



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

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February 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



Membership

Most associations, if not all, have been affected by the current financial situation, which has descended the membership growth and even membership retention. ASPE like other organizations during this challenging time is trying to do the best they can to help out its members to keep their membership, and finding new ways, ideas and strategies to provide its members with all of the benefits ASPE membership has to offer. Many thanks to all the existing members that continuously keep renewing their membership every year and to the new members welcome.

As we strive to provide a solid base of activities and systems to fulfill members' needs with technical presentations, CPD reviews, etc. Our intent is to provide members with the best way possible to get their membership value. Communication is a two way street, and we need your feedback. Please let any of the chapter officers know your comments, suggestions to help us identify the hot topics capturing members' attention.

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February 2010

This past January was an historic month for the Plumbing Industry. The 100-year anniversary of the death of Thomas Crapper was commemorated, yes, that Thomas Crapper. Contrary to popular myth Mr. Crapper did not invent the modern toilet but he did expand the market for indoor plumbing fixtures. The Thomas Crapper Company is still in business today in Great Britain but primarily provides custom reproduction fixtures for clients who want classic style bathrooms. There is an interesting video and article on the BBC News website at http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/8481283.stm.

The theme of past articles has been conservation and its impact on codes. As more code agencies and authorities address these issues the more complex they become. For instance the ICC is working on model energy codes to be released in 2012 (Hewitt, 2010). While this code will deal mainly with HVAC issues and building construction it will ultimately impact plumbing and fire protection. The pressure will be on plumbing engineers and designers to implement water conservation measures that will aid the overall building efficiency. Plumbing fixture manufacturers as well will be expected to improve designs and incorporate new technologies into their products. For example in the December IAPMO Green Newsletter (2009) new proposed water efficiency standards are applauded but viewed as falling short on advancing new technologies for larger energy and economic savings. In the article Andrew de Laski (2009), Executive Director of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project states, "big energy savings sometimes requires big changes in technology." However these changes will come with a price. DOE would like to see a standard that requires more energy-efficient condensing gas and electric heat pump water heaters which would increase savings six fold over the current proposed standard. However DOE concludes this would require retooling by manufacturers and higher upfront costs (IAPMO, 2009).

The next few years will be a challenge not only for the design engineer but also for code officials and manufacturers to mesh energy conservation measures with codes while keeping costs within reason.

References:

BBC News, 2010. Remember Thomas Crapper, The Godfather of Toilets. Downloaded January 27, 2010 from http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/8481283.stm

Hewitt, D., January 2010. Advanced codes efficient strategies for future model energy codes. ED+C Magazine. Published by ED+C, Troy, Mi.

IAPMO, December 2009. Proposed water heater efficiency standards deliver savings - but not enough. Green Newsletter. Downloaded December 8, 2009 from http://forms.iapmo.org/newsletter/green/2009/articles/ase_doestandards.asp

Ron Ball, VP Legislative



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President's Message Continued...

New Chapters!

We as a chapter were a little negligent when we did not extend a welcome to the then newest ASPE chapter. That was Puerto Rico which started off a few months ago. Best wishes to the Puerto Rico chapter. Now we have another, the Seattle chapter becomes the 61st chapter of ASPE. To both of these chapters, we wish you the best of luck and welcome to the American Society of Plumbing Engineers.

Cost Reduction

With the upcoming Grass Roots Budget meeting scheduled for March 13, 2010. Society is looking for ideas to increase revenues and reduce expenses. DC chapter is embracing society's call to cut costs and would like to hear your ideas and techniques to be able in helping achieve a cost reduction. The intent is to create initiatives for a more efficient system without compromising quality. There is always a potential to do more with minimum expense.

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. More than ever it is very important to continue our efforts to conserve water by designing in creative ways to reduce water consumption. As the factors that impact our water supply increases every time that I read about the subject. One of the main factors is droughts in the west coast, some states like California and Texas having severe drought categories. One of many ways that we, as a plumbing community, can aid in the water conservation model is to specify low flow water fixtures without attempting to pursue any points. There are many strategies for helping reduce water consumption. However we need to think out the box and start creating innovative and smart designs to manage water efficiently and effectively.

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



I'd like to thank Ned Towle for giving us a very insightful technical session on "Unintended Consequences of Backflow Regulations and Practices". and Craig Riston of John Walkers Sales, Inc. for being the table top presenter at the October 15th meeting. Just remember to be careful when sizing your backflow preventers and water meters. Bigger is not always better!

The November 18th meeting will be presented by Stacey Wesselink from LiquiTech Environmental Solutions on the "Treating and Killing Legionella". Our October table top will be given by Stacey and LiquiTech as well.

Some of the upcoming technical sessions are "Polypropylene Piping Systems", "ASTM E-84 flame and developed smoke code requirements for undercounter lavatory trap and supply insulation as required by ADA", "Solar Hot Water Generation and Storage", "Domestic and Foreign Soil Piping" and "Polypropylene Piping Systems".

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.

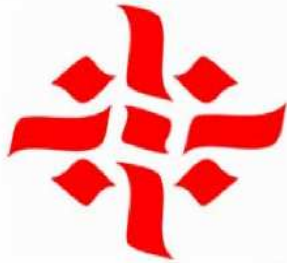
Matthew Lane, CPD, LEED® AP, CFPS
VP Tech



FUN STUFF - Blizzard Edition

Not much needs to be said here. We all have our Double Blizzard Snowmageddon Horror stories. This was a shot sent out of Ned Dwyer doing some manual labor.





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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 17, 2009**
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



All Reservations for dinner are requested by:
Noon, Tuesday February 16, 2009

RSVP to the evite
Email Chris Barnard <mailto:cbarnardsr@yahoo.com> to be added
to mailing list.

Dinner:	Member:	\$28.00
	Non-Member	\$30.00



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