

PMI's 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES...

PMI inducted 13 "Quarter Century Club" members at the Welcome Dinner during PMI's 2000 Spring Meeting. See related story on page 8.

Seated, from left: John Wills, Delta Faucet Company; Ed Pilatowicz, Price Pfister; Lee Mercer, Moen Incorporated; Wil Denham, Speakman Company; and Ron Grabski, Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Corp. Standing, from left: Bill O'Keeffe, Symmons Industries; Rod Couser, Powers Process Controls; Ed Pages, Garvin/Guarantee Specialties; Todd Talbot, Alsons Corporation; Alan Barry, Brass Craft Manufacturing Company; Chris Boyher, ZinPlas Corporation; and Alan Lougee, Chicago Faucet Company. Not pictured: Representative from T&S Bronze & Brass Works.



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT? BY LINDA S. MAYER, PMI PRESIDENT



Linda Mayer

Who would have thought it would be 38 degrees and raining in Palm Springs in March? (I wish I had known that before I signed up to play golf at the PMI Spring Meeting!)

Who would have thought that blue chip stocks could sink so low?

Who would have thought that 24-year-olds would be millionaires from selling their own businesses?

Who would have thought that "big" houses would be OUT and "smaller" houses IN?

It was this last item that really caught my attention as I read the *Wall Street Journal* recently. But, why should it be surprising that grandiose is becoming gauche and downsizing is becoming de rigeur? Everything else in this world of ours seems to be backwards from what we would think it should be.

Over the past 20 years, the growth in house size has always boded well for the plumbing industry. More

bedrooms have meant more bathrooms, even more kitchens. Since 1970, average new house size has grown from 1,520 square feet to 2,225. But, what of this new trend? Well, it's not all bad news. The good news is that the high end of the market is not just trading down in size, but also trading up in quality. So, in actuality, they are

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OUR ENTHUSIASTIC, CONFIDENT CLIMB CONTINUES

BY BARBARA C. HIGGENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The PMI membership helped Executive Director Barb Higgs celebrate her birthday in Palm Springs.

The PMI 2000 Spring Meeting was a success! The weather? Another story...

The meeting surveys completed by attendees clearly indicate that you continue to be happy with the direction we're going. What isn't so clear is how you like the meeting format. With equal passion we heard... "The meetings are too compressed... we need more time for meetings and socializing," "The meetings are just fine... don't change a thing," "There's too much down

time. Can't we compress them more? Why do we need a golf tournament anyway?" *Well...what's a staff to do?*

The good news is that we are getting your input. We're listening and trying to make the best compromises we can. Keep those comments coming in! It's great to see everyone so actively involved in the organization. The committee chairs constructed meaningful agendas, and each meeting participant added input to maximize the value of the meeting. And all 36 of you who responded to the survey felt that the Spring Meeting was worth the time and money invested.

We heard some comments that there isn't as much work being done **AT** the meetings anymore ... and that is absolutely correct! The reason we are successfully making progress on our issues is that so much work is being done by members **OUTSIDE** the context of the two annual meetings. Thanks to your efforts **BETWEEN** meetings, we are moving forward on our issues. This is key. We can no longer put projects on hold for six months and then expect to accomplish our goals by working on them for 90 minutes twice a year. We are making progress because you are willing to put in the extra time it takes to get the job done. And you now have a full time staff, which devotes 100 percent of their time to **YOU** and PMI.

As a result of the Spring Meeting, we already have a number of follow-up meetings scheduled during the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (K/BIS®) in Chicago in April. We're knocking off those action items one by one. The progress is documented in the meeting material books as summaries behind each section and in the meeting minutes you will receive shortly, so I won't repeat it all here. The message is clear...we're moving forward. We continue to look at emerging issues...globalization in all of its forms and implications, and our newly added Focus Issue: Information Technology (IT). The first meeting on the topic will be held at K/BIS® to discuss scope and direction, and the possibility of an IT Forum at the 2000 Fall Meeting in Washington, D.C.

We continue to reach out to other organizations domestically and elsewhere. We have forged new

relationships with the Department of Energy (DOE), American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) and its Research Center, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), American Supply Association (ASA), Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH), CEIR — (our European counterpart) and other organizations. We are aggressively seeking new PMI members, always on the lookout for ways to add new value and reviewing our infrastructure to ensure that we are keeping pace with (better yet, staying ahead of) emerging trends. We are, for example, reviewing membership requirements and categories. Details to be announced at a later date.

No discussion of the 2000 Spring Meeting would be complete without a word of heartfelt thanks to the PMI staff whose tireless efforts were in evidence throughout the meeting.

I was frequently asked if Dave is ever in a bad mood, whether Lori ever sleeps, and if Cece ever intends to write a book about Washington. Thanks, guys, for all of your hard work on site! Thanks also to Martie and mama-to-be Sharon back at the ranch in Schaumburg, for their efforts in helping us prepare for the meeting.

And in closing, a word of welcome and thanks to our new legal counsel who will provide the support we need to tackle issues that until now we haven't actively pursued. We are delighted to have Mike Sennett of Bell Boyd and Lloyd, LLC on board (*see related article, page 9*). He clearly demonstrated his knowledge, expertise and value at the recent meeting, and he has already given us a fresh new perspective on a variety of issues in our industry. I encourage those of you who haven't gotten to know him to do so. We are in good hands!

So as we continue to celebrate PMI's 25th anniversary as an organization and its second year with the new management team, we continue our enthusiastic, confident climb. Thanks to you, it's working! We all appreciate your support!

**"AND THE WINNER FOR A
FREE 2000 FALL MEETING
REGISTRATION IS..."**



RON GRABSKI, GERBER PLUMBING FIXTURES CORP."
**THANKS RON FOR FILLING OUT AND TURNING IN THE
SPRING MEETING SURVEY. WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!**

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT? (continued from page 1)

putting the same amount of — or even more — money into the home, just with less square footage. As author Clifford Clark is quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article, "People who have money are turning away from overpowering houses, and finding status in understatement." "Status in understatement" — what a great line!

We have not actually seen the house size drop yet on a national basis. But, housing analysts predict that we will start to see a decline over the next few years for a number of reasons. The identifiable change in attitudes towards mansion-like homes at the very high end is a leading indicator of future changes. However, even more significant is the impact that the aging of baby boomers will have as they become empty nesters. Not only do they want less space to take care of, but they want a "home" and not just a "house." The baby boomers have worked hard and poured money into their homes. That will continue, but more on their terms of higher quality, more individuality and charm.

Traces of this trend are also evident in some segments of the commercial markets — such as hotels, assisted living, and even offices. People want to feel at home — somewhat to counterbalance the stress and pressures of living in this

age of rapid change. Travelers value amenities. Employees demand more perks to retain them. The aging want quality products as a part of their lifestyle. So, the focus is changed from "More is better," to "Show me that you value me by the environment you provide." The nice part of that is that people are also willing to pay for the higher quality and amenities. We are all familiar with trying to hire and retain employees in a tight labor market. Studies show that the work environment is a major factor in the ability to develop employee loyalty. People want comfort.

Historically, the building industry has been cyclical. Yet, who would have thought that housing starts would remain this strong for so long? We can only hope that the next cycle in our industry follows this desire for better, higher quality products, as opposed to just fewer products. Plus, just think of the demand for remodeling as people turn those 6,000 square foot status symbols into cozy, charming homes with attached mother-in-law suites and wings for the visiting grandchildren.

Who would have thought?



BARLOW OFFERS SNAPSHOT OF THE FUTURE...TAILOR-MADE FOR PMI BY BARBARA C. HIGGENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ed Barlow

Ed Barlow — he's witty, he's energetic, he's relevant, and he's full of information that is sometimes frightening but often on target. And that's just before lunchtime!

Barlow, PMI's Spring Meeting keynote speaker and forecaster extraordinaire, made the most of his time in Palm Springs customizing his discussion on Monday afternoon by conducting informal one-on-one interviews

with PMI members to find out where their businesses are currently and what expectations they have for the future. Members golfed with him, lunched with him, in general tried to keep up with him. The fruits of his labor in Palm Springs were harvested Monday afternoon with a rapid-fire, thought-provoking, electrifying and sometimes ominous presentation on creating the future.

But Barlow didn't stop there. Gathering from his research with the membership and building on his presentation Monday afternoon, Barlow developed a list of issues identified by members as critical and presented it to members of the Board and staff for action. The issues

included (in order of importance by vote):

- Attracting/maintaining workforce (installers, engineers)
- Channels of sale (direct to consumer)
- Supply chain
- Education — keeping up to date
- Technology (e.g. waterless plumbing)
- Alliances/partnerships (related/unrelated industries)

And there was concern expressed by PMI members over the following executive/professionals competencies:

- Growing individual intellectual capital
- Technology/internet
- Speed-reading
- Employee management/listening
- Employee benefits
- Marketing challenges

The "new" PMI is positioning itself to offer assistance to PMI members in areas beyond the technical arena (where we already shine) and into those issues and concerns deemed important by the PMI membership. Both the PMI Board of Directors and staff will take this latest input from the membership seriously and address these issues as we move forward.

Case in point — "Information Technology" was just identified at the Spring Meeting as a Focus Issue, and PMI has already begun exploring that vast frontier. What issues are critical to you and your business? Give us a call. We're listening and will do our best to address YOUR needs!



Sharon Sroka

For more information on any of the subjects listed below, PMI members are welcome to contact PMI headquarters at (847) 884-9764 (9-PMI).

Customs: Renewal of GSP

The General System of Preferences (GSP) program expired on June 30, 1999 but has been renewed through September 30, 2001 with a retroactive effect back to July 1, 1999. Customs is again accepting claims for GSP duty-free treatment and is also processing refunds on all duties paid with interest from the date the duties were deposited on GSP-eligible merchandise.

ITC: Survey Regarding Impact of UK in A Free Trade Agreement with USA, Canada and Mexico

The International Trade Commission (ITC) has asked the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve, under emergency processing, a survey of a representative selection of U.S. and foreign firms that export products to the United States, United Kingdom (UK), Canada and Mexico. Although the survey is concentrating on problems associated with trade and the UK, comment will be solicited on any tariff or non-tariff barriers encountered when exporting to Canada and Mexico as well.

ITC: Simplification of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS)

The ITC has revised its schedule for publication of their report on simplifications to the HTS. Initiated in 1997, the ITC indicated it would publish its final report by February 28, 2000 following evaluation of all comments. The ITC has determined that additional time is required and has indicated it intends to issue the final report by June 30, 2000.

The report will set forth the proposed legal provisions of a simplified tariff schedule. The ITC is currently soliciting comment on the desirability of, and possible procedures for, "sunsetting" 10-digit statistical annotation to the HTS. In particular, they are interested in an appropriate period of time (such as five years) after which each annotation might be reviewed, and/or deleted from the schedule.

U.S. Customs: Application Of Producers Good vs. Consumers' Good Test in Determining Country of Origin Marking

On March 14, U.S. Customs issued a final interpretation indicating it will not rely on the distinction between producers' goods and consumers' goods in making country of origin marking determinations. Customs indicated that recent court decisions have demonstrated that the distinction does not determine whether a substantial transformation has actually occurred. Thus, the decision of whether a product can be marked with the U.S. as the country of origin will be decided by more than a producer/consumer good analysis.

SPRING COMMUNICATIONS FORUM WRAP-UP

The experiment was...a SUCCESS!

PMI hosted a unique, interactive forum on communication in the new millennium on Wednesday, March 8, as part of the 2000 Spring Meeting. A panel of presenters skilled in various areas of expertise — Dr. Paul Bomrad, Paul F. Bomrad & Associates; Mike Sennett, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, LLC; Alan Wickstrom, BuildingOnline, Inc.; George Zebrowski, Plumbing & Mechanical magazine; and moderator Barbara C. Higgins, PMI's executive director — discussed the impact of both "traditional" and "revolutionary" communication vehicles in our professional and personal lives as we move into the 21st century. This was the first time such a forum had been held during a PMI semi-annual meeting.

The impact and effect of communication from the technological, literary, legal and psychological/interpersonal perspectives were explored by the panel experts, with insightful comments and thought-provoking questions coming from the members in attendance. Among the highlights of this lively two-hour exchange between presenters and the audience...

- * Sixty percent of the activity over "voice" telephone lines will be e-mail.
- * Know your medium and audience (sometimes e-mail isn't appropriate vehicle for the message you're sending).

- * E-mail offers NO expectations of privacy — think of it as a free wiretap, tape recording or message trail.
- * Chat rooms are risky business.
- * Delete buttons don't really delete! And when you send information to other computers...it lives forever!
- * "Use it or lose it" — use email as an opportunity to communicate with others as if you were face-to-face with them, remembering that it is a written, permanent record. However, don't rely solely on e-mail and lose your "human touch"!
- * Using e-mail is no excuse to be rude — the use of salutations and proper endings is a must today!
- * Send complete answers with the original emails attached. Why? People often forget what it is you're responding to!
- * Understand that anyone can sign an e-mail as YOU!
- * Once you've sent an e-mail, you've lost complete control of the both content and the ultimate recipients.

It is pretty scary stuff, but this forum allowed for a productive exchange of information between audience members and panelists to view communication as a help — not a hindrance — in our personal and professional lives. PMI will continue to explore emerging issues via the use of interactive forums, particularly as we manage our new PMI "Focus Issue: — Information Technology. Stay tuned!

CELEBRATING A CHARTER MEMBER OF PMI: BRASS CRAFT MANUFACTURING

BY LORI GILL (SMELSER), ASSOCIATION MANAGER

Since its inception in 1946, Brass Craft Manufacturing Company has helped revolutionize the plumbing industry, building its successes on supplying innovative and consistent quality products. In the late 1970s, Brass Craft was one of the first companies to venture into the retail sector with its "Plumb Shop" line of plumbing specialties. Today, it's a top seller of its core products to the trade and do-it-yourself markets. In addition, Brass Craft provides private label product for others.

Today, Brass Craft Manufacturing Company is a multinational corporation with more than 1,400 employees. It includes more than one million square feet of space for manufacturing, assembly, packaging, and distribution. Masco Corporation, an international leader in the manufacture of home improvement and building products, acquired Brass Craft in 1983.



Don Milroy, Brass Craft's president and CEO, knows the value of customer service commitment... and membership in PMI.

Don Milroy, Brass Craft Manufacturing's President, initially joined Brass Craft's Canadian operations in 1983 after spending 11 years with Weatherhead, where he was involved in providing brass S.A.E. fittings to automotive, OEM and after-market accounts in North America.

Milroy returned to the United States 10 years later and joined PMI member company Alsons Corporation, a Masco Corporation company, as its president. Three years later, in 1996, he moved to Brass Craft's corporate offices in Novi, Mich., as president.

In November 1999, while continuing his responsibilities at Brass Craft, Milroy was appointed group vice president of Masco Corporation with oversight responsibilities for three other Masco Divisions, including current PMI member W/C Technology Corporation, Cobra and Faucet Queens.

Milroy has watched Brass Craft, with its state-of-the-art research/development and testing facilities, position itself to meet the needs of an expanding global market. According to Milroy, Brass Craft is dedicated to customer service worldwide, utilizing advanced communications technology to respond to the changing global workplace. Its knowledgeable sales team and customer service team provides its customers with up-to-date information, problem solving advice, and personal service. "We are committed to using state-of-the-art technology to provide our customers with the most accurate and expedient means for doing business." It's Brass Craft's formula for success, adds Milroy.

Brass Craft Manufacturing Company joined the Institute in June 1975, just five months before the Institute officially became known as the Plumbing Manufacturers Institute, or PMI. Mr. Len Andrus, then a vice president of Brass Craft, was instrumental in leading the company to PMI membership, and he later served as PMI chairman in 1980. Alan Barry, another Brass Craft/Masco executive, also served as PMI's chairman, in 1994.

According to Milroy, Brass Craft has seen obvious value in being a part of PMI. "Aside from assistance in technical matters, water conservation is a great example where the voice of PMI helped harmonize requirements across the country." Milroy adds that Brass Craft has depended on PMI to represent the industry's interest at the state and local levels — "something that is definitely *not* cost-effective for individual companies to take on themselves." Other membership benefits for Brass Craft include expertise and representation at code hearings, as well as ample opportunity to communicate within the industry through PMI's semi-annual meetings. Brass Craft was recognized at PMI's 2000 Spring Meeting as a member of the newly-created "Quarter Century Club" in recognition of its 25 years of Institute membership.

Milroy and the Brass Craft management team remain optimistic for the plumbing industry in the next five to ten years. He adds that companies that stay on the leading edge of technology, product innovation and customer care will be the ones surviving and thriving well into the 21st century.

Says Milroy, "Brass Craft will continue to look at PMI as the industry coordinator — acting as *one* in the best interest of *all* — and for its voice in advocating trade show consolidation. Continuing its success in both of these areas — which is challenging, no doubt — will continue to enhance PMI's value to Brass Craft Manufacturing Company."



Outside Brass Craft's world headquarters in Novi, Mich. Brass Craft is a leader in manufacturing plumbing products for the trade and do-it-yourself markets.



PMI Spring Meeting RECAP

PALM SPRINGS



It's Kramer vs. Kremer — Katie and Keith Kramer, that is, and PMI's own Cece Kremer.



Guest Butch Gaudette of Whirlpool Corp. celebrates a good shot...and a break in the rain!



Belles of the Ball — (left to right) Lynne Wills, Beverly Petrovic, Suzanne Martin and Maxine Gaffney enjoy PMI's Tuesday evening reception.

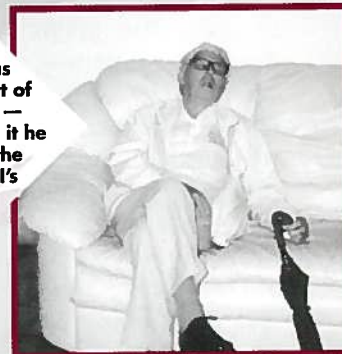


Ron Grabski works his magic on Cece Kremer — now if he could only do the same to representative Knollenberg!



From left — Dick and Florence Emmerson; Cheri and Ed Pages; Maxine and George Gaffney; Beverly and John Petrovic; and Kathy Turner, enjoy the final dinner.

This sleeping gentleman was certainly NOT part of PMI's festivities — though rumor has it he heavily tasted the Frango's at PMI's registration desk.



Purvez Saeed and Tom Brown (putting) demonstrate that not even a little rain stops PMI's golf tournament!



A smiling Gary Turner prepares to tee-off during the golf tournament.



Panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities of electronic communication during Wednesday morning's special forum.



What a trio of golf troopers: (from left) Bruce Reidel, Purvez Saeed and Ken Martin.



Fred Luedke unveils his most practical past president gift — a combo golf club/tennis racket.



Co-chairs Linda Mayer and Todd Talbot prepare before the Trade Show Consolidation Meeting.

Todd Talbot presents Todd Davis, Vice President of the Dallas Division at Miller Freeman, with a gift following his presentation during the Trade Show Consolidation Meeting.



The PMI golf tournament is played by members; Bill Swan, Pat Kelly and Dave Viola strategize — how to dodge the raindrops.

1975 - 2000: THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES....

BY LORI GILL (SMELSER) AND MARTIE GUNTHER

PMI STARTS "QUARTER CENTURY CLUB," INDUCTS FIRST MEMBERS

As part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, PMI has unveiled its "Quarter Century Club" for PMI members. The club was begun to recognize current member companies who were PMI members during 1975 (PMI's inaugural year) or have been members for a combined 25 or more years.

This year, 13 current PMI member companies were "inducted" into the Club and were honored at PMI's Spring Meeting welcome dinner with a plaque commemorating their dedication to the Institute and PMI. From now on, PMI will annually recognize additional members as they join the "Quarter Century Club" and 25 years of PMI involvement!

Year 2000 Quarter Century Club Inductees

Alsons Corporation
Brass Craft Manufacturing Company
Chicago Faucet Company
Delta Faucet Company
Garvin/Guarantee Specialties, Inc.
Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Corp.
Moen Incorporated
Powers Process Controls
Price Pfister
Speakman Company
Symmons Industries, Inc.
T&S Brass & Bronze Works, Inc.
ZinPlas Corporation



Wil Denham speaks of the value of PMI membership during the Quarter Century Club presentation during the welcome dinner at PMI's Spring Meeting.

MEMBER HELP NEEDED TO KICK OFF TIME CAPSULE PROJECT

In the spirit of celebrating the new millennium and PMI's 25th anniversary, the leadership has embarked on a commemorative way to mark this important year in the history of both PMI and the world. At Linda Mayer's suggestion, the Board has asked the Marketing Committee to undertake a time capsule project to represent PMI and the plumbing industry as the 21st century dawns. The time capsule will be stored at PMI's headquarters for an unknown duration — maybe 10, 25 or 50 years!

Some of the items to be included in the time capsule:

- The history of plumbing including plumbing's great families, family-run businesses, and industry leaders.
- The top selling products and product catalogs from each of our member companies.
- Copies of members' home pages from website.
- Latest code books.
- Current trade publications.
- Personal and professional information from Year 2000 PMI Board of Directors and other industry leaders.
- Profiles on industry related trade organizations.
- Latest editions of newspapers including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and *PMI News* (of course!).

Your help is needed to make this a historical event for the entire plumbing industry! Please provide us with any historical information you may have on your company, information on today's top selling products, product catalogs, and any other items your company would like to have included in the capsule. Please contact Marketing Chairs, Reed Fuller and Bill Tracey or PMI staff.

PMI will be seeking involvement from related businesses, trade associations and the trade press, to make this a truly memorable and representative project. This Fall, the capsule will be assembled and its "storage" in the "PMI vaults" will be publicized to the plumbing industry. If you have items or additional ideas to be included in the time capsule, please contact PMI headquarters at 847/884-PMI (9764).

Do YOU remember what was happening in March/April 1975?

Events that occurred in March/April:

- NCAA Basketball Championship UCLA defeated Kentucky (92-85).
- Record of the Year was "Love Will Keep Us Together" by Captain and Tennille.
- The city of Siagon is surrendered and remaining Americans are evacuated, ending the Vietnam War (April 30).

PMI Events in March/April:

- PMI 1975 Winter Meeting (now Spring), February 2-6 was held in St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles with 22 members attending.
- Members were considering changing the Institute's name from "PBI" to "PI," later agreeing on "PMI."
- Members agreed that it was important that the Institute raise its voice to the industry by becoming visible to similar organizations and publishing newsletters and other information.

PMI'S NEW LAW FIRM BRINGS EXPERIENCE IN ANTITRUST, TRADE ASSOCIATION MATTERS BY LORI GILL (SMELSER), ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Many of you met Michael Sennett during PMI's 2000 Spring Meeting in Palm Springs. His knowledge on most every issue from water conservation to codes and standards certainly impressed those attending

the meeting, but read further to find out more about the firm Sennett represents — Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC — and how his experience will lead PMI well into the 21st century.

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

The Executive Committee on February 22 conducted a review of legal counsel as part of its ongoing review of the "new" PMI — what the Institute has accomplished and where it is heading. Three law firms were selected from a pool of nine to be interviewed by the Executive Committee, and by day's end, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC was selected to represent the Institute's legal interests.

Bell, Boyd (as it is also known) is one of Chicago's oldest and most experienced law firms with 185 lawyers in Chicago and Washington, D.C. In fact, their more than 100-year track record of exceptional legal service and innovation has ranked them among the nation's top firms. Bell, Boyd's practice areas include corporate and securities, antitrust and trade regulation, product liability, taxation, real estate, environmental, employee benefits, bankruptcy, health care, communications, government contracts, construction, and food and drug law. Clients include Fortune 500 companies, small- to medium-sized businesses and start-ups in the manufacturing, service and technology industries, municipalities, government agencies and professional trade associations. The firm also represents numerous professional trade associations.

Experience in antitrust/trade regulation and representation in the association market made Bell, Boyd a perfect fit with PMI. In addition to handling some of the nation's most significant antitrust cases, Bell, Boyd provides key "preventative maintenance" for its association clients on antitrust issues by regularly conducting "antitrust audits" to ensure compliance. The firm, through its representation of the Water Quality Association and by defending challenges to the industry under California's Proposition 65, is quite familiar with many of the issues faced by PMI.



Mike Sennett heads the PMI legal team.

PMI is pleased to have Mike Sennett head the Institute's legal team. Sennett chairs Bell, Boyd's antitrust and trade regulation department and is a member of the firm's Executive Committee. He counsels his business and trade association clients on distribution, product liability, advertising and marketing. His client list includes the manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, communication, distribution, retail and service industries.

Sennett is very well versed on the technology issues of concern to trade associations. He has addressed association members on email issues, Internet chat rooms and Internet security issues, and he was a featured speaker at PMI's special forum, Communication in the New Millennium, on Wednesday, March 8 as part of PMI's 2000 Spring Meeting. In speaking to members Sennett said, "I am delighted to join the PMI team and look forward to working with members to address the challenging issues faced by your industry."

Sennett serves as an adjunct law professor at Loyola University Chicago, where he teaches international antitrust law, and is very active in the Chicago legal community. He received his B.A. with high honors from Quincy College and an M.A. from Northwestern University. He received his J.D. cum laude from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Exciting things are afoot at PMI as it celebrates its 25th anniversary, and members of the Executive Committee hope everyone will get the chance to meet and interact with Sennett in the coming year.



Sennett is introduced to the membership during PMI's Spring Meeting.

A T T E N T I O N

PMI MEMBERS — THE 1999 AUDITS ARE AVAILABLE!

You can obtain a copy of PMI's audited financial statement for the fiscal year ended December 31 by calling PMI headquarters (847/884-9PMI) or emailing pmiadmin@pmihome.org.



CeCe Kremer

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

H.R. 623, Rep. Knollenberg's Plumbing Standards Improvement Act, remains very much in play in the House. While an Energy and Power Subcommittee mark-up hasn't been scheduled as we go to press, rumors persist that Rep. Barton will announce a subcommittee markup in April. Since the Spring Meeting, Knollenberg has added an additional Republican cosponsor to the bill, Rep. John Shadegg of Arizona. Shadegg sits on the Subcommittee and leaves Knollenberg just three votes shy of passage. The bill though remains strictly partisan – with all but one of the subcommittee cosponsors being Republicans.

Rep. Tom Bliley, Commerce Committee Chairman, has just announced that he will retire at the end of the current session and has set off an intense battle for one of the most coveted and powerful jobs in the House. The leading candidates to succeed Bliley if the GOP retain control of the chamber are expected to be Rep. Billy Tauzin of Louisiana and Michael Oxley of Ohio. Rep. Joe Barton, spoken of as the compromise candidate, is the wild card in this mix.

Bliley is the 23rd House Republican to announce his retirement, while just seven Democrats will leave at the end of their terms and the difference in open seats give the Democrats the edge in next November's elections. Rep. John Dingell of Michigan will be the likely Commerce Committee chairman if the Democrats retake the House.

REGULATORY ACTIVITY

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

EPA's Contaminant Candidate List Regulatory Determination and Six-Year Review of Existing Regulations Working Group met recently to discuss how the agency should best decide which contaminants in drinking water should be regulated in the future. The discussion focused on "the process" rather than on which contaminants should be regulated. The working group is tasked with developing a regulatory determination process and then submitting its recommendations to the EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC). They then are tasked with developing a protocol for the six-year review process. NDWAC provides independent advice to EPA on implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

A previous working group helped EPA to develop a "contaminant candidate list" for the agency. From this list of 50 chemical contaminants and 10 microbial contaminants, EPA will select five or more contaminants and decide whether to regulate them by August 2001. If

the agency decides not to regulate, it could issue a health or consumer advisory or some other type of guidance.

Under the SDWA, EPA can regulate a contaminant only if it adversely affects public health, if it is known or is likely to occur in a public water system with a frequency and at levels posing a threat to public health, and if regulation of the contaminant will present a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction. The SDWA requires EPA to repeat this entire process every six years.

Metal Products and Machinery (MP&M) Rule

EPA plans to promulgate a rule to set effluent guidelines for the metal products industry in October 2000. The standards would apply to facilities that manufacture, rebuild, or maintain finished metal parts, products, or machines. Eighteen industrial sectors are being studied in the development of the rule including metal finishing and electroplating.

PMI members will remember that the MP&M rule originally was going to be promulgated in two phases, and EPA proposed a rule for the first phase in May 1995. The agency is no longer viewing the project in terms of phases and the October proposal will address all of the MP&M industries EPA intends to regulate.

Metal Finishing Industry Sludge

EPA has issued a final rule affecting waste water treatment sludge from the metal finishing industry. The rule allows large quantity generators of F006 sludge (sludge generated from the treatment of electroplating wastewater) up to 180 days (270 days in some instances) to accumulate F006 waste without a hazardous waste storage permit. This is in response to the waste generators' complaints that the 90-day limit restricts their ability to generate a large enough volume of F006 sludge to make recycling economically feasible.

At this time, EPA is making no other changes governing waste generators activities. All other provisions such as recordkeeping and reporting remain unchanged. **The rule is effective immediately.** If you would like a copy of the final rule, please visit the PMI website at www.pmihome.org under the members' only section.

Copper in Drinking Water



The National Research Council released a report, *Copper in Drinking Water*, suggesting that EPA should not loosen a standard for copper in drinking water and instead urges the agency to conduct studies on the health effects of copper in sensitive populations. Only then should the agency reevaluate the standard. In its

report, the research council noted that some recent studies have raised questions about the validity of the science EPA

used in setting the standard. The council conducts research for the National Academy of Sciences.

As you know, EPA published a rule regulating copper in 1991, setting a nonenforceable maximum contaminant level goal for copper in drinking water at 1.3 milligrams per liter. At the same time EPA set an enforceable "action level" for copper that also is 1.3 mg/L.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Academy Press, 2102 Constitution Ave., N.W., Box 285, Washington, D.C. 20055; (800) 624-6242. The report is also available on the at <http://www.nap.edu>.

OSHA'S Ergonomics Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was inundated last month with 7,000 comments to its latest ergonomics proposal. As a result, OSHA has extended the comment period for the rule, and the agency has set hearing dates to solicit input on the proposed rule. The hearings are informal information gathering proceedings in nature. The remaining hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

April 11 - 21, Chicago, Ill.

April 24 - May 3, Portland, Ore.

May 8 - May 12, Washington, D.C.



EPCRA and the Toxic Release Inventory

EPA's proposed rule to lower the reporting threshold for lead to 10 pounds per year under the Toxic Release Inventory, TRI, generated a large amount of negative comments at hearings across the country. The proposed rule would require manufacturers using more than 10 pounds of lead per year and having more than 10 employees to report any lead release including any lead-containing wastes sent for recycling. The agency hopes to finish the rule by October because November 1, 2000 is the last date EPA can issue the rule and have it be legally binding for TRI reporting for 2001.

STATE ACTIVITY

Prop 65 Clone-like Legislation

In March, the Connecticut Assembly's Public Health Committee held a hearing on SB433, Prop 65-like legislation that would require public notification regarding products that contain carcinogens or chemicals "known to be harmful to the physiological or mental development of children." This legislation was introduced at the request of the Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and mirrors legislation he



has introduced in prior years.

Various business groups submitted testimony for the hearing and the Chair of the Public Health Committee, Rep. Mary Eberle, suggested that interested parties submit letters to legislators on the Committee advising them of the negative impact SB 433 would have on the business community. The committee is receiving letters from constituents in favor of the bill and needs to know that the bill imposes significant burdens on industry with little know benefit to the public health. Although it does not appear that this bill is "going anywhere", we continue to monitor states for Prop. 65-like activity.

For additional information please visit <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp>.

For more information on any of the above, (and you are a PMI member), contact CeCe Kremer at (816) 931-4077.

A NEW COLUMN WILL APPEAR SHORTLY IN PMI NEWS!

The *Ask Cece* column will answer questions posed by PMI members. Questions may be on government affairs: legislation, politics, the Congress, the Executive Branch, and the process itself. Questions may be signed or anonymous. Please submit questions directly to Cece by phone at (816) 931-4077, by fax to (816) 931-4078 or by e-mail at cecepmi@aol.com.



The countdown begins...for the arrival of little Connor Daniel Sroka. Stay tuned to the next issue of PMI News for the latest baby talk!!

(Sharon at the surprise baby shower PMI staff threw for her.)

INSIDE PMI

DUES PAYMENT ALTERNATIVE

The PMI Board of Directors voted at the Spring Meeting to allow member companies the option of paying dues on a monthly basis. If your company is interested in taking advantage of this option, contact Chuck Wodrich at Wallace Data Comp; (630) 378-9695 extension 25. Non-confidential questions regarding dues payment options can be directed to PMI staff.

NEW FOCUS ISSUE IDENTIFIED



At the Spring Meeting, the PMI membership identified information technology as an important issue affecting the plumbing industry, and it has become a PMI "Focus Issue". A new committee is being formed, and a small group will meet during the

K/BIS® show in Chicago in April to begin mapping out a purpose statement and goals for the new committee to act under.

PROMOTIONS

Kudos to two PMI member representatives for recent promotions within their companies: **Matt Bortoli** recently became president and CEO of **Quality Metal Finishing**. **Ron Grabski** has assumed the position of executive vice president at **Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Corp.** **Kohler Company** recently promoted several employees, including **Laura Kohler**, who has been named corporate vice president/human resources (previously Ms. Kohler was corporate vice president/communications). **Elisabeth Sutton** is the new director/kitchen and bath group and interiors communications, **Michael Mueller** assumed the title of director/communication services, and **Edward Allman** (an active part of the PMI-sponsored Fixture Alliance), has been named director/communication services.

FIXTURE ALLIANCE ISSUES SECOND AD

The PMI-sponsored Fixture Alliance, which formed in September and has grown steadily to 12 sponsoring companies and more than 5 water conservation groups, has issued their second ad in defense of the water conservation benefits of EPAct '92. The ad appeared in the March 20, 2000 issue of *Roll Call* newspaper. The Alliance also undertook a direct mail campaign to each member of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 20, and the group is currently discussing what additional steps should be taken in opposition to H.R. 623, including the development and timing of a third advertisement. *Contact PMI headquarters for a reprint of the second advertisement.*

PMI CALENDAR CHECK

April 2000

- 5-7 PDI Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
- 7-8 CIPHEX 2000
Calgary, Alberta
- 7-9 19th Annual Kitchen/Bath Industry Show
Chicago, IL
- 9-20 ICC Code Change Hearings
Birmingham, AL
- 20 Passover
- 21 Good Friday — PMI Offices Closed
- 23 Easter Sunday
- 27 NSPC Code Change Deadline

May 2000

- 1-5 IAPMO Annual Codes & Standards Meetings
Las Vegas, NV
(May 1&2 — voting on proposed standards changes;
May 3&4 — voting on proposed changes to the UPC)
- 14-18 NFPA World Fire Safety Congressional Expo
Denver, CO
- 29 Memorial Day Holiday observed —
PMI Offices Closed

2000 PMI LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee:

Linda Mayer, Moen Incorporated, President
Frank Evans, Chicago Faucet Company, First Vice President
Todd Talbot, Alsons Corporation, Second Vice President
Ralph Herrbach, Cifial Brass Works, Treasurer
Fred Luedke, NEOPERL, Inc., Immediate Past President

Directors at Large:

Mario Bortoli, Quality Metal Finishing Co. (1/97-12/00)
Ken Martin, Delta Faucet Company (1/99-12/01)
Claude Thiesen, T&S Brass & Bronze Works (1/00-12/00)
Al Wakutt, MPC Plastics, Inc. (1/00-12/02)
Jim Westdorp, Kohler Company (1/99-12/01)
Claus Zieger, Interbath Inc. (1/00-12/02)

PMI Staff:

ADMINISTRATIVE

Barbara C. Higgins, Executive Director
Lori Gill (Smelser), Association Manager

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY

CeCe Kremer, VP of Government Affairs
Sharon Sroka, Information Services Manager

TECHNICAL

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