



## Holidays, Retrospectives and the Greatest of Thanks!

By: Jeff Baldwin, PMI President and Engineering Manager, T&S Brass and Bronze Works



Jeff Baldwin

Its official, the holiday season is upon us! Along with all the frenzy and fun it brings, the passing of one year to the next is a traditional time for reflecting on the past 12 months and looking forward to the next with anticipation and hope. As I look back over 2013, I am pleased with the many successes we have been able to celebrate as a group, proud of all the accomplishments and hopeful for the plans PMI has made for the future.

Our members have shown their untiring support and dedication to PMI by working together to help make the accomplishments of this year possible. Together, we have strengthened our core values and worked to balance our efforts in advocacy and outreach with our technical expertise. We have seen the return of our Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) and a show of support by our member company CEO's. We have seen an increase in engagement with policymakers. We worked to strengthen our foundation and tighten our focus restructuring our Board of Directors and conference patterns for improved efficiency and output. We saw a record number of first time attendees at our Fall Conference and managed to overcome the difficulties of hosting such an event in the nation's capital amidst a government shutdown. The overwhelming success of the Fall Conference would have been impossible without all the combined efforts and dedication of our members, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, committee chairs and our extraordinary PMI staff.

It has been both an incredible honor and a pleasure to serve as the 2013 PMI President and I look forward to all the things that are yet to come for our trade association. January will mark the passing of the presidency to **Tim Kilbane**,

National Sales Manager, Symmons Industries Inc. who I know has already been hard at work with PMI staff to plan the upcoming 2014 Spring Conference in my home state of South Carolina. I wish Tim all the best during his term as PMI President, and hope he has the same pleasure of working with you that I did this year.

My sincerest thanks to each of you for making this a wonderful year, and I wish you all the best for the future. May you and your families have a safe and merry holiday season!



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### Holiday Closing

PMI offices will be closed December 23 through January 1. We will reopen on January 2. Have a safe and happy holiday!

# Change — It's What We Do!

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



*Barbara C. Higgins*

I suppose that it's a natural tendency for December editorials to focus on the same theme: a look back at the previous months. The end of

2013 marks the end of my 15th year with PMI. On one hand, it's amazing to think about so much time having passed. On the other hand, PMI is very different from the organization I was recruited to head up in 1998.

PMI has seen physical changes: a new name and logo; a move to a new headquarters some years ago. A couple of new website face lifts (and we are headed for another in 2014)

There have been some structural changes: our by-laws have been revised to enhance the way PMI is governed. We have made changes to the PMI communications both in frequency and technology and we have changed our pattern of conferences. PMI remains financially stable with a healthy reserve.

I have partnered with 16 PMI presidents and have organized 31 PMI conferences. (Our Spring 2014 conference is well in-the-works. That marks number 32!) We have worked together to ensure progress, influence, relevance, continuous improvement and enhancement of the member value equation. We have seen industry icons come and go and change business cards for new roles within the industry.

We have had some philosophical changes: PMI is no longer a "just say no" organization. Today we work proactively to find common ground to move forward-- the new federal lead bill to be enacted next month is evidence of that. Though the most recent, the lead bill is

only one of several great successes: we have worked within legislative and regulatory arenas to ensure and harmonize requirements for water purity and water efficiency on both the state and national levels. We have worked to harmonize product definitions and performance requirements. We have reached out to promote broad understanding of code requirements both by our members and those responsible for enforcing them.

We have added new categories of membership. We have received industry recognition for our charitable work as an organization. We have partnered with other organizations internationally, domestically, formally and informally to expand our reach and effectiveness in reaching our industry goals. We have raised our visibility to policy makers and continue to work to be their go-to resource.

The list goes on...

There have been a number of personal changes too over those 15 years: the loss of both parents (Dad just this year in May and Mom six months after I signed on to PMI in 1998. I am not crazy about this phase of life); weddings and grandkids; a grandniece and a grandnephew. Pesky pounds lost

and regained; several new hair dos. I finally hung up my tenor drum mallets, retiring from bagpipe band competition after a decade and a champion supreme title several years ago. No more drumming for me now; just plumbing. A couple of new mobile phones and software upgrades. A "new" used car; Tai Chi class; Italian language lessons last year, and now German language lessons (I'm not ready yet for the quiz though. Be gentle, German-speaking friends.) A new priest and a new church pew row. A new brew master at not one but two of our local pubs. A lifetime achievement award. Election as chair of the National Association of Manufacturers' Council of Manufacturing Associations, and service on the NAM Board.

The end of the year and holiday time focus our thoughts on what has been gained and what has been lost. With all the changes swirling around us; good and bad, positive and character-building; it seems to be important to try to enjoy our successes, live in the moment and be thankful for what we have now. It is a lesson that I will try my best to apply in 2014, and take a break (at least for a moment) from looking to the next mountain to climb.

Happy New Year!

## 2014 Emerging Technology Symposium

Emerging Technology Symposium (ETS) announces Early Bird Discounts for participants registering before February 15, 2014. PMI is co-convening this important event slated to be the most comprehensive and informative plumbing and mechanical event since ETS debuted in 2008. Registrations forms are online for participants and sponsors, go online and be a part of this cutting edge event!

[Download Registration Form](#)

[Download Sponsorship Brochure](#)

 International  
Emerging Technology  
Symposium



# Finding Answers: A Closer Look at Cause and Effect

By Len Swatkowski, PMI Technical Director



Len Swatkowski

The development of safe, efficient water delivery and sanitation has been centuries in the making; resulting in the single, most profound contribu-

tion to life expectancy in the history of mankind. The widespread adoption of indoor plumbing and safe sanitation was responsible for nearly doubling life expectancy in the early 20th century.<sup>1</sup> When London installed closed sewers and abolished cesspools between 1848-1854, the death rate overall went from 23 per 1,000 people to 7—a 70% decrease in a single decade.<sup>2</sup> As we have made tremendous strides in bringing safe water and sanitation to our lives, we are now challenged to continue this task with the highest possible efficiency.

PMI and its members have been on the forefront of improved water efficiency for several decades and have supported the voluntary WaterSense program at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since its founding. We have, and continue to support, state and local legislation to incorporate water efficiency levels that include the WaterSense efficiency levels and performance requirements in areas where water resources are limited.

Group discussions during the last two PMI conferences have focused on possible limits to future reduction of flow rates and the identification of unintended consequences and the research needed to help clarify these limits. This is especially important when these limitations compromise the safety and

sanitation performance of these products in plumbing systems.

Our first discussions reviewed current water usage levels and then probed the impact of further reduced flow rates; effects on drainline systems, graywater material compatibility, thermal shock and scalding, consumer usage habits and compensating behavior as well as legionella prevention. We then accumulated available research to determine the levels where these impacts become a problem.

Next we worked to identify gaps in that research which need to be filled, in order to document an understanding of how low water consumption can safely be set. Each working group prioritized the results to establish title, scope and purpose of these research gaps to begin defining safe limits to plumbing efficiency. We are now polling PMI members to prioritize the top five topics from this exercise. The results will be announced soon and forwarded to the PMI Board for review.

Our intention is to explore ways to leverage our resources with other industry partners and stakeholders to complete projects filling in the gaps in this information. While many firms have already published data related to these issues, the need for supporting data is clear.

There are many challenges in executing new research and presenting individual company data, but our goal is exceedingly clear; we must continue to provide safe, efficient and effective plumbing products that maintain the quality of our water supply and an efficient sanitation system. Safe, responsible plumbing. Always.

<sup>1</sup> “Sanitation ‘Best Medical Advance’” *BBC News*. BBC, 18 Jan. 2007. Web. 30 Nov. 2013.

<sup>2</sup> George E. Waring, Jr. “House Drainage and Town Sewerage in Their Relations to the Public Health.” *Draining for Profit and Draining for Health*. New York: Orange Judd & Co., 1867. 222. Print.

## PERC Needs Your Help!

The Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) is seeking information on commercial building drainline blockages attributed directly to the installation or retrofit of high efficiency toilets (1.28 gallons per flush or lower). Learn more at <http://www.plumbingefficiencyresearchcoalition.org/request-for-information-form/>



Plumbing  
Efficiency  
Research  
Coalition

# PMI Spring Conference: Making a World of Difference

The 2014 PMI Spring Conference will be held March 2-5 at Charleston Place in Charleston, SC. PMI welcomes you to join us for an engaging and exciting conference in one of the country's oldest and most welcoming cities. Well known for its history and hospitality, Charleston, SC is an ideal place to host our event which will focus on bridging gaps and coming together to address the issues and concerns of the day. Join us in 'Making a World of Difference!'

The 2014 Spring Conference will kick off on Sunday, March 2 with a Welcome Reception and Networking Event, followed on Monday morning by an Opening Address from **Dr. Marc Edwards**, noted Environmental Engineer and bio-physicist. *Time Magazine* has referred to Dr. Edwards as "The Plumbing Professor" and listing him as one of the four most important 'Innovators' in water from around the world.

The Fair Trade Committee will feature presentations from **Salim Bhabhrawala**, Senior Trade Specialist from the US Department of Commerce, on plumbing industry trade issues and **Ralph Suppa**, President and General Manager of Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, and **John Walter**, CEO of Standards Council of Canada on



the Regulatory Cooperation Council and its efforts to streamline standards harmonization.

**John Messebrink**, President of MechanicalHub.com, will address Water Efficiency and Sustainability issues with a presentation on Net-Zero Buildings. While **Mary Ann Dickinson**, President of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, will speak to the Water/Energy Nexus.

Monday will conclude with a tour, on the 150th anniversary, of the H.L. Hunley the world's first successful combat submarine which mysteriously sank during the Civil War and has been recently rediscovered and opened for tours. The evening will conclude with a Dine Around Charleston event.

Tuesday, March 4, will begin with meeting tracks for both the Advocacy/Outreach and the Technical Coun-

cils. We will build on the success of previous sessions with the next stage in our "How Long Can We Go and How Do We Know?" series with theme "Drips to Gallons" to address the best way to maximize water efficiency for increased savings. **We encourage you to make sure an employee from your company attends the Spring Conference to take part in each track of this popular series.**

Tuesday's sessions will also feature an update on the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement by **Pete DeMarco**, Senior Director of Special Programs for IAPMO, as well as the International Green Construction Code by **Steve Thorsell**, Program Coordinator for Environmental Programs for the International Code Council.

Wednesday, March 5, will begin with a presentation from **Kanwal Oberoi**, Charleston Commissioner of Public Works, Charleston Water Systems, entitled "Charleston Water System—Past, Present and Future" addressing the challenges of ensuring safe distribution and sanitation of water in the face of a crumbling infrastructure. The conference will then conclude with a preview of the PMI Codes and Standards Workshop by **Len Swatkowski**, PMI Technical Director.

Registration and hotel information will be available soon. Keep watch on the PMI website and mobile app for more details.

**We'll see you there!**



Download the free PMI mobile app here:



# PMI 2014 Spring Conference Schedule

## Schedule of Events

### Sunday, March 2

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	PMI Board of Directors Meeting (Invitation Only)
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Meeting Registration
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm	First Time Attendee Reception
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Cocktail Reception
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Welcome Dinner

### Monday, March 3

8:30 am - 9:30 am	“The Plumbing Professor Talks Water” Presentation by <b>Dr. Marc Edwards</b> , Environmental Engineer and Biophysicist from Virginia Tech
9:30 am - 9:45 am	Break
9:45 am - 11:00 am	Fair Trade Committee with <b>Salim Bhabhrawala</b> , Sr. Trade Specialist, Department of Commerce talking about plumbing industry trade issues. <b>Ralph Suppa</b> , President and General Manager, Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating and <b>John Walter</b> , CEO, Standard Council of Canada discussing the Regulatory Cooperation Council and its efforts to streamline standards harmonization
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Government Affairs Standing Committee
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Buffet Lunch and Free Time for Office Catch-Up
1:30 pm - 3:00pm	Water Efficiency and Sustainability with Energy-Water Nexus Presentation by <b>Mary Ann Dickinson</b> , President and CEO, Alliance for Water Efficiency, and Net Zero Buildings Presentation by <b>John Messenbrink</b> , President, Mechanical Hub
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	H. L. Hunley Tour
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dine Around Charleston (optional with extra fee)

### Tuesday, March 4

9:00 am - 12:30 am	Dual Tracks: (Choose One) <b>Technical Track</b> <b>Advocacy/Outreach</b>
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Buffet Lunch and Free Time for Office Catch-Up
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Report from Dual Track Sessions
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	General Membership Meeting
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Update on the International Association of Plumbing Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement with <b>Pete DeMarco</b> , Sr. Director of Special Programs, IAPMO, and the International Green Construction Code with <b>Steve Thorsell</b> , Program Coordinator, Environmental Programs, International Code Council-ES
6:00 pm - 7:15 pm	Cocktail Reception
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dinner with entertainment by personality <b>Greg Schwem</b>

### Wednesday, March 5

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Charleston Water: Past, Present and Future with <b>Kanwal Oberoi</b> , Commissioner of Public Works, Charleston Water Systems
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Preview of PMI's Codes and Standards Workshop by <b>Len Swatkowski</b> , PMI Technical Director



# *Seasons Greetings from all of us at PMI*

*Thank you for your continued support of industry initiatives.*

*We look forward to serving you in 2014!*

## **Staff**

**Barbara C. Higgins**, *CEO/Executive Director*

**Dawn Robinson**, *Communications Manager*

**Len Swatkowski**, *Technical Director*

**Christine Slabinger**, *Administrative Assistant*

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**Jim Galvin**, *Senior Technical Consultant*

**Stephanie Salmon**, *Federal Lobbyist*

**Michael Sennett**, *Jones Day, Legal Counsel*

**Jerry Desmond, Jr.**, *California Lobbyist*

**Maureen Baird**, *Graphic Design/Web Design*



## **2014 Crystal Vision Award Breakfast**

Hosted by NKBA and the Storehouse of World Vision

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014 • 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. PST • KBIS Las Vegas**

Join the celebration during the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show!

Featuring Special Guest Speaker

**David Lingafelter**

President Worldwide Business

Moen Incorporated

and your host

**Tim Jahnke**

President and CEO

Elkay Manufacturing

The Crystal Vision Award is presented by a group of industry leaders to honor one company that displays vision, leadership, and effort to improve housing and community facilities for American families in need.

Honoring this year's award recipient

**Jason International**

The Storehouse of World Vision serves under-resourced communities throughout the U.S. by offering critical provisions such as building materials, personal care items, and school supplies. We partner with companies by taking their excess inventory and providing it to people in economically distressed areas.

Register online: <http://crystalvision2014.eventbrite.com>

## PMI Announces CEU and PDH Credits for Its Codes and Standards Workshop

PMI is pleased to announce that its online Codes and Standards Workshop is now available for 0.3 Continuing Education Credits (CEU) or 3.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH) towards the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) Certified Plumbing Designer (CPD) recertification. Candidates completing the course will be provided with a URL link and password that connects with the ASPE website where you provide your contact information and a certificate will be emailed to you.

“The PMI Codes, Standards and Regulations online training program offers plumbing engineers, inspectors and plumbing professionals a unique overview of how these requirements impact the application, installation and commission of plumbing systems. There is finally a program available that provides an overview of plumbing codes, engineering standards and government regulations specific to the plumbing industry,” said **Len Swatkowski**, PMI’s Technical Director.

PMI has made it easier and faster for plumbing industry professionals to become more valuable to their employer and the industry, through a comprehensive knowledge of codes and standards. The new online version of the popular PMI Codes and Standards primer presents an in-depth view of the standards, regulations, codes and conformity processes that are integral in providing quality, safety and efficiency to the plumbing products enjoyed by consumers in the United States and the world. In just under three hours, course attendees will have a good codes and standards background, and, more important, will know where to find the reference points they need, when they need them.

This dynamic training program is the outgrowth of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PMI and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). Employees of PMI member companies receive the two-part course and a certificate (upon completion) for \$195. Non-members will be charged a fee of \$295 for the course. This online workshop is user controlled, and attendees can progress at their own pace and convenience.

More information about this course and access to sign up can be found at [www.pmihome.org](http://www.pmihome.org).

## Staying Connected!



*Jim Kendzel, Executive Director/CEO, American Society of Plumbing Engineers and Ralph Suppa, President and General Manager, Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating visit PMI Headquarters with Barbara C. Higgins, CEO/Executive Director, PMI and Len Swatkowski, Technical Director, PMI.*



*Heather Kinkade, Executive Director of American Rainwater Catchment Association meets with Barbara C. Higgins, CEO/ Executive Director of PMI in Tempe, Arizona. PMI just signed an MOU with them at the 2013 Fall Conference.*

## 2013 PMI LEADERSHIP

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Jeff Baldwin, T&S Brass and Bronze Works**  
President

**Tim Kilbane, Symmons Industries**  
First Vice-President

**Fernando Fernandez, TOTO USA**  
Second Vice-President

**Paul Patton, Delta Faucet Company**  
Treasurer

**Stewart Yang, Kohler Co.**  
Immediate Past President

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

**Ray Fisher, Fisher Manufacturing Company**  
(9/12–12/13)

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

**C.J. Lagan, American Standard Brands**  
(1/13–12/15)

**David MacNair, InSinkErator**  
(1/12–12/14)

**Bobbi Warren, Amerikam**  
(1/13–12/15)

**John Watson, Elkay Manufacturing Company**  
(1/13–12/13)

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