

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT....Maureen Johnson

Maureen is the Integrated Health Services Program Manager at IBM in Burlington, VT. She has been in the Safety/IH Department there for 29 years. Maureen was recently named the ASSE Worcester County Chapter Safety Professional of the Year (SPY). Read on to get to know our fellow member Maureen Johnson better.



Fun Facts about Maureen Johnson

1. Do you stop to smell the roses?

Yes. My husband, Red, and I have enjoyed camping for many years. We go to a small campground on the shores of Lake Champlain where we sit and watch the sunsets. I feel relaxed just thinking about it!

2. Have you ever been on a motorcycle?

Once. Too chicken to do it again.

3. Have you ever won a trophy?

I have been fortunate to have received a few ASSE awards. The one I like best is the "You Go Girl" from ASSE's Women In Safety Engineering common interest group.

4. What are your top 3 favorite movies?

The Quiet Man (John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara), anything with Bing Crosby (especially Going My Way and The Bells of St. Mary), and lots of Christmas films.

5. What do you do for fun in your spare time?

I love to cook. The past few years I have had a share in a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Getting vegetables I've never eaten before, never mind prepared, has made me a frequent searcher for recipes on the internet. I also sing in the choir at my church, which I have been doing for almost half my life. And, see question #1!

6. What is your favorite type of ice cream?

A vanilla/chocolate swirl creamee (soft serve) cone.

7. What was your first job?

Babysitting.

8. What's your favorite part of your job?

I really enjoy interacting with others in my organization globally. Not a day goes by that there isn't some correspondence or conversation with people in other parts of the world. Taking today as an example, this morning I exchanged emails with coworkers in China and India, and had IM chats with people in Germany and Brazil. This afternoon, I have a call with an individual I'm mentoring in Ecuador.

9. What's your favorite vacation destination?

See question #1 again! But, I also have to mention the numerous trips to Ireland I have taken. It's my mother's birthplace and we still have family there. Speaking of Mom, she is 80 years young this year and has written a book about her childhood in Ireland and her immigration to the US. Her life was not always easy but she persevered and passed on her tenacity, faith, and values to me.

10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I had various aspirations including nun, airline "stewardess" and nurse. I liked science, especially biology, which was my major in college and ultimately led to my career in safety & health. My father, who worked at IBM, invited me to talk to the Safety/IH manager at the IBM plant, in my hometown of Kingston, NY. Safety and Industrial Hygiene sounded like something I really would like, so I applied to several IBM locations. IBM Burlington hired me as a process technician, but after a few years, I realized that safety & health was still my calling. There was an opening in the Safety/IH department and 29 years later, I'm still here enjoying the work and the feeling of accomplishment.

11. Is there anything else we should know about you?

I can sing the Irish National Anthem in Gaelic. This year, Red and I celebrate our silver wedding anniversary.