



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

PO Box 3875 Frederick, MD 21705

February 2011 Issue

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

CHAPTERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE SOCIETY

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President's Message



Matt Lane
President



Looking for a change??????

It's been a discussion for many years regarding changing the location of the chapter's monthly meetings. It can be tough because of a few restraints.

One is finding a more central location that isn't too difficult to get too, has plenty of parking, and mass transit available (metro) if possible.

Another issue is the cost. Many restaurants tend to have a minimum number of dinners to be served and some even have a cost for the room. Wherever we go, we will try our best to keep the cost the same. I myself feel this is not the time to raise the price.

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Clarifications and Code Updates.

This month I would like to start off with a clarification for one of the code changes for Fairfax county that I wrote about in last month article. The change I wrote about was "Natural Gas services to the building are no longer allowed to be routed underground". It should have read downstream of the Gas meter gas piping is no longer allowed beneath the building. While we are on the subject the 2009 Virginia Statewide Building Code are slated to go into effect March 1, 2011.

Also WSSC has approved plumbing and fuel gas code changes with an effective date of February 1, 2011.

In other news the State of Maryland has adopted the ASME 17.1 2007 Safety Code for elevator and escalators. The enforcement of this code went into effect on Jan 1st, 2011.

Below is a portion of the article I wrote for September. Since it did not get published and there is some useful information that I still would like to share with you. I am including it in this month article.

What is new in the world of code? IAMPO has adopted a 2010 Green Code Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement and also has previously issued a 2009 Uniform Solar Energy Code. On the East Coast we typically don't see Uniform Code as a requirement for our project often but it is good to be aware of what direction other regions of the country are heading. ICC is following suit and developing their own "Green Code." At the time of writing this article, the public comment hearing are ongoing in Chicago (Aug 14th thru 22nd) in response to the IGCC Public version 1.0 that was published earlier in the year.

I would like to recommend reading Julius Ballanco recent article in July 2010 PME. Julius article reports the upcoming changes to the 2012 IPC code.



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Former DC chapter President Robert Evans brought to my attention over the summer that The department of Justice is moving forward with updating the ADA regulations. On Friday July 23, 2010 Attorney General Eric Holder signed these final regulations. These final rules will take effect September 15, 2010 Compliance with the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design is permitted after that date, but not required until March 15, 2012. Full updates to these changes can be found on the www.ada.gov web site. This year marks the 20th Anniversary that American Disabilities Act was enacted.

In the coming months I will look more in-depth into the new codes mentioned in this article. I am also looking to provide an update on the status of the legislation that has been proposed in Maryland and the District of Columbia for lead free systems similar to the recent laws passed in California and Vermont.

2011 WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code

<http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/content/code-index.faces>

IAPMO Green Code

http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/IAPMO_Green.aspx

IGCC Green Code Schedule

<http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/PublicVersionDevelopment.aspx>

PME July 2010

<http://www.pmengineer.com/Articles/Ballanco/2010/07/01/2012-International-Plumbing-Code-Finalized>

DOJ revised ADA regulations.

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm>

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Currently I am looking in Arlington at a few establishments that will be discussed with the Board of Director's at the upcoming meetings. Please feel free to voice your opinions or provide suggestions on a new location as well. This is after all, your chapter.

On a separate note, we understand there have been issues with members not receiving evites and announcements from the chapter which we are trying to correct. If you or someone you know is not receiving evites please let us know so we can make sure we have everyone aware of what's going on with the Washington DC Chapter.

Hope to see many of you at the February 16th meeting.

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Membership VP Membership, Evan Anderson

Winter Greetings,

As we kick off the New Year, let's take a moment to recognize a few of our members who have January Anniversaries.

- 27 Years - James Wyble
- 26 Years - David Bailey
- 23 Years - Robert Evans Jr
John Gaudio
- 22 Years - Curtis Johnson
- 21 Years - Dennis McNaughton
- 16 Years - Ernest Settles
- 13 Years - Kevin Fallin
Richard Johnson
Jeffery Russell
Derek Wilson
David Benson
- 4 Years - John Geiling
- 3 Years - Jorge Linares
- 1Year - William Dougherty

Please take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for their continued support.

On another note, with the economy continually changing our short and long term plans, don't let it change you commitment to ASPE.

Waiver of Compassion...

ASPE is offering a waiver of compassion for those members who are having financial difficulties. There is a confidential program in place to help you maintain your membership while you get through these tough economic times. If you are in this situation, please contact our President Matt Lane to see how ASPE can help you.

Evan Anderson
VP, Membership

POST CONVENTION BYLAWS RECAP by David Bailey



It seems like only several weeks ago that the Convention in Philadelphia had concluded, but the fact is that three months have past since the ASPE biennial event. Months leading up to the Convention, I, along with the assistance of a number committee and former Chair members, reviewed the pending bylaw proposals, and provided additional commentary for Chapter delegations to review prior to their week in Philadelphia. In all, nineteen (19) bylaw proposals were initially to be presented to the convention floor before one was withdrawn at the beginning of the business session devoted to the amendment process. At its conclusion, seven (7) of the remaining eighteen (18) bylaw proposals would obtain the required three-quarters (3/4) majority, and become a part of the current ASPE Bylaws. A brief summary of the amendments passed is presented below.

Mark Thayer, CPD, of Virginia Blue Ridge Chapter, proposed the first of the successful amendment affecting Student Membership Classification. As part of Article 2 - Membership: 2.2 Membership Classification, (g) Student Member, added were: 1) 'community college' to the list recognized institutions of learning; 2) 'part-time' student status; and 3) a five (5) year limit after which a membership upgrade shall be required.

Stan Wolfson, ASPE's Executive Director proposed the second successful amendment regarding Article 5 - Officers: 5.1. Now, the VP Affiliate shall be required to be Society member for at least four (4) years (changed from eight years).

The Society's Board of Directors affecting Article 5 - Officers: 5.3 and 5.4, proposed the third and fourth successful amendments. 5.3 allows an individual to hold more than one of Society's Board position (i.e. Secretary and Treasurer) and 5.4 states that an individual on Society's Board shall have only one vote regardless of the number of Board office positions he/she may be occupying. Note that the 5.3 and 5.4 were submitted as new sections thereby requiring renumber of the existing amendment under Article 5. Case in point, the Board presented what would be the fifth successful amendment under the former section 5.3, regarding recall, removal, and resignation. In summary, if a (Board) position becomes vacant, then the position shall be filled per (former) section 5.4 - which states that the President shall fill the vacancy unless it is the President's position that is vacant whereby the VP Technical shall become the new President.

POST CONVENTION BYLAWS RECAP by David Bailey



The remaining two amendments that passed originated from the Society's Board of Directors as well. The first, Article 9 - Regional Organization: 9.5, simply disqualifies a Region Director from holding office should they either cease to be a member in good standing or relocate beyond the boundary of region they represent. Next, Article 7 - Executive Director: 7.2 Description. With the retirement of Stan Wolfson imminent, this amendment is an attempt to clearly define the responsibilities of Society Executive Director in the near future.

Although only about a third of the submitted proposals passed, the voting on several other proposals should serve notice to the current and future Society's Board of Directors. One, addressing the withholding of Chapter dues rebates. Although not passed, the rebate proposals did receive a simple majority of votes. Second, was the apparent elimination of nominations of Board candidates from the Convention floor. The proposal that would have essentially made floor nominations prohibitive was defeated by a 6 to 1 margin.

The business meeting at an ASPE Convention comprises of number of interesting events for the Chapter Delegates. Perhaps one of the most time consuming of all the events is the session involving the Bylaws. It was indeed an honor and a pleasure to be an active part of the Bylaws process at the ASPE Convention, and a delight to take this opportunity to share (in brief) the results with my fellow ASPE members.

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February 2011

All of you commuters should be home now after the big storm. I consider myself lucky as it only took me 1-1/2 hours to drive the mile and a quarter from the Metro to my apartment. There should be some good stories at the February meeting.

Mr. Pat O'Neal from the Studor Company provided us with an informative discussion of air admittance valves and new technology for venting of stacks at the January meeting. For February we look forward to Mr. John Gaither who will speak on double wall containment piping. Anyone with fuel piping or hazardous waste systems in their upcoming projects will want to attend this presentation.

News from the National VP Tech is that volume 2 of the Plumbing Engineered Handbooks is to be delivered to members any day. Volume 3 is ready for final review and is on schedule. The ASPE National committees are attempting to get these valuable resources back on schedule. Anyone interested in joining the Technical and Research Committee can contact Timothy Smith, National VP Tech, at tsmith@engbldg.com.

The CPD exam is scheduled for April and the date is fast approaching. The CPD review manual will be sent to the printers shortly in order to be available before the exam. Mr. Dave Bailey from our chapter will again offer a review class in early April. The exact date has not been determined yet but more information will be posted on our chapter webpage and announced at the meetings.

See you at the February 16 meeting and have a Happy Groundhog Day.

Ron Ball
VP Tech

10 Tips for Passing the Professional Engineer Exam

By Administrative Secretary, JR Gyger



10 Tips for Passing the Professional Engineer Exam

The Professional Engineering (PE) Exam has to be one of the most dreaded exams on the planet, and for good reason. It is comprised of two 4-hour exams, one for breadth and one for depth, with the breadth exam being administered in the morning and the depth exam administered in the afternoon. And quite possibly more annoying than the anticipation of this grueling exam is waiting for the results, which can take over 8 weeks. But with proper preparations, some confidence can be gained that those results will be positive. I recently sat for and passed the Mechanical PE exam and wanted to take this opportunity to share some tips and strategies that I found to be helpful with future exam takers.

Tip #1: Start preparing early.

There is so much information covered by the exam, the earlier you start trying to digest the information, the better. I read that it is recommended that you spend a minimum of 300 hours studying. As far as study materials go, make sure you order any reference books you plan on using for the exam early enough that you become familiar with where everything is located.

Tip #2: Make a study plan and stick to it.

Figure out how much time you believe you will need based on your comfort level with the test material and write up a plan. Be sure to mark your study dates in your calendar so that you do not start missing vital study time by making other plans.

Tip #3: Practice, practice, practice.

Much of the exam comes down to how fast you can solve problems and there is nothing better to get your speed up than practicing. I also recommend taking a practice test similar to the actual PE test to give yourself an idea of how you will do when it comes time for the real thing. Make sure to use the calculator that you will be using for the exam so that you are familiar with its operation.

Tip #4: Do not waste your time studying things you already know.

This is not to say you should not review everything covered by the exam, but if you already know it, then there is no point wasting a lot of time when you could be relearning something you haven't seen in a long time or have never seen at all.

10 Tips for Passing the Professional Engineer Exam

By Administrative Secretary, JR Gyger



Tip #5: Get a hotel room near the exam site the night before.

Since the PE exam is typically administered on a Friday, your best bet is to stay close to the exam site so that you do not have to wake up ridiculously early to drive to the site from your house, possibly running into traffic or car troubles. I did this myself and think it was well worth the price of the room to save some aggravation and get some extra sleep.

Tip #6: Take some snacks.

There are restrictions on the types of food you can take into the testing site and they vary by jurisdiction, but snacks are great at helping you take a minute to clear your head and they can give you a little boost if you are getting fatigued.

Tip #7: Have a backup calculator.

It seems a little extreme, but you absolutely need a calculator and you will probably not pass if your calculator dies. I bought two of the same one and just returned the one I did not use. The proctors at the exam wanted me to take the backup out of its package, but I told them I was only going to use it if the other one died and planned on returning it, so they let me keep it at the proctor's table in the event I needed it.

Tip #8: Answer the questions you know first.

At least this way you know you will get these questions right and you will know just how much time you have left to work on the questions you are not as sure about. It also does not hurt to come back to these questions at the end and double check them if you have time to make sure you did not miss something the first time.

Tip #9: Do not get bogged down with too much information.

Some of the questions have more given information than is required to answer the question. Do your best to read what the question is asking and use only the information required to arrive at a solution, the rest just a distraction.

Tip #10: Use common sense.

I found that there are usually two answers that make sense and two that do not. As the clock keeps ticking and you find you are running out of time and you are ready to start guessing, you have a higher probability for selecting the correct answer if you have it narrowed down.

Finally, I would like to say congratulations to all of those who have passed the PE exam and wish good luck to those who plan on taking the PE in the future. If you have any specific questions related to the PE exam, feel free to send me an email:

Lawrence.Gyger@aecom.com



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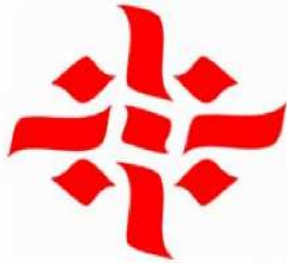


Mr. B Pities the fool that doesn't take his CPD review class

Former President Juan's New Years Resolution to hit the Gym has been going pretty well



Here is our Administrative Secretary Larry with his friends Curley and Moe



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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 February 16th, 2010**
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



All Reservations for dinner are requested by:
Noon, Tuesday February 15th, 2010

RSVP to the evite
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