From the President’s Pen
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ASPE Is Amazing

Time flies at warp speed. It is surprising that two years moved so quickly. This is my last column before the 2020 ASPE Business Meeting and the last column of my first term. I could not have gotten to this point without being totally amazed by our members, the Board, ASPE leaders, Chapter leaders, and the ASPE Staff.

It absolutely has been my deep honor to represent all of you and serve as President of ASPE. The time has been pretty amazing. Getting to work for our members was our greatest achievement, but I also had the distinct pleasure to further ASPE’s name within the industry by speaking to industry partners such as NSF International, students at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), and local ASPE Chapters, as well as by working with organizations in our industry. I also had a rare privilege afforded to ASPE Presidents: chartering two new Chapters, which was tremendous. When travel restrictions lift, we will have two additional ASPE Chapters to visit. Being the ASPE President takes a lot of time, and I have been very fortunate to have had the support of my company, Edmonds Engineering. Even though it was a significant amount of time, it was truly worth it.

The ASPE Board is filled with my colleagues and friends. We have passionate, experienced, unique, amazing, and charming people on the ASPE Board. Each of them serves our members, and I deeply appreciate what they accomplished. We focused on our members to provide more for them, period. We stayed focused on continuing to grow and innovate. We increased our voice in this industry and our resources for members. I hope this has shown with ASPE Connect, new working groups, special-interest groups, ASPE Education, and ASPE credentialing. I am most proud of this Board because they challenged each other, they were passionate and outspoken, they were surprising, and they had great ideas. What is perfect is that they are dedicated to each of you and represented you with commitment.

I stated that the ASPE Board is here for our members. I also can definitely say that our members did not let me down in this Society we call ASPE. The ASPE Board is a reflection of ASPE members. We have amazing, caring, dedicated, brilliant, professional, passionate, accomplished, and challenging members. I have seen such dedication among our members. I have seen so many give of their time and volunteer. I have seen people check on each other during sickness. I have seen people grieve for their friends. I have grieved for those who have passed and dedicated so much of their life. I have reached out to their families. ASPE members are truly a family. It takes us all.

I thank each and every one of you. You are amazing.

The ASPE Staff is the instrument that gets the work done that touches all of our lives. They also are some pretty wonderful individuals. Nadine has style and creativity, Gretchen has masterful skills, Pam has brilliance, Raquel has heart, Rich is left-brained, Ramiro is wonderful, Lisa has amiability, Muhammad and Eitan have patience, Brian and Cliff have assertiveness. What is not listed in the Bylaws is the communication level that a President will have with the Executive Director. It should be noted that Billy Smith, FASPE, has been a part of my daily life. We talk as he walks his dog, we talk as I drive, we prepare, we plan, we coordinate, we work hand in hand figuratively. We keep each other on the straight and narrow, focused on the business of ASPE and our members.
I recently had a conversation with a friend who was a program-mer for a bank. The bank was bought, and life was questionable. The path ahead was filled with uncertainty. I asked questions like “How do you network? How do you keep up with the skill set you have and how does that work when you apply for a job? What are your resources? Do you have a professional group like ASPE?” She shook her head and said, “No, that is not how it works in banking. We have to network and call a headhunter or people we have worked with in the past.” That conversation gave me a complete understanding of where we would be if ASPE had not been created. ASPE is important. I thank all of our founders, the volunteers who so many years ago created this Society. With one volunteer hour at a time, we have made ASPE better and better and have made a difference for our members. As a group we are way more than our individual selves.

This is a moment in life when I get to reflect on the past two years that meant so much to me. I appreciate the ASPE Board, ASPE members, the ASPE Staff, and everyone who makes ASPE a great Society. I will be running for a second term. I feel we need strong leadership in this time, and I still have plenty to accomplish. I look forward to that opportunity.

Let’s continue to work together to build our profession and sup-port each other. ASPE is your Society! You are my ASPE family.

McWane and RWC Renew as ASPE Affiliate Sponsors
We are pleased to announce that McWane Inc., a global manufactu-rer of ductile iron products, and Reliance Worldwide Corpora-tion (RWC), a manufacturer of water control systems and plumbing solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial applications, have reaffirmed their support of the plumbing design industry by renewing their ASPE Affiliate Sponsorships for the next year. RWC is represented by its brands CashAcme, HoldRite, John Guest, SharkBite, and StreamLabs.

ASPE’s Affiliate Sponsors are essential in helping plumbing engi-neers design the most technologically advanced plumbing systems. To learn more about the program and our sponsors, visit bit.ly/ASPEAffiliates.

Jomar Valve Joins ASPE’s Affiliate Sponsor Program
Founded in 1966, Jomar Valve is a leading supplier of innovative valves and component solutions. With 13 stocking warehouses located across the U.S. and Canada and with sales representatives in every state, their innovative products are easily accessible throughout North America. Jomar’s diverse product line supports a wide variety of plumbing, HVAC, and process control applications. In addition to working as a manufacturer, the company serves master distributors, wholesalers, contractors, and OEMs. Jomar Valve is also an ASPE CEU Provider, and its team members often present webinars and other educational offerings for ASPE members.

New ASPE Members

Baltimore Chapter
Emily Katherine Akey
Louis John Eliadis
Central Florida Chapter
Jonathan Eric Holmes
Central Indiana Chapter
Leonard Hendrix
Gregory M. Stephens, PE
Bocephus Thomas, PE
Charlotte Chapter
Roy Hetzler
Chicago Chapter
Carlos Vivamontes
Cleveland Chapter
Joseph William Farley, PE
Andreas B. Lieser, PE
Jared Singer, PE, LEED AP
Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter
Jordan Hadley Wiertsema
Denver Chapter
Michael Robert Barrett, PE
Thomas Andrew Congdon, PE
Hampton Roads Chapter
Rob Ainsley
Svetlana Misevich
Intermountain Chapter
Danette Marcoccia
Kansas City Chapter
Timothy J. Friend, PE
Leigh Myers, PE
Los Angeles Chapter
Soheila Bahadorinejad
Richard Pullen, LEED AP
Miami Chapter
Jorens Pierre
Jose Agustin Rodriguez
Minnesota Chapter
Jed Thomas Matthew Madsen
Montreal Chapter
Joseph Frederick Kerby, P. Eng
Nashville Chapter
Will Pace Berlik
New Jersey Chapter
Jordan Richard Westra
New York City Chapter
John P. Malescio, PE, CPD
Northern California Chapter
Ryan Charles Porter, PE

Tim D. Souza, PE
Jesus Omar Vergara
Oklahoma Chapter
Joshua Ryan Bowman, PE
Cory James Futrell, PE
Eric Paul Rogers, PE
Omaha Chapter
Gregory Leo Glitter
Overseas Chapter
Mohammad Motawakkel Abd El Aziz
Nestor Sadile Coronel
Khrisitina Ella Franco Miranda, PE
Philadelphia Chapter
James Robert Blyman III
Robert Sedewin
Phoenix Chapter
DeAire Wayne Ray Wright
Pittsburgh Chapter
Brian Ross Fayman
Raleigh Chapter
Noah A. Stoltz
David Lee Wilson, PE
Rochester Chapter
Theodore L. Sherwood, PE
San Francisco Chapter
Gustavo Daniel Carrillo
Carol Davis
Cody Lee Del Rosario
Rahimuddin Deyarmand
Seattle Chapter
Jacqueline Eaton, PE, LEED AP
Southern Nevada Chapter
Tim D. Souza, PE
Southwestern Ohio Chapter
Daryn Tyler Meadows, ELF
Andrew Kirk Peterson
Jeremy Michael Williams, PE, LEED AP
St. Louis Chapter
Patrick Bastow, PE
Washington, D.C. Chapter
Dana El Khansa
Robert Alonzo Garcia
Clyde G. Hurst III, PE
Aaron Nathaniel Williams
Western Michigan Chapter
Brent, John Ziegler
Wisconsin Chapter
Andrew J. Hackbarth, PE
As I’m sitting here writing my column just prior to the beginning of the 2020 ASPE Business Meeting, which is being held on September 12–13, two items continue to amaze me. The first is how resilient our members, Chapters, Board of Directors, and Staff have been as we all continue to navigate through these unprecedented times in dealing with the daily, weekly, and monthly changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The second is that, due to that resilient quality of each of you, we are still standing on a solid foundation; we continue to function seamlessly while providing the high-quality tools and benefits to which our members have grown accustomed.

Speaking of our Business Meeting, one of the most important tasks our Chapter Delegates do every other year is elect the new Society Board of Directors to serve during the next two-year cycle. I’m sure the newly elected ASPE Board of Directors will be excited to roll up their respective sleeves and go to work for our Society. However, I would be remiss here by not taking this opportunity to also remark on the outgoing Board. Some of the outgoing Board members will also be serving on the incoming Board, and that is typical. On the other hand, some of the outgoing Board members have decided that their time has come to step away or to serve in other capacities.

I’ll take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing Board members for their commitment to this Society and their leadership over the last two years. As I’ve mentioned in the past, I have the unique position to speak on this subject from two important vantage points in that I served for 10 years as a Society Board of Directors member and now am serving our Society as the Executive Director/CEO and will have been in this position for six years at the end of this year.

I would state that our members sometimes do not realize or appreciate the amount of effort and commitment it takes to serve on the ASPE Board. When they could be spending time with their families or friends in the evenings or weekends, they are participating on Board and committee conference calls or attending ASPE Board meetings. Of course, during the past few months these have been done via modern technology as our respective offices have been wherever our feet were located. I appreciate and am amazed by the level of commitment these individuals make while they also are working full-time jobs. This should serve for each of us as the best example of commitment and dedication to our great Society—not to forget that to even serve on the Society Board of Directors, you must have also completed service on your respective Chapter Board of Directors.

One of the under-appreciated responsibilities of the Society Board is to work collaboratively with the Society Executive Director/CEO in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Society and oftentimes taking positions that may not be fully appreciated by some of the membership. Each Board is different, as our elections do change the overall makeup of each Board; however, they should all have the same goals in leading the Society to ensure that ASPE is in a much better condition than when they assumed responsibility as a Society Board of Directors member. The Boards with which I have been involved have done just that, and this outgoing Board is no different. The incoming Board will focus on the same goals.

I’m sure that each Board member who has served would be the first to tell you that none of the Society’s success would have been achieved without the courage and commitment of the full Board and the hard work of ASPE Staff in a collaborative manner to provide leadership and guidance along the way. That certainly has been my experience. Due to the service and stewardship of the Society Board members, from those who began ASPE so long ago to those who are members now, ASPE would not be where it is without their desire to serve.

To all of the past and future Society Boards of Directors, I thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to ASPE. Just to keep the embers lit and stoked, I would like to encourage all current and past Board members to remain active in the Society at some level.

Considering the world in which we are living and working today, I close this column the way I began: thanking each of you for the resilient quality that allows ASPE to remain vital to our members and brings about our ability to pivot in directions we never would have thought possible due to the current world environment. ASPE members and leaders are the best in the industry. Therefore, ASPE remains the best voice to advance our profession, the careers of our members, and the industry as a whole.
WEBINARS

FREE TO MEMBERS

Intro to Heat Pump Water Heaters
September 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Actuation Basics: Electric & Pneumatic Actuators for Quarter-Turn Valves
September 24, 2020

Also, check out our Education Catalog for on-demand webinars, Chapter technical meetings, and other ways to earn CEUs from the comfort of your home or office. During the COVID-19 pandemic, certain ASPE Education events are complimentary to ASPE Members.

education.aspe.org