

# WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

PO Box 6189 McLean Virginia 22106

October 2008 Issue

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

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## President's Message



**JUAN ROJAS,**  
PRESIDENT



What a beautiful day for golf it was, and despite my golf skills I had lots of fun. I want to take a moment to thank all of you for making it such a great experience. On that note I heard nothing but good things from many who attended the golf outing. The event was well prepared and full of fun. Kudos goes to the golf committee; they did a superb job organizing the event. I know they spent many days planning the event and it showed.

When a function such as the golf outing is a success, the credit starts with the planning committee, and the committed support of all participants and sponsors. Many thanks to everyone who attended and to our sponsors for all you did to make it possible. Congratulations on both a successful and memorable event. You have set a new standard.

September has passed and with that our first meeting too, it was nice to see familiar faces as well as new faces during the September meeting. Let me tell you welcome back and thank you for your continuous support to our local chapter. I hope that everyone is preparing and getting ready to attend ASPE 2008 convention and engineered plumbing exposition this October. It will be an opportunity to all of those attending to first experience new and exciting products that will be in display at many of the booths at the floor in the convention.

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Either I am getting old or the summer was very short this year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is gearing up for what looks to be a great fall season. For those of you new to the DC chapter let me introduce myself. My name is Ron Ball and I am beginning my second term as VP Legislation. I work for URS in the District and live in Vienna, Va. Rather than write a straight factual type of article every month my plan is to transform this monthly column into an open forum to discuss plumbing and fire protection code issues, concerns and experiences. In order to accomplish this task, I am encouraging all of you to send me your thoughts, questions, opinions, etc. so that they can be shared with all of our members and guests.

Recently a member, Dennis Cavallaro, contacted me concerning a change to ASME A17.1 Elevator and Escalator code. The revision dated 2007 includes changes to the paragraph concerning drains / sump pumps in the shaft. The new revision requires a drain or sump pump capable of removing a minimum 50 gpm of water per elevator. Dennis wanted to know in the case of a bank of three elevators is a sump or drain with 150 gpm capacity ( 3 x 50 gpm) required. To be honest I have not designed any elevator sumps recently so I was not aware of this revision to the code. It seems this revision could have a profound impact on the way elevator sumps and pumps are designed. In addition the electrical engineers will be thrilled to provide us with more power (aren't they always?). I invite some response to this issue. Another question is whether local authorities have adopted the 2007 changes at this time.

### **ASPE Pipeline**

An interesting article in the September 25th issue of ASPE Pipeline concerned proposed legislation in Illinois. The proposal is to strengthen the state plumbing regulations to impose fines and misdemeanor penalties on plumbers who don't install backflow preventers in systems with potentially harmful chemicals that could contaminate drinking water. On the surface this sounds like a reasonable idea but there may be many far-reaching implications. As designers and plumbing engineers will we be liable for fines and penalties if we overlook a backflow preventer in our documents? Will plumbers and their companies pass along costs for additional liability insurance to the customer? If an inspector issues a permit and later it is determined a backflow device is missing who is penalized? What are your opinions on this issue?

In the coming months the code officials list on the chapter website will be updated. I welcome any up to date contacts you may have. The October meeting will be upon us soon as will the ASPE National Convention, I hope to see you all at both events.

Ron Ball  
VP Legislative  
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## President's Message Continued...

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It is my pleasure to let you know that six delegates from our chapter will be going to the convention in Long Beach, CA this October, and will be representing the Washington, DC chapter. To ensure that we represent the chapters' voice and opinion while casting our vote during many of the proposed bylaw amendments. Please take time to read the enclosed proposed bylaw amendments and send us your thoughts on any of the proposed items.

Also one of our own, Donald Keith is running for society board of directors ASPE vice president, membership position. Please show your support to Don when you see him, we wish you the best of luck, Don!

Members are the driving force in making ASPE a successful society. On a local note our chapter is successful thanks to its members and the hard work and great efforts of its volunteers. A group of dedicated individuals striving to do what's best for the chapters' benefit and overall the plumbing community. You can help to make it better go to the chapters' website and send us your point of view just the way you see it. You can contact any of the chapters' officers with your opinion.

As always thank you for attending and supporting your local DC chapter.

Yours truly,

Juan Rojas  
President  
ASPE DC Chapter

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By Clicking the Icon Below**

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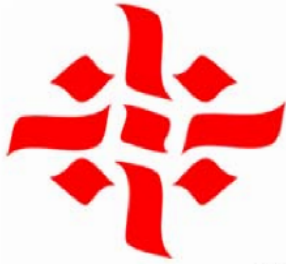


I'd like to thank Steve Welsh from Victaulic for being the September technical speaker as well as the table top presenter. Steve's presentation revolved around dry valves and preaction systems and their uses. Steve also shared with us information regarding Victaulic's new fire protection system called Vortex. If you haven't had a chance to hear about Vortex, go to [www.victaulicvortex.com](http://www.victaulicvortex.com) and check it out.

October's speaker will be Erin Shaffer, Vice President of Federal Outreach of Green Building Initiative (GBI). "The mission of the Green Building Initiative is to accelerate the adoption of building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings by promoting credible and practical green building approaches for residential and commercial construction." Ms. Shaffer will speak about what GBI and the multiple tools and resources they offer.

The table top presenter for the October meeting will be Chris Barnard from Barnard Associates.

Hope to see you there.



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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 October 15, 2008**  
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



**All Reservations for dinner are requested by:**  
Noon, Tuesday October 14, 2008

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

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Dinner:	Member:	\$28.00
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