



NEWS

Volume 1

A publication of the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute

September 1998

1998 PROGRESS REPORT/FALL MEETING BY: WILLIAM B. O'KEEFFE, 1998 PMI CHAIRMAN

I wish to report to you as to our progress in 1998 and the reorganized management of PMI in particular.

As most of you are aware, since June 1st we have had our own new and independent staff fully organized and up and running at the Schaumburg location. Barbara ("Barb") Higgins, our Executive Director, is bringing new and vigorous leadership to our industry concerns and also putting in substantial airplane time getting out to meet members at their companies. Those of you who have had a visit from Barb know we have a concerned and interested new leader at the helm of PMI. Those of you who haven't seen Barb yet should expect her.

Backing up Barb in the Senior Administrative position we have regained the services and invaluable experience of Sharon Sroka. With Sharon at the "Office" members know their inquiries will be handled and the response will be knowledgeable and prompt. CeCe Kremer remains our Washington based Government Affairs consultant and, of course, Bill Ives continues as legal counsel. We have hired Yvonne Thomson as administrative aide to handle the office. Finally, we retained the same Executive Search Company that helped us find Barb Higgins to assist us in retaining a Technical Director. A pool of candidates was developed and a Committee (Fred Luedke-Chair, Craig Selover and Frank Evans) reviewed and interviewed top candidates on August 25th. You'll meet our new Technical Director Dave Viola at the Fall Meeting.

The above two paragraphs merely confirm to you that from the situation we found ourselves in last Fall we did not slide down further. We picked ourselves up, listened to you, reorganized accordingly and are now back - stronger than before. To all that, a reasonable dues paying member should suggest - fine - but what have you done to deserve my support? Well, notwithstanding the total rebuilding listed above, here's what we have also done so far in 1998.

1. Issues

(i) We came within a whisper of seeing a major merger or trade show consolidation with NEX and K&B. We aren't going to give up on this. (ii) We did organize and did succeed in stopping the Knollenberg EPACT rollback legislation - the proposed hearing on this bill having been cancelled for this session. We owe a huge THANKS to CeCe on this. With all the change and difficulties CeCe kept her focus on our concerns here and guided us to success. However, like all Legislative issues CeCe warns - this is hardly over and they'll be back next session. We'll be ready.

2. Codes/Standards

Notwithstanding the change-over of personnel, using Chuck Graham where needed, Dick Church on A-40, and otherwise we have covered the major Code sessions and protected your interests right through our own transition.

3. Planning

We have begun the process of changing PMI to an issue-driven organization. Our Fall Meeting agenda emphasizes Issue Committee initial meetings equally with the effective Product Groups while still getting the whole thing done in two (2) days.

4. Membership

We have not lost a single member in 1998. As most of you know, we have welcomed back Kohler Company and Moen as renewed members. We have also been pleased to welcome KWC Faucets and Hansgrohe, Inc. as new members this year. We believe the Knollenberg fight proved our worth to the fixture companies and we intend to follow up on that. Otherwise, Barb Higgins and the Board will be working to keep our membership numbers changing - up, not down.

5. Fall Meeting

We should be encouraged by the year to date, but mindful that we have a long way to go to become the dominant voice of the Industry PMI should be. With your help we will get there. The best place to start is the Fall Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington September 27-29 for the PMI 1998 Fall Meeting.

See you there!

William B. O'Keefe

INTRODUCING PMI NEWS!

Welcome to the premiere issue of **PMI News**. It is designed to consolidate the various individual mailings you have been receiving from PMI, into a single concise easy-to-read publication.

Future issues of **PMI News** will include industry news and articles from our legal counsel, and PMI members. Many of the news items will also be included in the "What's New" section of our new website (www.pmihome.org). Confidential items will appear in the password protected "Members Only" section of the site.

We will continue to issue separate bulletins for important, time-sensitive issues.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Call us at 847-884-9764 (9PMI).

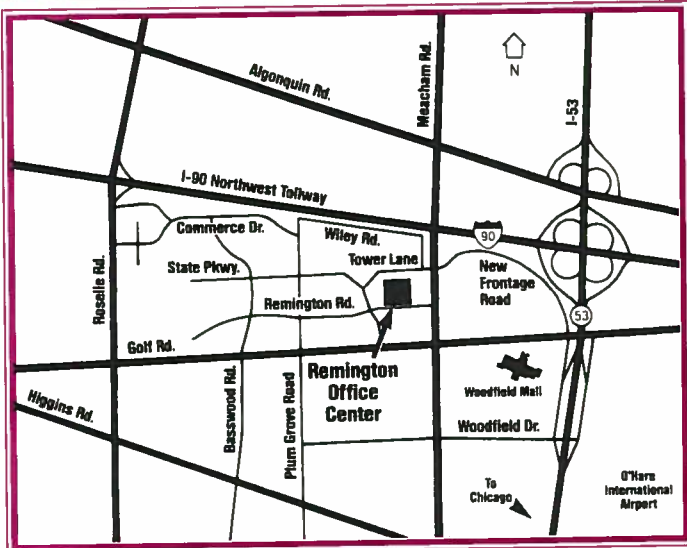
Thanks in advance for your input!

Barb Higgins
Executive Director



OUR NEW LOOK AND OUR NEW MISSION

By: Barb Higgens, Executive Director



You will notice that the PMI logo has received a facelift. Colors have been updated to maroon and gray. The purpose is to provide a fresh new look for the logo and to call attention to our re-tooling process. You'll be seeing a lot more of these colors and logos as we spread the PMI word throughout the industry.

We have established a dedicated in-house management staff for PMI. As you probably know by now, Sharon Sroka is back as Association Manager and we're delighted to have her! Yvonne Thomson, the new "voice of PMI," joined in August as Administrative Assistant. Our new Technical Director, Dave Viola rounds out the team and officially joined us on September 16.

The new location of our headquarters is 1340 Remington Road, Suite A, Schaumburg, IL 60173 - a 20 minute cab ride from O'Hare airport. We encourage you to visit us if you are passing through Chicago. (See the map.) The phone number is designed to be easy to remember 847/884-9PMI (9764). Fax is 847/884-9775.

Above and beyond the physical changes, and more importantly...PMI's mission is to define itself as the "Voice of the Industry" by refocusing on the 5 key issues identified in the Renaissance Survey. Our efforts will center on: Water Conservation, Leachates, Trade Show Consolidation, Fair Trade and Conformity Assessment. We will be (and already have been) more visible in the industry, at trade shows and in the press. (Watch for the feature on PMI in the March, 1999 issue of Plumbing and Mechanical magazine.)

Your input is important to our continued success. Call, write, e-mail, or fax us. We want to hear from you. I look forward to working with each of you and if I haven't visited your location, I'm on my way!

See you in DC!



**SEE US ON
THE WEB!**
www.pmihome.org

TECH TALK BY: SHARON SROKA

Please note the following ANSI Standards are out for public review with a deadline of October 13, 1998 to comment:

FITTINGS, FLANGES & VALVES

BSR/ASME A112.19.5M, Trim for Water-Closet Bowls, Tanks and Urinals (revision and redesignation of ANSI/ASME A112.19.5-1979 (R1998))

Establishes criteria for those items of trim for water-closet bowls, tanks, and urinals known as spuds, locknuts for spuds, flush valves, and flush elbows.

Single copy price: \$10.00

Order from: Silvana Rodriguez-Bhatti, M/S 10W, ASME
Send comments (with copy to BSR) to:
C.J. Gomez, M/S 10C, ASME

PLUMBING

BSR/ASME A112.4.4M, Shielded and Rigid Unshielded Couplings for Drain, Waste and Vent Pipe (DMV) and Sewer Pipe (new standard)

Covers requirements for rigid unshielded couplings 4-inch nominal diameter and smaller used to axially join pipes and fittings in non-pressure drain, waste, and vent (DWV) systems inside and outside of buildings for above and below ground applications. This is the second public review for this standard. It was originally listed for public review in the March 27, 1998 issue of *Standards Action*. The changes to the previous draft are listed below in their entirety:

- (1) Para. 5.2.4.2.1, first sentence revised to read: the stress relaxation test shall be performed in accordance with ASTM D6147 Method B and samples in accordance with para. 7.1.2.
- (2) Para 6.1 revised to read: Specimens shall be a series 300 stainless steel in accordance with ASTM A240 (excluding copper bearing alloys).
- (3) Para. 7.3.1, last sentence revised to read: The load and internal pressure shall be maintained for 1 hour.
- (4) New paragraph 8.4 added: If the coupling is suitable for installation in direct sunlight, it shall be so marked.

Single copy price: \$10.00

Order from: Silvana Rodriguez-Bhatti, M/S 10W, ASME
Send comments (with copy to BSR) to:
C.J. Gomez, M/S 10C, ASME

WATER TREATMENT

BSR/NSF 61 (Section 7, 8 & 9), Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects (revision of ANSI/NSF 61-1997b)

Establishes minimum health effects requirements for the chemical contaminants and impurities that are directly imparted to drinking water from products, components, and materials used in drinking water systems.

Single copy price: \$25.00

Order from: Order Department CSS
Send comments (with copy to BSR) to:
Donna Backus, NSF International

PLUMBING

(The following standard has been submitted for withdrawal)
BSR/ASME A112.19.10-1994, Dual Flush Devices for Water Closets (withdrawal of ANSI/ASME A112.19.10-1994)

Establishes requirements for dual flush devices for water closets. Implementation of this standard is intended to achieve volumetric water-saving performance for water closets.

Single copy price: \$10.00

Order from: Silvana Rodriguez-Bhatti, M/S 10W, ASME
or Customer Service, ANSI
Send comments (with copy to BSR) to:
C.J. Gomez, M/S 10C, ASME

A FOND FAREWELL TO CHUCK FELTES

By: Bill O'Keeffe, 1998 PMI CHAIRMAN



Chuck Feltes

Regrettably, there has been one personal matter in 1998 that I did not wish to risk your missing if I put it in my mid-year report.

At our June 25th Board Meeting, Chuck Feltes told the Board that his physician was requiring him to retire from Powers Process Controls and otherwise to take it easy for good health reasons. As a consequence, Chuck had to resign as our Second Vice Chairman and Director

All of us know how much Chuck did for PMI and how much the industry and PMI owe Chuck. We shall miss him greatly, but of course we understand his medical imperatives and wish him a sound and improving health. If you would like to drop Chuck a card, you can reach him at 295 Windsor, Roselle, Illinois 60172.

Again, I know we all wish Chuck Feltes the best. (PMI has made a donation in Chuck's name to his favorite charity *The Loyola Transplant Fund*.)

PROMOTING MEMBERS' INTERESTS SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday, September 27

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. First Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Board/Guest Dinner

Monday, September 28

6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. Leadership Briefing/Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Conformity Assessment
Trade Show Consolidation
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Water Conservation
Fair Trade
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETING
Leachates
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Networking Luncheon
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. PRODUCT GROUP MEETINGS
Faucet Product Group
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. PRODUCT GROUP MEETINGS
Drainage Product Group
Shower/Tub Shower Fittings Product Group
Specialty Finishing Product Group
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Marketing Committee
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Dinner/Ed Rollins

Tuesday, September 29

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Technical Committee Meeting and Breakfast
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. General Membership Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Government Affairs Briefing
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Final Board of Directors Meeting
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Press Briefing
1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Congressional Visits

See you in DC!

CAN YOU HELP?

Sagamore is a National Historic Site in the Adirondacks in Upstate New York. Dating from 1897, we were the camp of the Vanderbilt family for over 50 years, Sagamore is now a non-profit corporation dedicated to the stewardship of Great Camp Sagamore and to its use for educational and interpretive purposes.

Sagamore is open in summer for tours and for residential programs. Because people can stay here, we have issues of health and service and have determined that it is now time to upgrade our bathrooms. We also face deteriorated pipes and want to tackle both these issues at once in our residential buildings. Work is scheduled to begin in November.

Before we begin the work, I would like to talk to someone who can help me identify plumbing fixtures which may have historic significance. Sagamore has had four owners and we speculate that upgrades were made in the 40's, 50's, or early 60's which included installing metal shower stalls and changing some of the toilets.

Sagamore does not seek to preserve all of its fixtures, but would like to save those which are historically representative of the turn of the century. Our claw-footed tubs are obvious, but sinks and toilets present a challenge. Can you help me find pictures or descriptions of fixtures dating from 1897 to 1920? If you would like to help please contact me at 315-354-5311.

Thank you for your help in this research.

Beverly Bridger,
Trustee & Director of the Sagamore
Historic Adirondack Great Camp

OBITUARY



In Memory of Dirck Barhydt

Mr. Dirck Barhydt, a leader in the plumbing industry died Wednesday, July 29 at Waterbury (CT) Hospital. He was 67.

Mr. Barhydt was the president of WPM, Inc. (now Neoperl, Inc.) until his retirement in 1993. At the time of his death, Mr. Barhydt was active as a consultant providing acquisition and merger services to industry clients.

Mr. Barhydt was a past chairman of the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute as well as chairman of its Long Range Planning and Government Affairs Committees, in the latter capacity testifying in Washington on behalf of the industry regarding water conservation legislation.

He was also president of the Westover Water Co. and a member of the American Water Works Association. He served three terms on the Pomperaug Valley Water Authority. He was a member of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, the American Society of Sanitary Engineers and Connecticut's Legislative Groundwater Protection Task Force.

Mr. Barhydt's many community activities include service as past president of Easter Seal, Junior Achievement and the Waterbury Symphony. He was a board member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Westover School and a trustee of the Waterbury Foundation.

Besides his wife Martha ("Muffy") Barhydt, he leaves his mother, a sister, a brother, two sons, two daughters and five grandsons.

PMI has made a donation in memory of Mr. Barhydt to his favorite charity The Waterbury Symphony.

KNOLLENBERG WITHDRAWS EFFORTS TO REPEAL LOW-FLOW FIXTURE STANDARDS IN EPACK THIS YEAR. BUT HE IS EXPECTED TO REVIVE HIS LEGISLATION NEXT YEAR WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES.

Rep. Joe Knollenberg's attempt to repeal the uniform national plumbing standards in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPAct) was temporarily sidetracked last month. But he is expected to revive his proposal when the new Congress convenes in January.

At Knollenberg's request, House Commerce Chairman Tom Bliley cancelled a scheduled August 4th Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on Knollenberg's bill, H.R. 859, The Plumbing Standards Improvement Act. That proposal would repeal the uniform national plumbing standards, enacted in 1992 as part of EPAct, that restrict flush volumes to 1.6 gallons-per-flush and flow rates to 2.5 gallons-per-minute.

Knollenberg was bowing to a well-organized and growing tide of opposition to his repeal attempt. At the same time, Rep. Dan Schaefer, chairman of the energy and power subcommittee, has been a firm and outspoken supporter of the water conservation provisions in EPAct.

Knollenberg, who has spearheaded his effort with the battle cry "get the government out of our bathrooms," reportedly felt that he would have a better chance to move his bill next year. Chairman Schaefer is retiring this year, and the two likely candidates to replace him have both co-sponsored the Knollenberg bill. There will also be major congressional staff changes. Several of the House Commerce Committee's senior staff who vigorously support our efforts in opposing Knollenberg's repeal proposal will be departing the hill and joining the private sector.

Although this was a clear victory for the coalition opposing the Knollenberg bill, this important issue needs constant monitoring. Rep. Knollenberg has not given up. He continues to use the media to push for repeal, single-handedly creating the myth that a black market is developing in 3.5 gpf fixtures.

There is almost universal opposition to the bill. Plumbing manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers and distributors, contractors and union members are unified in their support for current law. A national standard allows products to move freely across state lines without the industry being required to manufacture, stock, and deliver different products based on

varied state and local performance standards, labeling requirements or test procedures.

America's water and wastewater utilities and the consumers they serve also vigorously support uniform national standards as do the environmentalists and conservationists.

Even in the face of such overwhelming opposition, Knollenberg managed to get 75 co-sponsors for his bill and the August 4th House subcommittee hearing scheduled. He has used the media effectively, taking advantage of the inherent opposition to government regulations which appear to interfere with individual privacy.

Unfortunately, his "get the government out of our bathrooms" slogan has quickly overshadowed any substantive discussion of EPAct's impacts on both consumers and industry. Knollenberg's supporters have sought to diminish and politicize the water conservation benefits of EPAct.

Whether or not by design, Knollenberg's message was often derogatory to the products the plumbing industry manufacturers. He repeatedly charged that low-flow fixtures just don't work.

To combat such charges, a coalition of manufacturers and public utilities funded hard research to provide facts supporting the positive impact of EPAct. The coalition included the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute, the Ad Hoc Fixture Committee (American Standard, Kohler, Gerber, Mansfield, Briggs, and Universal Rundle), the California Urban Water Conservation Council, made up of 100 California public utilities and the Water Conservation Council of Puget Sound, comprised of 17 towns and utilities in Washington state.

The result was a report, "Saving Water, Saving Dollars - Efficient Plumbing Products and the Protection of America's Waters," that documents the water savings and consumer acceptance of low-flow plumbing products. The report credits low-flow plumbing fixtures with saving water while getting the job done.

"Saving Water, Saving Dollars" concludes that low-flow products work well and save a significant amount of very expensive water. Despite such evidence in support of the EPAct standards, Knollenberg has told supporters that he will not be deterred, only delayed in his crusade to "get the government out of people's bathrooms."

Rep. Knollenberg and his supporters are strong advocates and will not let up in their efforts to repeal the EPAct standards.

THE MISSING LINK



If you haven't already done so, please fax or email them to Barb Higgins and be sure to check out our new site! Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Email: bhiggins@pmihome.org
Fax: 847-884-9775
Website: www.pmihome.org

1998 PMI LEADERSHIP

Officers

Chairman, Bill O'Keeffe: Symmons Industries, Inc.
First Vice Chairman: Fred Luedke, NEOPERL, Inc.
Treasurer: Bruce Smith, Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.
Immediate Past Chairman: Gary Turner, Teledyne Water Pik

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Ron Cooper, Price Pfister
Wilfried Delker, American Standard, Inc.
Frank Evans, Zin-Plas Corporation
Linda Mayer, Moen, Inc.

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David W. Viola, Technical Director
Sharon Sroka, Association Manager
Yvonne Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Legal Counsel

Bill Ives
Robin Grover

Government Affairs

CeCe Kremer