



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO REGIONAL CHAPTER

Chapter Formation

As the Society was celebrating its 40th anniversary at the biennial Convention/Exposition in Cleveland, Ohio in 2004, the Chicago Regional Chapter is not far behind. The Chapter formation began in 1967. Messrs Albert Tremari, William Johncox, Richard Koral and Werner Ellman began contacting Chicago area plumbing engineering personnel in the interest of creating the second ASPE Chapter. Their efforts were well received. During 1967 and 1968 a Petition for Charter was created with 25 signatures for submission to the Society. On January 3, 1969 our first Chapter President, Mr. William Johncox, submitted the Petition for Charter to the Society.

On July 17, 1969 the Society issued our Charter “for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of plumbing as an engineered science” which listed our 1st 48 members.

The Chapter has experienced continued growth and currently is the largest chapter in Society with 362 members.

Officers

The Chapter has always had strong willingness and participation of its members to serve as officers and/or committee members. Chapter Presidents have been:

1968-1970	William Johncox
1970-1972	Alfred Steele
1972-1974	Carl Adler
1974-1976	Russell Calderwood
1976-1978	Robert Cutler
1978-1980	William F. McCarthy, PE, CIPE
1980-1982	John C. Bukalski, CIPE
1982-1984	Kenneth Wentink, PE, CPD
1984-1986	John C. Bukalski, CIPE
1987-1989	Michael J. Cwanek, CIPE
1989-1991	Steven T. Triphahn
1991-1993	Robert Dahlmann, PE, CPD
1993-1995	Michael J. Cwanek, CIPE
1995-1997	Timothy A. Smith, CPD
1997-1999	Daniel J. Fagan, PE, CIPE
1999-2001	Joseph F. Ficek, CPD
2001-2003	Daniel J. Fagan, PE, CIPE
2003-2005	Robert D. Jackson, CIPE
2005-2007	Jason S.A. McDonald, CPD
2007-present	David DeBord, CPD, LEED

Records of Boards of Directors are not complete.

The Chicago Chapter has had many members serve on Society committees and perform Society work in addition to serving the Society Board of Directors. The Chicago Chapter membership strongly believes in the value and benefits of our organization and has not hesitated to step up to the plate when a need arises. The volunteerism of the Chapter's members is also exhibited through the numerous Society Director's and Chairman's Awards received by the various past Boards. The Chapter and its members have received nearly a 100 awards for various merits that include Technical, Legislative and Humanitarian efforts.

Julius Ballanco is currently serving as Society President from 2006 through 2008. Julius previously served as society's Vice President Legislative and Technical from 2002 through 2006.

Timothy A. Smith is currently serving as Society Region 5 Director from 2006 through 2008. Timothy served as Region 5 Chairman from 2004 through 2006 and also served the Society Board of Directors as the first (and to date the only) Technical Liaison to the Board from 2002 through 2004.

Ken Wentink served as Society President from 1994 through 1998. Ken is also serving as ASPE Research Foundation Chairman from 1999 through 2007.

Al Steele served as ASPE Research Foundation Chairman from 1983.

Russ Calderwood served as Convention co-Chairman at the 1988 through 2000 biennial Conventions.

Ken Wentink served as co-Chairman at the 1986 Convention.

Robert Cutler served as the Chairman for the 1984 Convention Host Committee.

Hosting Society Conventions

The Chicago Chapter has been fortunate to host the Society's biennial convention and engineered plumbing exposition in 1970 and 1984. The 1970 convention was the second convention in Society's history. The Chapter members came forth and volunteered to participate and host these conventions. The Chicago Chapter Ladies Auxiliary played an instrumental role in greeting the Society membership at these conventions.

Yearly Schedule

The scheduling of Chapter meetings and functions has been consistent. The third Thursday of the month has been ASPE Chicago night from September to May. The June golf outing has been on the third Friday. The monthly meeting format has been dinner followed by a technical presentation by manufacturer's representative personnel. Q&A sessions after the presentations are always stimulating. Beginning in the late 1990's, a primer session was introduced and takes place prior to dinner. A primer is generally an informal 20-30 minute presentation showing new product technologies or discussing some of the basics of plumbing engineering for our members who are new to the industry. The primer and technical presentations are proposed by the Chapter VPT and are reviewed by the Chapter Board at the start of the schedule year. The April spot on the calendar is our Product Show. Chapter elections are held at the May meeting.

Meetings in the first years were in the downtown Chicago area as the majority of the membership was employed downtown. Emphasis was always placed on location and maintaining low dinner costs. In 1973, in what was being considered a small gamble location-wise, a permanent dinner meeting location was found approximately 4 miles outside the downtown area. The Zum Deutschen Eck (The Corner Table) restaurant worked out very well for both the Chapter and the restaurant. The Chapter even held several product shows at "Zum" until space became inadequate. The restaurant closed in 2000 and meetings have since been held at several other Chicago area restaurants.

Affiliate Membership

The Chicago Chapter has always been blessed with some of the best and most generous Affiliate Members in the world. They have always stepped up to sponsor seminars, Regional meetings and special tours. The Affiliate membership has always been a strong element in the Chapter. Every Board of Directors has had two or more Affiliate members as Chapter officers. Golf outing and product show committees always have heavy Affiliate member participation. Many Affiliate members also sponsor member attendance at the monthly dinner meetings.

April Product Show

The product show growth has followed the Chapter membership. Starting out with minimal table top displays in the 1970's, the 2007 show had 94 display/booth spaces. The show moved in 1980 from Zum Deutschen Eck to the White Eagle banquet facility in Niles, Illinois outside of Chicago. The White Eagle also worked out well for the Chapter. As the show expanded, adequate space was available. Show format has included dinner being available toward the end of show hours.

In 2000, a very positive and successful element was added to the product show – technical seminars. Usually 7 or 8 hour-long technical seminars are presented just before show hours. The 2007 Product Show, for the first time, featured 12 full hours of technical seminars. CEU's are earned by the seminar attendees. Participation in the seminars has gone quite well. The product show has become a very busy, full day.

Society Biennial Conventions

The Chapter has had full delegate participation at the Society biennial conventions/expositions since the second convention in Chicago in 1970. The ninth convention was also held in Chicago in 1984. Through the years, the Chapter has received many awards at the conventions due to the efforts of the membership and officers. The Chapter delegates are urged to attend the technical seminars offered at the conventions.

Education

Along with membership, the strongest theme of the Society has been education. The Society created the Technical Symposium to be held in years between conventions starting in 1981. The very successful Technical Symposium of 2005 was in Chicago. Symposium host chairmen Tim Smith and Jason McDonald along with five Chapter members enjoyed the "full house" success along with the planning and execution by the Society staff and officers.

At the start, education was a big undertaking. In the mid-1970's, Al Steele prepared a plumbing engineering class which was offered at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Chapter has since initiated in 1998 plumbing engineering classes at the Harold Washington Junior College followed by present locations. Classes are Basic and Advanced Plumbing Design and CPD Review.

Research Foundation

The Chicago Chapter has been one of the largest supporters of the Society Research Foundation since its inception. This is another way the Chapter supports education. The Chicago Chapter and its membership have donated more money to the Research Foundation than any other Chapter in Society. It has become a bi-annual routine at the conventions for the Chapter President to step forward to accept a Research Foundation Award.

Legislative Code Issues

The Chicago Chapter is located in an area of the country that has three major plumbing codes and the Chapter has always had members involved on the various code development committees. The Chicago area has the City of Chicago Plumbing Code that is one of the most stringent plumbing codes in the country, the State of Illinois Plumbing Code and in some areas the International Plumbing Code. The Chapter sponsored a joint meeting and panel discussion between the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois plumbing code officials in which some people said could never be done due to the huge differences between the two codes. Some people thought it would become a dog fight but to the surprise of all it went off very well and was attended by over 150 people.

Dan Fagan, John Bukalski, Ken Cutler and Joe Ficek were very instrumental in the rewrite of the Chicago Plumbing Code which was the first time the code committee invited Plumbing Engineers to participate in the City's code development process. It should also be recognized that the entire committee (at that time) were members of ASPE. This was accomplished by a little arm twisting on Dan and Joe's part. Tim Smith currently sits on the Illinois Plumbing Code committee and served on the 2001 International Plumbing Code Development hearing board.

Golf Outing

Last but not least, the Chapter has had a golf outing since 1971 as its June year ending function. The outing has had strong support and sponsorship from the affiliate membership. The outings rotated locations until 1988 when the present location was established as a permanent location. The outing is a consistent sell out with 144 or more golfers and a shotgun start. At dinner following golf door prizes, golf prizes, and product show booth awards are given. Election night officers are also presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald E. Johnson
Chapter Historian

Updated October 29, 2007