

## **PMI ENTERS THE YEAR 2000... AND CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!**



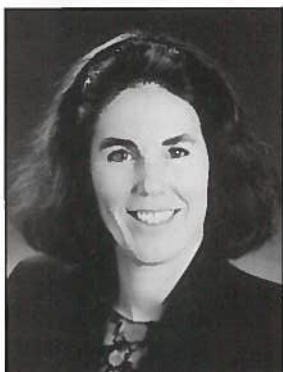
*25 Years as the Voice  
of the Plumbing Industry*

### ***PMI Kicks Off Silver Anniversary Celebration***

On November 26, 1975, a relatively unknown organization — the Plumbing Brass Institute — changed its name to the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute (PMI), expanded its scope to include more than brass fittings manufacturers and effectively changed the course of manufacturer representation in the plumbing industry for decades to come. Now representing manufacturers from virtually every plumbing product line and having increased its role in the legislative, regulatory, and codes and standards arenas, PMI is celebrating the gains it has made for its members and the plumbing industry as it celebrates 25 years as the Voice of the Plumbing Industry.

*See pages 6 and 7 for information on the 2000 Spring Meeting, and page 5 for a trip down memory lane.*

### **BACK TO DOING BUSINESS IN THE FUTURE BY LINDA S. MAYER, PMI PRESIDENT**



Linda Mayer

How can I start out the new year NOT talking about Y2K? It was on the minds of almost everyone for the past year and suddenly it's over. While we know we should all be rejoicing in the relative lack of problems evidenced, it's hard not to feel let down, or perhaps even deceived. Was it really the potential disaster that we all feared — or at least feared not to respect? I mean, what if the electric companies had shut down? What if airplanes started falling out of the air? What if ATMs no longer spit

out cash? What if bank records were lost? What if it really was going to be the end of the world as we know it?

Now that it's over, what is the lesson to be learned? Did we overreact — or did the world really pull together and prevent major economic disaster? I think there are some significant lessons to be learned and we need to recognize them because the Y2K bug is symbolic of a new reality of doing business in the future.

I recall early in the 1980s the beginnings of "Global Negotiations", a dialogue between the first world countries and the third world countries. The focus was primarily on the responsibility we had as co-inhabitants of the earth to live together in harmony and help our fellow countries attain higher levels of economic independence. Similar to

discussions on domestic welfare reform — the arguments were rooted more in morality than in economic urgency. Since then we have heard about the world being a global village and more recently we have all lived through global competition and the outsourcing of manufacturing to lower labor markets. What is the current reality and what does it have to do with the Y2K bug?

Put simply, the manufacturing world is a global circuit board. And, if not in reality, at least in theory — soon to

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