



Passing the Gavel As We Close Out the Year

By: *Stewart Yang, PMI President and Vice President Engineering Global Faucets, Kohler Co.*



Stewart Yang

In a few short weeks, the role of PMI President will pass into the very capable hands of **Jeff Baldwin** from T&S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. Throughout the year, the entire membership, staff, Board of Directors, former Presidents and mentors have worked in cooperation to set the future path and priorities for the organization. PMI is a member based organization and it is

through this level of engagement that PMI is able to tackle the key issues facing our industry.

PMI is steadily becoming more outward facing with a stronger and more defined internal operating framework. Our Advocacy/Outreach is starting to balance our Technical Expertise. These two elements with an active membership will make PMI an even more powerful voice in the industry.

It has been a privilege to serve as the PMI President this past year. I personally appreciated all the support and look forward to my new role as a Past President.

PMI Codes and Standards Course Available Online

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) have teamed up to offer an online presentation of the popular “PMI Codes & Standards” primer that has only been available previously in a “live” format.

Available now, the new online course is presented in an audio/slide format, narrated by PMI Technical Director **Len Swatkowski** and accessed via the both PMI website (www.pmihome.org) and the IAPMOLearn Website (www.iapmolearn.org).

“In today’s business climate, knowledge of national and international standards and standards-making bodies — and how they interrelate — is critical for management, technical and sales personnel,” said PMI Executive Director **Barbara C. Higgins**. “Part of our mission is to make this information available to our industry as conveniently and affordably as possible.”

Holiday Closing

PMI headquarters will be closed December 24 through January 1. We will reopen January 2.
Have a safe and happy holiday!

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Celebrating PMI Successes as We Prepare for a New Chapter

By **Barbara C. Higgins**, PMI Executive Director



Barbara C. Higgins

The end of calendar year brings a change in the volunteer leadership for Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI). Since 1998 (and

likely preceding the time of my first involvement with PMI, too), it has been the case that each PMI president leaves a unique imprint on our organization. 2012 PMI President **Stu Yang** of Kohler was instrumental this year in bringing the PMI Board of Directors together in an important way. Board members were asked to focus on specific PMI functions as “Champions” of a variety of causes.

As an example, PMI’s Treasurer **Fernando Fernandez** of TOTO together with **Bobbi Warren** of Amerikam participated in monthly conference calls to review PMI’s financial position. The idea to issue dues renewal notices immediately following the Fall Conference (rather than waiting until January of the New Year) was one of the great ideas coming from the Finance team. Earlier payment of dues will provide a more timely assessment of the health of PMI’s operating budget for 2013 and will reduce the need to borrow from our reserves which in the past have been needed to fund staff payroll and overhead during the First Quarter, as dues payments roll in for the year. In like manner, Champions **Paul Patton** of Delta and **Pete Jahrling** of Sloan provided strategic input as advisors respectively to the Outreach/Advocacy and Technical Track. Other areas of focus for Board Champions included benchmarking other organizations, setting advocacy priorities and member prospect development.

Another important result this year under Stu’s leadership was the develop-

ment of the Strategy Map as an outcome of the 2012 Think Tank meeting. Skillfully facilitated by Stu Yang and Paul Patton, this year’s annual strategy session was supplemented with important input gleaned through my interviews with 14 of our member company CEOs and Presidents. Support and engagement by the most senior level in our industry is critical to ensuring PMI’s focus on the “right things.” We will keep the momentum going and build upon that engagement at a unique CEO-President event to be held at PMI headquarters in February 2013.

As summarized in my column in last month’s issue of *PMI News*, 2012 was a successful one for PMI and a great year for raising PMI’s visibility throughout the industry. Our efforts have been rewarded.

- We leveraged our important industry relationships and actively participated in a number of coalitions. We are working to ensure understanding and compliance to the new plumbing product lead content legislation by the January 2014 deadline, as part of the Get the Lead Out Coalition (GTLO).
- PMI has partnered with ASPE and IAPMO to launch the Plumbing Industry Leadership Coalition (PILC), a group dedicated to bringing the industry together for greater progress and success on industry initiatives. The historic inaugural meeting was April 30, 2012 and included 14 industry organizations.
- The much-anticipated results of the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) drain line transport study have now been published. PMI and several of our members were instrumental in contributing to the content and funding of the effort.
- PMI assembled a panel at our Fall Conference to explore ways

to enhance the professionalism in plumbing. With changes to our Vision Statement in-the-works, we are launching an initiative to promote the importance of our industry voice, making the critical link between plumbing and water, our most precious resource: water.

- We have partnered with IAPMO to create the first ever online version of the popular PMI Codes and Standards tutorial.
- PMI continues its global outreach by building coalitions and leveraging our important relationships to help achieve our initiatives, both here and internationally. Important relationships include involvement with the National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Commerce, World Plumbing Council, CEIR (European Valve Association), allied associations in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, and other key organizations including environmental groups and water utilities.

So, on the heels of these successes and Stu’s initiative of Board involvement, we eagerly await the imprint that our next PMI president will make. **Jeff Baldwin** of T & S Brass has already hinted that he will keep PMI’s focus tight, with an eye toward continuous improvement within a very specific scope. Stay tuned as Jeff takes over the reins.

Even after nearly 15 years with PMI (April 2013), I am energized and excited about what’s ahead. PMI’s potential to excel is unlimited. We are positioning the organization to proactively address emerging industry issues and enhance our role as the Voice of the Industry. Join us and welcome aboard for a thrilling ride in 2013.

Happy Holidays to all of you from all of us.

Industry Successes: 2012 in Review

By Len Swatkowski, PMI Technical Director



Len Swatkowski

The PMI technical community has been actively engaged during 2012 in the development of codes, standards and regulations affecting the

plumbing industry. We have provided feedback, critique and written responses to government and non-governmental organizations to continue promoting the balance of water efficiency, product utility and safety that our customers and consumers have grown to trust.

Harmonize Standards

- American Society of Sanitary Engineering standard 1016 was completed
- Three other tri-harmonized standards are close to completion
- PMI members initiating a standard on bath safety seats
- Department of Energy (DOE)/ Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- We provided a response to the DOE reinforcing the use of American National Standards and to participate on the standards committees to affect change
- PMI also submitted a rebuttal to comments submitted to the DOE by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- We also supported the FTC's work to standardize information on water efficiency data submitted to the FTC and DOE by using a common database.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- PMI assisted in version 2.0 of the WaterSense voluntary program
- We have also been working with the EPA to clarify the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act
- PMI is part of the Get the Lead Out of Plumbing Consortium: an industry group working to train affected groups on compliance to the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act
- PMI and **Stephanie Salmon**, our federal lobbyist, have been working with the American Chemistry Council on hexavalent chromium and the Nickel Institute on the nickel issues and making progress in getting good science to EPA scientists

California Agencies

- PMI submitted responses on the revised CALGreen codes
- We supported the incorporation of the Americans with Disabilities Act into the state building code
- The incorrectly proposed showerhead efficiency proposal was withdrawn with help from **Jerry Desmond**, our California lobbyist

- We are now working to answer the Green Chemistry regulations in our partnership with the Green Chemistry Alliance

Codes

- During the International Code Commission (ICC) plumbing code hearings this year, we successfully defended 17 positions including proposals from the NRDC to force WaterSense water efficiency levels into the building codes.
- We also provided a sustainability roadmap for inclusion in the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials' (IAPMO) Green Plumbing and Mechanical Supplement.
- Another first was our success in launching PMI's first on-line training program this year for Codes and Standards through our partnership with IAPMO. The training program is now available at www.pmihome.org.

Finally we should note the successful completion of the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) Drainline Transport study. This first pass study was a great accomplishment showing what we can accomplish collectively as an industry. These successes set the stage for 2013 that will continue to leverage the power of PMI's members and our colleagues in the plumbing industry.

PERC Mentioned in Industry Publication

The Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) received a press hit in the November/December issue of *SNAP* magazine. The article is entitled "Low Flow: Can Too Little Be Too Much?" For more information, follow the link:

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/mh/snap_20121112/index.php#/36

East Coast Swing: PMI Member Visits Continue

PMI staff continues to reach out to members through onsite visits. In late November, **Barbara Higgens**, PMI Executive Director, together with **John Watson**, Manager of Compliance and Sustainability, visited **Rob Kass**, Chief Marketing Officer and **Kathleen Deighan**, Vice President and General Counsel of Elkay. PMI Technical Director **Len Swatkowski**, visited PMI's members in the northeast U.S. during the first

week in December. Face-to-face trips to our members allow us to introduce PMI to our colleagues at member companies, provide an overview of the power of our collective industry's voice, and reinforce our knowledge of individual company's needs. As an industry trade association, PMI's role is focused on the external issues affecting the plumbing industry, such as codes, standards, trade issues, and regulations, which impact industry.

During the trip to Speakman, American Standard, NEOPERL and Symmons, the issues getting the most discussion were the upcoming Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, green supplemental code adoption, assessments of hexavalent chrome and nickel, Legionella standards and the development of the NSF 375 sustainability standard.



American Standard Brands: Margaret Monteleone, Product Manager, Luxury; Sal Gattone, Director of Product Management; Len Swatkowski; Tony D'Amato, Product Manager, Commercial Fittings; Mark Malatesta, Product Compliance Engineer; CJ Lagan, Compliance Engineering Manager; Debbie Drury, Director, Brand Communications; Mercedes Pazmino, Assistant Product Manager, Luxury; Jim Reinhart, Product Manager, Wholesale; Christian Kuswita, Product Manager, Commercial Fixtures



NEOPERL: J'aimé Salvatore, Coordinator of OEM Business Development; Nicole Michaelson, OEM Sales Associate; Len Swatkowski, Dave Davino, Project Engineer; Dave Slobuszewski, Manager, Customer Service and Sales; Chris Manning, Quality Manager; Jamey Brennan, Coordinator, OEM Business Development; Mike Moraniec, Vice President Operations; Fred Fraisse, Vice President, Sales.



Speakman: Chris Miedzius, Product Engineering Manager; Brad Owens, Design Manager; Ken Czajkowski, Quality Manager; Charlie Novak, Engineering/Product Development; Len Swatkowski; Mike Boyer, Engineering/Product Development; Steve Szczerba, Engineering Technology; Amy Scherer, Products Manager.



Symmons: Barry Fiscus, Director of Quality Assurance; Bob Freeley, Designer; Don Huynh, Experimental Machinist; John Carter, Senior Business Development Manager; Phong Tran, Experimental Machinist; Sean Roberts, Sales Manager; Steve Ferreira, Designer; Len Swatkowski; Kirk Mellits, VP of Engineering; Mubeen Khan, Senior Project Engineer; Dominic Solis, VP of Sales; June Fuller, Product Lifecycle Management Administrator; Jeff Peltier, Manager of Product/Custom Engineering; Lorraine Barnes, Designer; Hai Le, Model Shop Engineering Laboratory Manager; Cliff Cobb, Engineer; Zach Shapiro, Engineer Intern; Rick Delgado, Quality Engineer

Get The Lead Out Plumbing Consortium Meets at PMI

Members of the newly-formed Get The Lead Out Plumbing Consortium met on Nov. 9, 2012 with media representatives to highlight how the group is working together to explain the impact of the national "Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act" on the plumbing industry. The meeting was held at the Plumbing Manufacturers International offices in Rolling Meadow, Illinois.

Roger Peugeot, vice chair of the PHCC Educational Foundation and owner of Roger the Plumber in Kansas City, Mo., spoke on behalf of the consortium. Peugeot explained how industry-wide compliance with the amended Safe Drinking Water Act that takes effect on January 4, 2014, will reduce the permissible levels of lead in pipe, fittings and fixtures to a weighted average less than or equal to 0.25 percent from the current national standard of an 8.0 percent maximum.

The mission of the Get The Lead Out Plumbing Consortium is to provide widespread education about the manufacture, distribution and installation of Lead Free* plumbing products. To this end, the consortium has developed a training program about Lead Free* plumbing products that will be offered at industry meetings in 2013. Online training options will also be available, as well as a website that will include a calendar of events, FAQs and other resources.

** Lead Free refers to the wetted surface of pipe, fittings and fixtures in potable water systems that have a weighted average $\leq 0.25\%$ per the Safe Drinking Water Act (Sec. 1417) amended 1-4-2011 and other equivalent state regulations.*



The Get the Lead Out consortium: Front Row: Len Swatkowski, PMI; Sally Boyer, NIBCO; Roger Peugeot, Roger the Plumber; Cindy Sheridan, PHCC; Barbara Higgins, PMI. Back Row: Chuck White, PHCC; Mark Hamilton, NIBCO; Jim Kendzel, ASPE; Tom LaGuardia, Milwaukee Valve; Mike Adelizzi, American Supply Association; Jeff Long, Reliance; Greg Gyorda, Watts Water Technology; Mike Boehk, Legend.



The assembled group settles in for the press conference



Cindy Sheridan of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors addresses the assembled guests



Roger Peugeot, vice chair of the PHCC Educational Foundation and owner of Roger the Plumber in Kansas City, Mo., spoke on behalf of the consortium

Members of the consortium include:
American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE)
American Supply Association (ASA)
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
International Code Council (ICC)
Legend Valve
Milwaukee Valve
NIBCO INC.
Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors - National Association (PHCC)
PHCC Educational Foundation
Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI)
Reliance Worldwide
Viega, LLC
Watts Water Technologies

Follow this link for videos from the consortium meeting:
http://www.thewholesaler.com/video/consortium_2012.php

PMI Visits Elkay

PMI Technical Director **Len Swatkowski** visited member company Elkay Manufacturing on December 11. He discussed PMI initiatives such as nickel, and codes and standards with the Elkay team.



Michele LaNoue, Product Management; Karen Mila, Engineering; Nick Oyenik, Engineering; Ray Hecker, Engineering; Ellen Felicelli, Product Management; James Stanek, Engineering; Len Swatkowski, PMI Technical Director; John Watson, Product Compliance; Wally Moran, Engineering; Kristi Belter, Engineering; Cesar Gomez, Engineering; Franco Savoni, Product Management (not pictured: Damon Shaw, Engineering via conference call)

Save the date for the 2013 PMI Spring Conference, being held April 7-10 at the Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin, TX. Watch your inbox for more information.



*Seasons Greetings
from all of us at PMI*

Thank you for your continued support of industry initiatives.

We look forward to serving you in 2013!

2012 PMI LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stewart Yang, Kohler Co.
President

Jeff Baldwin, T&S Brass and Bronze Works
First Vice-President

Tim Kilbane, Symmons Industries
Second Vice-President

Fernando Fernandez, TOTO USA
Treasurer

Lee Mercer, Moen Incorporated
Acting Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Peter Jahrling, Sloan Valve Company
(1/12-12/14)

C.J. Lagan, American Standard Brands
(7/11-12/12)

David MacNair, InSinkErator
(1/12-12/14)

Paul Patton, Delta Faucet Company
(1/11-12/13)

Ray Fisher, Fisher Manufacturing Company
(9/12-12/13)

Bobbi Warren, Amerikam
(10/11-12/12)

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