A WOA’s Young Professional Perspective on the 2017 ASPE Technical Symposium

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What a success! I never thought I could get so excited about plumbing. Attending ASPE’s 2017 Technical Symposium was an amazing experience all thanks to the passionate attendees, unique technical sessions, fun evening activities, and informative tours.

The four-day event started with a crash course on business development. Fellow young professionals and I were taught the secret ingredients of growing mindshare, retaining client relationships, and when to go after a lead.

The Symposium progressed to the Product Show, where I was able to ask all of my questions about the latest and greatest plumbing products to an array of technical and sales staff. Then came all of the technical sessions. Their topics ranged from the fundamentals of plumbing design to innovations in medical gas systems.

One of the most valuable opportunities from the Symposium, in my opinion, was the wastewater treatment plant tour. Montreal has the third-largest wastewater treatment plant in the world, and yes, it even comes with some funny smells! We learned about and toured every stage of the treatment process from the pumping station to the sludge incinerators.

I would like to share some of the important takeaways and lessons learned from my experience at ASPE’s 2017 Technical Symposium:

- Get to know the National Board Members – they have a wealth of knowledge.
- Attend and participate in Committee Meetings – understand their direction and find ways to get involved.
- Get ready to feel motivated to update your specifications when you get back to the office – the technical sessions always mention new items to consider.
- Introduce yourself to everyone – you can truly learn things from anyone who attends with all of the unique backgrounds and experience levels.

All in all, I want to thank the Women of ASPE for the opportunity to attend my first ASPE Technical Symposium with the WOA Technical Symposium Scholarship. I want to give special thanks to ASPE’s Montreal Chapter for hosting such an amazing event and to all of my fellow ASPE members for creating such an inclusive and encouraging atmosphere. Bravo!