply-to email address or sender name to your message when setting up your email campaigns.

Please reference ***this article*** for further information and tips to maximize your delivery.

Best,

The StarChapter Team



New Chapter Luncheon Ticket Price for Active Law Enforcement

The ASIS Chicago Chapter is proud to announce a special ticket price of \$19 for active law enforcement to come join us at our regularly at our monthly Chapter Luncheon meetings. Our monthly Chapter meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Harry Caray's River North, 33 W. Kinzie in Chicago, IL. Come join us for networking, a great lunch and fantastic guest speakers on various topics relevant to security practitioners.

[Register Now](#)

CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2025

Do you like to plan ahead and mark your calendar so you can attend our Chapter Meeting? Here are the dates and locations:

JANUARY 16, 2025

In Person Chapter Meeting at Harry Caray's

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

In Person Chapter Meeting at Harry Caray's

MARCH 20, 2025

In Person Chapter Meeting at Harry Caray's

APRIL 17, 2025

In Person Chapter Meeting at Harry Caray's

MAY 15, 2025

In Person Chapter Meeting at Harry Caray's

NO JUNE MEETING

TBD on doing a Virtual Zoom Chapter Meeting

JULY 28, 2025

Annual Chapter Golf Outing @ Ruffled Feathers Golf Course in Lemont, IL

CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2025 CONTINUED

NO AUGUST MEETING

*TBD on doing a Virtual
Zoom Chapter Meeting*

September 18, 2025

*In Person Chapter
Meeting at Harry Caray's*

OCTOBER 16, 2025

*In Person Chapter
Meeting at Harry Caray's*

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

*In Person Chapter
Meeting at Harry Caray's*

DECEMBER 18, 2025

*In Person Chapter
Meeting at Harry Caray's*

**We look forward to
seeing you at our
upcoming meetings!**

We will provide more details and information about the upcoming events as we get closer to them. Please keep an eye on our website and check your email inbox regularly for updates.

We had some incredible events and speakers in 2023, and we are confident that 2024 will be even better. Thank you for your continued support!



Make Sure to Follow the New ASIS Chicago Chapter LinkedIn Page

Hello everybody! Currently, there are two different LinkedIn pages for the ASIS Chicago Chapter. One of the pages is a private group page and the other one is a public company page. These two different LinkedIn pages can often cause confusion on where to look and interact with. Due to these issues, we as a chapter will no longer be supporting or posting on the private group page. All social media content moving forward will be posted on ASIS Chicago Chapter's public LinkedIn page. This new change will give us the option to attract new members to the chapter and upcoming events. If you have not done so already then make sure to follow the new public LinkedIn page to stay up to date with chapter events and news!

**ASIS Chicago Chapter
LinkedIn Page**

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR 2025 ASIS MEMBERSHIP DUES!

ASIS INTERNATIONAL

Go to www.asischicago.net

Click "Membership" on left hand side

Click "Pay ASIS International Dues" from drop down menu

Enter your ASIS username and password

Click renew "My Personal Account" and verify information

Submit payment (\$245.00) await receipt in your email inbox

LOCAL CHICAGO CHAPTER

Go to www.asischicago.net

Click "Membership" on left hand side

Click "Pay Chicago Chapter Dues" from drop down menu

Click "Pay Local Dues"

Click "Add To Cart"

Submit payment (\$20.00) and await receipt in your email inbox

Your ASIS International and ASIS Chicago Chapter dues must be paid separately.

If you have any questions, please contact Membership at leonardo.jimenez@securitasinc.com

ASIS International
Membership Registration
(New Members)



ASIS International
Membership Renewal
(Existing Members)



ASIS Chicago Chapter
Dues* (New & Existing
Members)





@ASIS Chicago
Chapter



<http://asischicago.net>

**Make sure to stay
connected for all
the latest news &
updates!**



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES **AVAILABLE!**

Women in Security/NextGen Event Sponsor

To become a Women in Security or NextGen Event sponsor, go to the Tab on the left-hand side of the ASIS Chicago website, and click on Subcommittees. Scroll to the middle of the web page and click on "Become a Women In Security/NextGen Sponsor" and simply follow the prompts to support furthering our Women in Security and NextGen professionals.

ASIS Chicago Event Sponsor

To become an ASIS Chicago Event Sponsor, go to the Sponsors Tab on the left-hand side of the ASIS Chicago website and then click on ASIS Chicago Event Sponsor and follow the prompts to become a sponsor for any one of our special separate events.

Become a Website Sponsor

To become an ASIS Chicago Chapter Website Sponsor, go to the Sponsors Tab on the left-hand side of the ASIS Chicago website and click on Become a Website Sponsor and follow the prompts to become a website sponsor today!