



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

PO Box 3875 Frederick, MD 21705

April 2010 Issue

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS
CHAPTERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE SOCIETY

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President's Message



JUAN ROJAS,
PRESIDENT



Back Flow Preventers!

Thanks to Craig Riston for providing the last tech presentation and the great information on back flow prevention devices, we cannot emphasize enough the potential problems that could occur due to cross contamination. It is very important that all designers, engineers, installers specify and install the proper equipment to protect the quality of potable water.

As emphasized by Craig during his presentation it is necessary to understand the degree of hazard for the correct device application. Selection is dependent upon the degree of hazard present. Typically all major plumbing codes address backflow protection. Consult your local plumbing code authorities for more specific information on their local requirements. Backflow devices shall conform with ASSE standards as listed in the local codes. Local codes shall govern installation requirement. To be installed in accordance with the device manufacturer's instructions.

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Opinion

In a recent article in PM Engineer magazine ASPE President, Julius Ballanco, recounted how he learned to write with an edge (Ballanco, 2010). This month's article will have a little edge to it so be forewarned.

Conservation of resources is nothing new to me as I was raised by parents that grew up on farms during the Great Depression. Rainwater harvesting, and passive solar heating concepts are concepts I have embraced since the 60s. But, I am concerned at the direction of the "green" movement, specifically LEED 2009. The water efficiency credits under LEED 2009 have gotten much more difficult and expensive to obtain. While making the credits harder to obtain is not necessarily wrong the restrictions imposed upon designers and engineers is a negative. For instance, in order to achieve a 30% reduction in water usage it is necessary to use no-water urinals (Biada, 2010). As a designer I prefer having the choice to incorporate waterless, pint flush, or even 0.5 gpf urinals into the project design. The credits seem to be strictly percentage calculations without regards to client wishes and system design. Recent studies have indicated that as much as 5-10% increase in construction costs can be attributed to complying with LEED and green standards. Many of the clients I deal with are willing to go "green" until they find out how much it will add to the cost of the project.

News

March 22 was World Water Day and to help celebrate the day American Standard set up 12 high efficiency toilets on the Mall here in DC. This coincided with similar displays in other cities worldwide. Lack of fresh water is the world's largest environmental crisis killing approximately 4,500 children daily (American Standard, 2010).

On March 18 the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), and CSA Standards announced an agreement to harmonize five standards concerning automatic compensating valves, anti-siphon fill valves, trap seal primers, flushometers, and water temperature limiting devices. The intent of the agreement is to bring clarity to the plumbing community especially manufacturers. The harmonized standards have a goal of one standard and one test to aid in a fair assessment of products for manufacturers and buyers (ASME, ASSE, & CSA, 2010).

References:

- American Standard, (2010). American Standard stands in support of safe and sustainable global sanitation. News release downloaded March 16, 2010.
- ASME, ASSE, & CSA (2010). ASME, ASSE, & CSA sign harmonization agreement requirements for selected plumbing components. News release downloaded March 25, 2010.
- Ballanco, Julius (2010). Wow! - 15 years for PME. PM Engineer electronic magazine. Downloaded March 25, 2010 from www.pmengineer.com.
- Biada, Ben (2010). Earning LEED 2009 water efficiency credits. Consulting-Specifying Engineer electronic magazine. Downloaded March 25, 2010 from www.csemag.com.



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President's Message Continued...

State of Society!

As we strive to continually add value to our members and sponsors in these globally challenging times, we are again reminded how fortunate we are to have been able to sustained membership and support from our sponsors. On behalf of the Washington DC chapter I am pleased to share ASPE president's March newsletter which include the most recent grassroots update, please see attached below.

Green Plumbing Systems

Continuing with the green trend and trying to find ways to reduce the carbon footprint and at the same time maintain the standard of living in a developed country. The other day while reading an article on water conservation, I came across this very interesting suggestion which goes hand in hand on my take for metering every drop of water that we consume, please see abstract below:

"Plan for Sustainability and Success Every water provider should have a written water conservation plan appropriate for the utility. A water conservation plan can be thought of as a utility's course of treatment to prevent CFS. For an added dose of prevention, a water conservation plan should be incorporated into the utility's water supply planning strategy. Linking water conservation plans with utility supply plans and demand forecasts will help promote sustainable supplies. There are numerous technical resources available to utilities at little or no cost to help develop comprehensive water conservation plans. Guides to help utilities develop water conservation plans can be obtained from the US EPA, many state regulatory agencies and water efficiency clearinghouses, American Water Works Association, and Alliance for Water Efficiency. Some states have statewide water conservation programs or plans that can be a valuable resource as planning tools for local water providers. Washington, Texas, Oregon, New Jersey, Colorado, California, Florida, and Georgia are some examples."

All of your comments are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Juan Rojas
President
ASPE DC Chapter

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ASPE has Compassion

Hello fellow members and welcome to a new year. I have hope that this year we will continue to see improvement in our industry. However we at ASPE understand that times are still tough and wanted to keep you informed on options you have to maintain membership. If you have been out of work for a period of three (3) month or more or has suffered a tremendous reduction in income due to illness and are unable to pay annual Society dues you have the option to apply for a Compassion Waiver. This waiver if approved will allow members to defer payment during the waiver period. The waiver period will only be granted for a maximum of a three(3) month increment, with a maximum amount of four(4) waiver renewals permitted. During this period members continue to enjoy some of the benefits of Society members which includes retaining the rights to his/her membership number and being retained on Society's rolls with original membership ship starting date. Unfortunately also during this time individuals will not be eligible to receive any revised or new Data Book volumes and will not be included in the chapter Delegate count for the convention.

Note that this request for a waiver maybe done by any member meeting the qualifications mentioned above however the request shall go through the member's Chapter President or the Society's Vice President Membership.

Feel free to contact the board if you have any questions concerning this article.

Thanks you.
Derek E. Wilson
VP Membership



Thanks to Craig Riston from JWalker Sales for presenting on "The Principles of Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control" at the March 17th meeting. The table top was given by STH Inc on VFD Domestic Boosters.

There was a bit of a theme this past year with the technical session. A lot of focus was on cross-connection control and contamination. If you missed any of the meetings and would like information on the sessions, please contact me. The April 21st session will be on ASTM E-84 Flame and Developed Smoke Code Req. for Under-counter Lavatory Trap and Supply Insulation presented by JWalker Sales.

The table top presentation will be given by STH on Wye-Delta closed verses Wye-Delta open and Variable Frequency Fire Pump Controllers. The May 19th technical session will be presented by Heath Kalmanson from Washington Gas.

Remember, it's always important to continue to learn, and the monthly technical session can be used to earn credit in maintaining your CPD. If there is topic or speaker you would like to see at a technical session at the monthly meeting, please feel free to contact me at matt.lane@aecom.com.

Hope to see you there.

Matthew Lane, CPD, LEED® AP, CFPS
VP Tech

FUN STUFF -

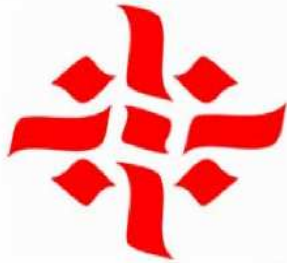


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Chapter Meeting Location

Washington Chapter meetings are currently being held at the Olive Garden located on Route 7 (8133 Leesburg Pike) in Tyson's Corner. Please join us for our **General Meeting April 21st, 2009**
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



All Reservations for dinner are requested by:
Noon, Tuesday April 20th, 2009

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Email Chris Barnard <mailto:cbarnardsr@yahoo.com> to be added
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Dinner:	Member:	\$28.00
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