



# WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

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March 2009 Issue

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS

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## President's Message



JUAN ROJAS,  
PRESIDENT



### Saving Energy!

It is not only a social responsibility but a civic duty that we all must embrace simple things like turning a light switch off when not in use, and cutting water waste, should become second nature and so drop by drop we can add to the savings. The key seems to be energy conservation, and unfortunately it seems like we are caught up in the new sustainability craze trend to do this by the way of counting points and not really doing that things the matter most.

We must design and specify products with energy conservation in mind and at the same time being mindful of the public health. Let's not forget the famous early 20th century ad campaign, quote: "*The Plumber Protect the Health of the Nation*". What a powerful ad, simple but very effective, it summarizes every aspect of the plumbing industry. So keep health in mind when thinking about those waterless fixtures. Using more resources than necessary to do a given job often indirectly causes other problems.

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The Lenten season is a time of personal reflection and in that same vein I did a little reflection on the code revision process. Recently I read an article in *The New York Times* concerning efforts to separate urine from solid waste in Europe and China by means of a dual system toilet. The purpose is to separate the minerals, etc. from the urine and use them as fertilizer. This reuse of the urine not only produces expense-free fertilizer but it aids the waste water treatment process. The sewage treatment process is slowed by the content of the urine and waste water treatment uses an enormous amount of water. Thus if the treatment process can be sped up a substantial savings in water is achieved. What does this have to do with the plumbing code revision cycle? We are all aware of the emphasis on LEED and ASHRAE 90.1 for example to conserve energy and the environment. It seems that the code revision process is falling behind the technological advancements that continue to be developed. For instance, say approval for the urine separation system was proposed as an addition to the IPC. If the system was approved and allowed to become part of the code it would not take affect until 2012 at the earliest. And because some jurisdictions such as Chicago, Ohio, etc. modify the code or are slow to update it could be another 3 years before being fully implemented. Now we are looking at 2015, meanwhile some local code officials may not accept or reject the system for various reasons resulting in appeals, etc. Therefore it is conceivable that it could take 6-10 years for this urine separation system to be widely used. Think of the advancements in plumbing design implemented over the last 10 years and what could evolve over the next few years. Unless there is a way to speed up the code revision process many very worthwhile energy and environmental alternatives, already in use in Europe and elsewhere, will languish in plumbing code purgatory. Please feel free to email me your comments and suggestions concerning this issue.

### **Reference**

George, Rose (2009). Yellow is the new green. *The New York Times*. Downloaded February 27, 2009 from

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/27/opinion/27george.html>

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## President's Message Continued...

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Let's start with basic energy saving requirements, low-flow fixtures, advanced shower and sink faucet aerators to mention a few. More than often building owners for all intents and purposes want to have better buildings that are both profitable and better for the environment. So let's start by asking a simple question to the owner; what are we trying to do for water conservation and energy savings? When you get his (her) answer then you, as a design professional, would need to start your due diligence and figure out what's the best and cheapest way to do it; with no compromise and loss of performance keeping the end user in mind. Most people are only going to take an action if they believe it to be in their interest.

Recognize and implement exceptional water conservation methods similar to water reuse, gray water, and rainwater harvesting. These systems can be used for a number of different purposes including municipal and industrial use, e.g. irrigation, cooling tower, etc. There can be many advantages and disadvantages as well when using these kinds of systems.

Measurement: not unless water use is measured and users are being tracked and charged for their water use is when we begin to establish responsibility, relying on people to do it voluntarily will not get us very far. However measurement can be complicated and must be carefully approached. Let's save energy and be "green" for the betterment of our planet, habitat, humanity and future generations, and not just for a social statement plaque on a building wall.

Yours truly,

Juan Rojas  
President  
ASPE DC Chapter

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Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

During the ASPE Convention delegates voted on changing our membership policy. Our current policy allows a 90-day grace period for those who have not renewed by the expiration date. This policy was amended and now states there is no 90-day grace period for those missing their expiration date and from that point going forward they are no longer a member of ASPE. The recommendation is that renewing your membership should be deemed as a high priority. Now if you fall in the category of having received your second notice, please renew as quickly as possible so as to not be dropped from the official roster.

On another note, we fell short of our goal to grow our chapter to 200 members before the end of the year but guess what? We have a whole new year to attain this goal. So for those sitting on the fence, we ask that you get in the game and be a member of this great organization. For those of you who know of or have access to individuals who would benefit from joining us have them contact me at [dewilson@ghtltd.com](mailto:dewilson@ghtltd.com) or any other officer listed in this newsletter.

Lastly, the chapter hosted its annual holiday social in December at Phillips Seafood in Annapolis. I was informed that it was a great turnout and the food was delish! If anyone has ideas about a new location feel free to contact the board. We are open to a new adventure

Thanks for lending me your ear.

V.P. Membership  
Derek E. Wilson



I'd like to thank February's technical speaker Todd Stevens from Viking who spoke about Foam Fire Extinguishing Systems. The presentation was very enlightening and touched on the uses of several different types of foam applications. If you have any questions concerning fire extinguishing foams, feel free to contact Mr. Stevens. It was a great time. Thanks to all that were able to come.

Also, I would like to thank Tim Mullineaux from STH for being the Table Top Presenter. For more information please go to [www.sthinc.com](http://www.sthinc.com).

The March 18, 2009 speaker will be Todd Joyce from the Joyce Agency and the topic will be Rainwater Harvesting. Mr. Joyce and the Joyce Agency will also be the Table Top Presenter. Don't miss out!

Future speakers and presentation are:

April 15, 2009 - Frank Murphy, PE - Fire Hydrant Testing

May 20, 2009 - Mike Gilmore - ATS Specification writing

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](mailto:matt.lane@aecom.com).

Hope to see you there.

Matthew Lane, CPD, LEED® AP, CFPS

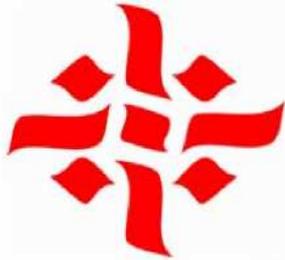


The Member to the left is usually flexing his dry sense of humor

I'm not sure which looks more like a mug shot, the one I created or the shot of this member on the officer's page



This member was last seen leaping tall buildings in search of new members. Although being a Newlywed may be his kryptonite.



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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 March 18, 2009**  
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



**All Reservations for dinner are requested by:**  
Noon, Tuesday March 17, 2009

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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