

The Only Thing Constant in Life is Change

By Tim Kilbane, PMI President and National Sales Manager, Symmons Industries



Tim Kilbane

PMI members have always stood for innovation and collaboration by way of plumbing related standards and the plumbing codes. As an organization, over the years our core focus has been primarily technical. In the past, the organization would monitor a defined segment of what would impact us the most and then be able to shape such changes in a way that was both compromising and effective.

However, this sole method of implementing change is a thing of the past. Recent indiscriminant changes that have come our way, well outside of the traditional process, have a profound effect on our businesses.

A prime example is the recent change in the lead content of our products. I feel that the lead issue was a turning point for PMI, going from reactive to proactive. Through our advocacy efforts, we went from a defensive stance in opposition to an offensive position of suggesting reasonable and attainable levels based on facts versus emotions. PMI put together a viable implementation plan which was eventually adopted by the state of California and ultimately the federal government. The results speak for themselves. Had we continued down the path of objection we would have found ourselves on the outside looking in. Instead we made allies along the way that continue to come to us for advice and guidance on a myriad of issues related to all types of environmentally friendly and water conserving plumbing products.

PMI has evolved into the role of being the information resource for our industry at many levels, far beyond just codes and standards. Our mission is to promote the water efficiency, health, safety, quality and environmental sustainability of plumbing products while maximizing consumer choice and value in a fair and open market. We provide a forum for the exchange of information and industry education. We represent

openly the member's interest and advocate for sound environmental and public health policies in the regulatory and legislative arenas. We believe that this will enhance the plumbing industry's growth and expansion.

PMI continues to take its solid technical base and merge it with our marketing component, now called the Advocacy/ Outreach Committee also known as the A/O Committee. The professional assets of the A/O committee increase the value of our organization as they take the technical data and transform it into information that professionals and consumers can benefit from by understanding its relevance to their own businesses or lives. Doing so through print, our website SafePlumbing.org, our Smart Phone app and social media will underwrite the vision of PMI.

Over the years, PMI has expanded the membership in both manufacturing and now allied member categories. The diversity of our membership is constantly evolving to include many diverse facets of our industry. To those that would think otherwise, I say that the best and fastest way to accomplish the diversity that you seek is to join us and take part in our openness to new and different ideas. By doing so, our industry will enjoy the clear benefits that only a unified voice can give us!

Thank you again for your ongoing support of PMI. I look forward to continued good works ahead.

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Thanks for a Job Well Done!

By Barbara C. Higgins, PMI CEO/Executive Director



Barbara C. Higgins

Just a quick note to thank everyone who contributed to making the Spring 2014 Conference perhaps the most successful one ever; from veteran

attendees/presenters like **Lee Mercer** (now of IAPMO) to our newest staff member **Jodi Stuhberg** (who joined PMI less than 90 days ago but has hit the ground running).

Thought-provoking speakers like **Dr. Marc Edwards** (will we ever look at

water the same way again?), enthusiastic working groups and some good, old fashioned networking characterized the 2 ½ day session in Charleston, SC. The event was topped off with some good-natured ribbing from corporate personality **Greg Schwem** who delivered his inspiring messages in a humorous way. Be sure to take a look at the photos on pages 4-5 and on the website. Satisfaction survey results will be delivered to you with the next issue of *Inside My PMI*.

There were ten first timers too who, we hope, left with a positive view of PMI and an intent to return in the fall to the 2014 Conference in Chicagoland.

Finally, I would like to thank **Len Swatkowski**, PMI Technical Director as he closes this PMI chapter of his career and turns his attention to his new role as an equity partner in a local HVAC manufacturing company. Len is returning to his roots and we couldn't be happier for him. Please join me in wishing Len much success in the years ahead.

Note that we have had a number of inquiries into the role that Len leaves vacant. Stay tuned as the search process continues. Thank you for your patience and continued support of, and input to, industry issues during this short interim period.

Upcoming PMI Conference/Event Schedule:

Joint PMI/ASA Executive Fly-In

April 9–10, 2014
Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C.

Plumbing Industry Leadership Coalition (PILC)

April 22, 2014
NIBS Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

International Emerging Technology Symposium (IETS)

April 23–24, 2014
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

PMI 2014 Fall Conference

October 27–30, 2014
Westin O'Hare, Rosemont, IL

PMI 2015 Fall Conference

October 26–29, 2015
The Hotel Contessa, San Antonio, TX

Note: There will not be a PMI Spring Conference in 2015.

Registration is Open for the 2014 International Emerging Technology Symposium

The 2014 International Emerging Technology Symposium (IETS), to be held **April 23–24, 2014**, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., will be the most comprehensive and informative plumbing and mechanical event since the IETS debuted in 2008. Building upon a highly successful and universally acclaimed formula refined during three previous symposiums, the event will gather plumbers, contractors, engineers, manufacturers, and water efficiency experts to introduce new technologies for the plumbing and mechanical industries, and discuss how policy initiatives can drive the introduction of these technologies to market and advance the cause of water and energy efficiency. The IETS is designed to provide a portal for the host organizations' partners in the manufacturing, engineering, and trade industries to display and demonstrate their innovative solutions to legislative and regulatory developments that often alter industry landscapes. PMI is proud to be one of the eight organizations co-convening this event.

Visit the Events section of the PMI website (www.pmihome.org) to learn more and register online.



Seeing the Big Picture: Plumbing Systems

By Len Swatkowski, PMI Technical Director



Len Swatkowski

We've been working hard to improve the water efficiency, safety and reliability of plumbing products for decades now, but this work is being done

on components: pieces of a complex and poorly understood water system. Water utilities, pipe producers, appliance companies and plumbing fixture/fitting manufacturers understand their respective parts in this system, but our future need to maintain safe water and sanitation will depend on how we develop a high level of understanding of the system as a whole.

We've previously noted the tremendous impact of centralized water and sanitation on our life expectancy. The system put in place to perform this task was built for a much smaller population that had access to a greater supply of potable water. The aging infrastructure in the United States is just as problematic as

Europe's and the rest of the world. These systems were built in the developing world during the late 19th/early 20th century and now face the same repair and replacement needs.

This need for replacement offers a tremendous opportunity for plumbing engineers and the manufacturers of the products they specify daily, but we need to understand the system before taking advantage of this task. There is increasing pressure on water conservation and it is important to ensure that changes to one product do not inadvertently affect the function of the larger system in order to maintain health, safety and consumer expectations. The textbook reference charts and engineering specifications for plumbing systems are being revised as the design of water supply and sanitation piping changes to meet the performance of the latest components.

During our last two PMI conferences several of the issues affecting plumbing systems were identified as we assessed individual components. Many of these issues were systems issues. Our highest priority research need continues to be

drainline carry. Manufacturers have designed high efficiency products certified to the WaterSense performance criteria, but anecdotal stories of system problems, especially from older buildings, are still being heard.

The Energy Policy Act, or EPAct, of 1992 forced a water closet flush level of 1.6 gallons per flush without any technical support documents or research to assess the viability of this mandate. The end result was stories of multiple flushes and questions on why this law was passed. Regulators, manufacturers and environmentalists alike, were blamed for creating a law that wasted water and caused a nationwide problem with toilets. We can't afford to lose the trust of the public again.

The issues are more complicated now with other factors showing up in systems. The decreased amount of water from appliances and all water using products has resulted in situations where water utilities are being forced to take drastic action. The City of San Francisco began using 8.5 million gallons of bleach per year to combat the smell caused by odors from backed-up sewers. Sewers mains are moving slower and drainage is being compromised further with the increased use of so-called flushable wipes. These are system problems.

As we continue to understand the safety and sanitation issues associated with lower flow plumbing components, the potable water and sanitation system needs to be redesigned by engineers and product designers alike. Smaller supply lines and drain lines may be the solution for new construction and that work is underway. The use or mandate of gray-water and rainwater will also impact the safety and sanitation of plumbing systems. Only by working with plumbing industry process partners can we see the big picture and create a system providing the same level of potable water and effective sanitation as we have today.

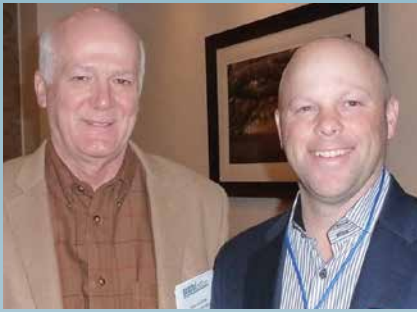
PMI Signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ASPE

PMI and the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) signed an official MOU at the 2014 PMI Spring Conference. The two groups have a long history of working together and we are thrilled to make this official. "The signing of this MOU with PMI is a documentation of the collaborative spirit that ASPE and PMI have developed both of our organization's recent history. We have already worked on taking collaborative positions and strategies that have a positive impact on the plumbing community," said **Jim Kendzel**, ASPE Executive Director/CEO, adding, "On behalf of the ASPE Board of Directors and all ASPE members, I would like to thank **Barb Higgins** and the PMI Board of Directors for being a true friend and partner with ASPE."



Barbara C. Higgins, CEO/Executive Director of PMI and Jim Kendzel, Executive Director/CEO of ASPE signed the MOU on behalf of both organizations at the PMI Spring Conference held March 2-5 in Charleston, S.C.

Making a World of Difference Together



PMI Board Member Pete Jahrling of Sloan Valve welcomes first time attendee Bryan Mullett, President of Bradley Corp., at the First Time Attendees Reception



PMI President Tim Kilbane of Symmons Industries with Prospective Member Lars Christensen of Franke Kitchen Systems



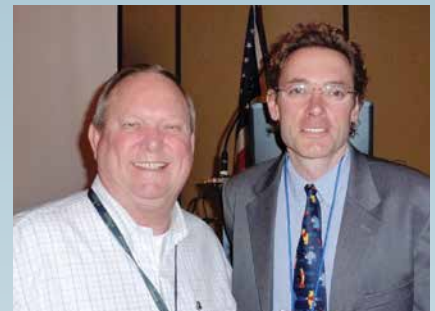
Attendees enjoy a special trip to see the world's first successful combat submarine the H.L. Hunley at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in the old Charleston, S.C. Navy Base



VIP Guest from CIPH, Ralph Suppa, with First Time Attendee Graeme Biagi, LSP Products



KWC's Brian Hinson welcomes First Time Attendee, and PMI's newest member, Tim McConnell of HOLDRITE with PMI Vice-President Fernando Fernandez of TOTO USA



PMI President Tim Kilbane of Symmons Industries welcomes Opening Keynote Speaker Dr. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech dubbed the "Plumbing Professor" by Time Magazine



Salim Bhabhrwala, Department of Commerce; Ece Cokyasar-Potter, Vitra USA; John Walter, Standards Council of Canada and Ralph Suppa, CIPH



PMI California Lobbyist (bottom) Jerry Desmond, PMI Federal Lobbyist Stephanie Salmon with Committee co-chairs (top) Joel Smith, Kohler Co. and Gary Cole, T&S Brass



Attendees break into groups during the Technical Track session to conduct risk assessments



Barbara C. Higgins, PMI CEO/Executive Director and PMI Vice-President Fernando Fernandez, TOTO USA welcome first time attendees Brett Costello, Symmons Industries; Nick Stoeckel, Bradley; Mike Gipson, Sloan Valve; Ryan Wilson, Delta Faucet Company and Carl Schoeder, Kohler Co. with PMI President Tim Kilbane, Symmons Industries



Jeff Baldwin of T&S Brass and Bronze Works receives the PMI Past President award

PMI Hosts its 2014 Spring Conference in Charleston, SC



Daniel Gleiberman, Sloan Valve with Mary Ann Dickinson, Alliance for Water Efficiency and Yvonne Orgill, Bathroom Manufacturers Association and Charles Hettrick, Delta Faucet



PMI Communications Manager Dawn Robinson with Advocacy/Outreach Track Guest Speaker, Victor Post, GMP Research and A/O Committee Co-Chair Kris Alderson, Bradley



PMI's Barbara C. Higgins and Jim Kendzel, ASPE, with PMI President, Tim Kilbane, after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between PMI and ASPE



Steve Thorsall, ICC-ES; Len Swatkowski, PMI and Lee Mercer, IAPMO; following the special Green Codes Committee presentations



PMI President Tim Kilbane, Simmons Industries thanks conference sponsors Lee Mercer, IAPMO, and Shabin Moinian and Dawn LaFleur-Qualley, ICC-ES



Conference Attendees network at the Welcome Reception prior to the start of the conference



Tim McConnell, President of HOLDRITE, accepts the PMI Member Plaque as the newest Manufacturing Member from PMI President Tim Kilbane of Simmons Industries



Special guest and corporate personality, Greg Schwem, was on hand to entertain the conference attendees following the Tuesday night dinner and networking



Chip Way, Lavelle Industries, Inc., with Michael Salek, Fluidmaster, and Ken Hair, Water Pik, at the closing dinner and reception



Dayne Tyner, Michael Martinez and John Finch of Delta Faucet Co network with Ramiro Mata of CSA International



PMI hosted its 2014 Spring Conference at Charleston Place in Charleston, S.C., and its official conference dinner and reception at the hotel's historic Riviera Theater

Check out our Facebook page to see more conference photos



2014 Spring Conference Recap

"The 2014 PMI Conference was a great opportunity to better understand plumbing industry trends and regulations, network with professionals representing world class brands, and ultimately position key leadership within our Company to develop products our customers will need now and in the future. The knowledge I gained from the PMI Conference will definitely be an asset to HOLDRITE in 2014 and beyond."

Tim McConnell, President, HOLDRITE

"Thanks for the wonderful hospitality during my first PMI conference. I look forward to working closely with you and your team in the future."

Trey Goodrich, NSF International

"The risk assessment session of the technical track was excellent and provided a good tool for individuals to take back to their companies."

Joel Smith, Kohler Company

"Kudos to the PMI staff on another top notch conference!"

Ramiro Mata, CSA

"Congratulations on a Successful Spring Conference."

Christopher Salazar, NSF International

"I wanted to congratulate all of you for another great conference. The agenda, as well as the speakers and entertainment, were top notch."

Fernando Fernandez, TOTO USA, Inc.

Thank you to all our Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for their participation and support during the Conference, especially to our three newest co-chairs: **Kris Alderson** (Advocacy/Outreach), **Gary Cole** (Government Affairs) and **Daniel Gleiberman** (Water Efficiency and Sustainability)!

Congratulations to **Chip Way**, Director of OEM Sales, Lavelle Industries for winning the PMI Hashtag Contest for the second year in a row! As winner, Chip will enjoy free registration to the **2014 Fall Conference** to be held in Rosemont, IL October 27-30 at The Westin O'Hare. All conference attendees were welcomed to join in the contest which resulted in dozens of tweets from members, speakers, guests and the press. (Sorry, Chip, two times is the limit!)



K/BIS and IBS Crystal Vision Awards Breakfast



Shown here is Paulo Jacuzzi, Director of Sales and Marketing, Jason International; Barbara C. Higgins, CEO/Executive Director, PMI; Amy Eaton, Human Resources Generalist, Globe Union, Danze and Gerber Plumbing Fixtures; Jeff Fields, Corporate Relations Director, World Vision; and Lyle Hunnicutt, President, RainTree Associates

Representing PMI as last year's winner, **Barbara C Higgins**, PMI CEO/ Executive Director, helps present the 2014 Crystal Vision Award to Jason International at the Crystal Vision Awards Breakfast during the combined 2014 K/BIS and IBS Trade Shows in Las Vegas, Nevada. (In addition, Ms. Higgins was personally awarded the Robert P. Atkins Lifetime Achievement Award by the group in 2011.)

PMI's Barbara C. Higgins and Communications Manager, **Dawn Robinson**, were both on hand to attend the tradeshow, engage with members and prospective members and other industry professionals.

PMI Joins as PAMCANI Hosts AEC Peer Group in Chicago

By **PAMCANI-Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Authority of Northern Illinois**

A total of seven Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) association executives from across the country arrived in Chicago on February 5, 2014 to attend a two day group meeting hosted by Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Authority of Northern Illinois (PAMCANI).

The group, consisting of executive directors from Boston, Detroit, Seattle, Kansas City and Washington D.C., joined AEC member and PAMCANI and PCA/Plumbing Council Executive Director **S.J. Peters** and Communications and Public Affairs Director **Jeff Weiss** at the Westin Hotel on Michigan Avenue to discuss strategic chapter planning.

The Association Executive Council (AEC) meeting marked the third time the peer group has met outside the MCAA Convention to focus on topics such as labor-management relations, apprenticeship and training, collective bargaining, workforce recruitment, and marketing initiatives.

The AEC Peer Group spent the final day touring the manufacturing facility at the Sloan Valve Company in Franklin Park, Illinois.

Joining Sloan President and CEO **Jim Allen** and the AEC tour were invited industry guests **Barbara C. Higgins**, PMI CEO/Executive Director; **Jim Kendzel**, ASPE Executive Director; **Bob Miodonski**, Publisher of *Plumbing & Mechanical Magazine*; and **Scott Hamilton**, ASSE Executive Director. These guests provided the AEC Peer Group with a unique perspective on local and national industry trends as well as an update on the National Lead-Free law that took effect on January 4, 2014.



PMI CEO/Executive Director Barbara C. Higgins discusses important industry issues, including PMI's involvement in passing the new lead law enacted this year



From left: MCA Detroit Executive Director Carl Evans; MCA Washington D.C. Executive Director Jeanne Lee; PAMCANI Communications Director Jeff Weiss; MCA Detroit Information Manager Chris Freeman; PAMCANI and PCA/Plumbing Council Executive Director S.J. Peters; PMI CEO/Executive Director Barbara C. Higgins; P&M Magazine Publisher Bob Miodonski; Sloan Valve President and CEO Jim Allen; MCA Kansas City Executive Director Bob Looman; MCA Boston Executive Director Steve Affanato; ASSE Executive Director Scott Hamilton; MCA Washington Executive Director Ed Kommers and ASPE Executive Director Jim Kendzel.



AEC Peer Group attendees meet with plumbing and mechanical industry association executives at Sloan Valve Company in Franklin Park, IL. Following a discussion on key industry topics, the group joined Sloan Valve President and CEO Jim Allen (pictured bottom left) for a personal tour of the 240,000 square foot facility that manufactures Sloan's electronic flush valves and parts for national and international distribution.

A Fond Farewell and Best Wishes to a Valued Member of the PMI Team

PMI Technical Director, **Len Swatkowski**, will be leaving PMI later this month. He has accepted an equity partner position in a local HVAC manufacturing company.

Len terms it as the classic “offer he can’t refuse” and so has resigned his position as PMI Technical Director effective March 21, 2014. He is very excited to return to his HVAC roots in an ‘ownership’ role and we are delighted for him!

Len joined PMI in June of 2011, and has proven himself a valued member of our team. From his work with codes councils and standards boards, to his running of the PMI workshops, to our weekly Tech Talk conference calls, Len has made the most of his time with PMI.

PMI CEO/Executive Director, **Barbara C. Higgins** noted that, “Len has done a tremendous job for PMI. We couldn’t be happier for him as he accepts this wonderful opportunity.” Higgins goes on to note, “the search for his replacement has already begun” and that “**Jim Galvin**, PMI’s Technical Consultant, will continue to support PMI’s technical initiatives.”

Please join us in wishing Len all the best in his new role!

It’s with some sense of regret that I leave the friends and colleagues that I have worked with in the PMI family. The opportunity I am heading to is a chance of a lifetime and something I could not have anticipated, but it is the right move for my family. I will miss the collective debates and witty banter that we experienced as we developed positions, responses and inputs into issues that impacted the overall plumbing industry. If there is one thing that I would leave you with from my time with PMI it’s to keep up the good work for the best interests of the overall plumbing manufacturing industry.

Best regards,
Len



Connecting with old friends and new at the Spring Conference Welcome Reception: (l/r) David Hoyer, InSinkErator; Len Swatkowski, PMI; Maja Jankov, Duravit USA; Jodi Stuhrberg, PMI; with Kirk Mellits, Symmons Industries, in the background

PMI’s Len Swatkowski demonstrates the hand crank in a replica of the H.L. Hunley, the world’s first successful combat submarine. A tour of the actual H.L. Hunley and museum was part of the 2014 PMI Spring Conference.



2014 PMI LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tim Kilbane, Symmons Industries
President

Fernando Fernandez, TOTO USA
Vice-President

Paul Patton, Delta Faucet Company
Treasurer

Jeff Baldwin, T&S Brass and
Bronze Works
Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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)

Scott McDonald, Fluidmaster
(1/14–12/15)

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