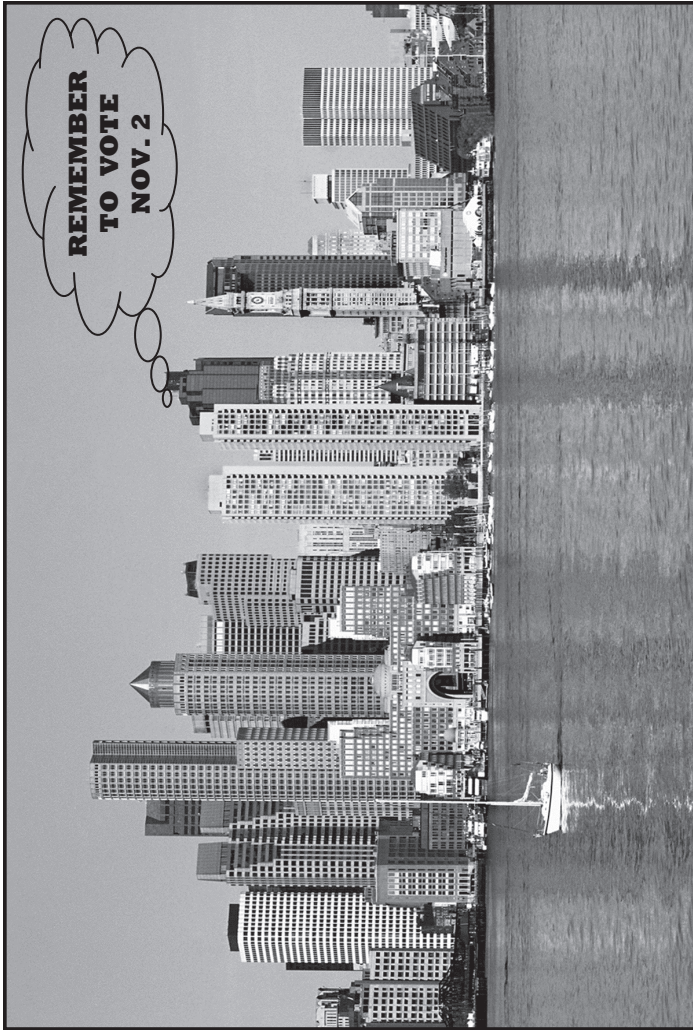




ASPENEWS

1973 - THE BOSTON CHAPTER - 2010

A.S.P.E. - P.O. Box 111, East Walpole, MA 02032 - Vol. 38, Issue 3



REMEMBER
TO VOTE
NOV. 2

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Society email aspehq@aol.com

Society Website www.aspe.com

Boston Chapter Website www.aspebostonchapter.org

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 9th, 2010

The Lantana, Randolph, MA

MAIN PROGRAM

Massachusetts Wastewater Law

Presented By:

Janice Markey, Environmental Compliance Specialist

&

Gary Broberg, Senior Chemical Engineer

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Social Hour	5:00 – 6:00
Dinner	6:00 – 7:00
Chapter Business	6:45 – 7:00
Speaker / Technical Session	7:00 – 8:30

MENU

Iceberg Wedge, New Age Chicken Blue
Carrot Cake

MEETING RESERVATIONS

\$30.00 Reservation

\$40.00 W/O Reservation

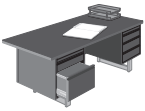
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President's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen. Well it is that time again. The convention is in less than two weeks. I know you will be reading this article after we have attended and I sincerely hope that some of you will have taken time out of your busy schedules to attend. This last year and a half has been a tough time for a lot of us. The economy has hurt our industry tremendously and the membership for the society has taken a large drop due to the economic climate. This has forced everyone to cut back from all our employers, to the society, to each and every member. That being said, I would like to encourage all members to support and encourage your employers to see the benefit for younger engineers and designers to join ASPE. From the educational opportunities' to even just the networking which a membership in ASPE provides.

I was going through some old books of mine the other day looking for something and I found a letter which was sent to me when I first joined the society in the 90's it was from the late Ken Wentink. Ken at the time was the President of National. In the letter he wrote: "As with everything else, you will get out of ASPE as much as you put in. Significant involvement on your part will benefit both you, your chapter, and the society as a whole. It is my hope that your ASPE membership will give you a real opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the profession in which you make your livelihood and find expression for your creativity."

I had the pleasure to meet and get to know Ken. He was the dept. Head for Cosentini's Chicago office. I met him at numerous conventions and talked with him on the phone on occasion when I worked at Cosentini. He was a very compassionate and knowledgeable man. He was also a very good Engineer. These words ring as true today as they did then maybe even more so. Through the years I have watched attendance at the chapter meetings dwindle. Yes we still get the core members showing up but with the advent of the internet young people are relying on things like facebook and linked in to do their networking and this is unfortunate. There is nothing like the camaraderie and networking you can do in a face to face meeting with your peers.

I hope that this message does not fall on deaf ears because right now the chapter needs as much help as you can spare through your support and interest.

By Frederick Neth, CPD, President, Boston Chapter ASPE



Membership News

Where Are You Now?

The Boston Chapter has a total of 307 members as of September. We are currently the second largest chapter while Chicago is the largest chapter with 327 members. Unfortunately we have recently seen a steady decline in the renewal of our chapter members this past year. With an ever increasing number of members out of work, changing companies or moving, it has been difficult keeping all the mailing list addresses up to date. Many have switched to other firms but neglected to notify Society to have their mailing address changed. The result is your renewal notices get mailed to your old address/firm and tossed in the trash. Your membership eventually expires because you never received your renewal notice. Lets try to correct that.

Just so you know, our newsletter mailing list is printed directly from the electronic roster that society sends us each month. If you don't update your mailing address with Society, we won't have it updated on our mailing list either. That's why your newsletters are piling up at your old office. Can you please do me a favor? If any ASPE mail or Chapter newsletters are being delivered to your office for someone that is no longer there can you please let me know? If you've changed jobs and aren't getting your newsletter and have to resort to reading someone else's, let me know. We're trying to make sure we stay in contact with everyone, especially those of you we don't see on a regular basis. Thanks.

Membership Dues Compassion Waiver

As I have reported in the past, Society is offering a membership dues compassion waiver for our newly unemployed members. In a nutshell, any unemployed member may maintain their membership over a three month period. After the three month period, the unemployed member can renew their membership at a 25% discounted price. It is important to note that if you want to take advantage of the waiver, you must let me know prior to your membership renewal date. I will contact Stacey Kidd at Society and take care of setting it up for you. I

(Continued on page 6)

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Technical Report

October Meeting & Technical Presentation

At our October meeting we said a formal good-bye to a long time ASPE member and supporter, Roger Wardwell, PE. Roger has decided to start a new chapter in his life and is relocating to Florida. Our current President Rick Neth presented Roger with an engraved glass clock in appreciation of his service to the chapter and the community. As most know he had served on the chapter board in every capacity, including Chapter President. He was the newsletter editor for many years and volunteered many hours to the chapter well after he had stepped down from the chapter's Board of Directors. Roger had asked to address the audience and thank the chapter and its members. He told us how he had started in the HVAC side of the industry. And that he attended as few ASPE meetings and was impressed with the bonding of professionals and sharing of information so much that he decided to become a Plumbing Engineer. What a great decision! Roger's countless efforts will be greatly missed in Boston. He will remain as a chapter member and promise to try to keep in touch. I was very fortunate to have worked as a designer under Roger's direct supervision (literally - his office window overlooked my drafting table!). He helped me to grow a designer and a person in what now seems like a very short period in my career. I still remember the day I chose to leave TMP Engineers to pursue another opportunity with another firm. The decision was extremely difficult largely in part to Roger's great mentoring and witty personality. I wish the best for Roger and his family!

The October technical presentation on sprinkler laws was very informative. Maurice Pillette, PE walked us through the hierarchy of the law, codes, reference standards and local ordinances; specifically what takes precedence in determining the applicability - in all cases the MGL 148 is the most critical. The State Board had put together a memo that is intended to help guide owners, developers, and engineers through the process of determining applicability. The following is the link to the State's website that has the memo http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dfs/osfm/boards/asab_official_approved_26g_guidance.pdf We try to continually evaluate whether our meetings are successful. The attendance was great and the presentation, including the questions was almost an hour and a half.

November Technical Presentation

The technical topic for this month will be a focus on waste water laws and regulations.

Presentation Title: MASSACHUSETTS WASTEWATER LAW

A brief review of Massachusetts wastewater regulations and a case study presentation of their application.

Joint Presentation by:

Janice Markey, Environmental Compliance Specialist, and Gary Broberg, Senior Chemical Engineer

I repeat the same closing as I have done many times. I cannot stress enough how critical it is that we have to constantly improve our knowledge and expertise. I am encouraging you to join us at the monthly meetings to sharpen your skills and broaden your knowledge as a design professional. The intent of the technical topic is to help you maintain an edge as a professional. If you already know everything there is to know about Plumbing Design and Engineer then just come for the networking opportunity.

By Rich Dean, CPD, V.P. Technical

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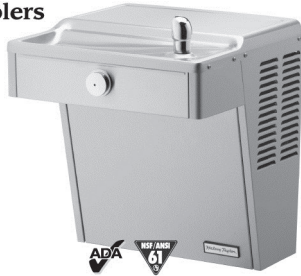
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SNAPSHOTS FROM OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING



Farwell to Roger Wardwell by
Chapter President Rick Neth



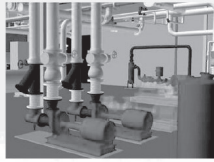
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INDUSTRY NEWS

T&S Farrell/Weil pumps join Gustavo Preston Company

November 1, 2010 - Gustavo Preston Co has bought T&S Farrell Co. Beginning November 1, 2010 Tom and Sean Farrell will be joining Gustavo Preston Company.

All Weil Pump Products and service will be handled by Sean, Tom and the Gustavo Preston sales and service group.

Tom and Sean can be reached at their regular telephone numbers or by calling

Gustavo Preston Co. at 978-250-3333.

have recently learned that if you/we do not notify ASPE Society before your annual membership expires, you will not be eligible for the waiver.

Fire In the Home!

In case you weren't aware, Fire Prevention Week was October 3rd - 9th. In light of that fact, I wanted to share an embarrassing "fire prevention" story with you. It is my hope that you give some thought to what happened to me and take appropriate steps so that it doesn't happen to you.

Last Sunday afternoon, the sun was shining, there was a crisp breeze in the air, the lawn was freshly mowed, and I was about to settle down for a little football viewing in front of the television. After pouring myself a drink, I decided it would be a good day to enjoy a fire in the fire place. I have always enjoyed sitting in front of a nice warm fire, so much so that on any given weekend from October through February odds are we are enjoying a nice crackling fire in the family room. (Our living room fireplace is only used for more formal occasions when company comes over.)

Suffice it to say that over the years I have perfected how to build the perfect fireplace fire. One match, a few sheets of newspaper, a half dozen pieces of Fatwood for kindling and in less than a minute I'd have a roaring fire going. I replaced the old fashioned andirons years ago for a cast iron box grate. It provides better ventilation for the fire, helps radiates more heat into the room, and is much safer at keeping the burning logs in the fireplace where they belong.

Little did I know things were going to go terribly wrong that day. The damper in the fireplace is the type where you turn a small brass handle located in the front of the fireplace to open and close the damper. Turning it clockwise opens the damper while turning it counter-clockwise closes the damper. I turned it clockwise like I had done literally a hundred times before. It eventually stopped turning with a familiar thud indicating it was open, or at least I thought so. I then went to the pantry closet to get the lighter from its designated spot, which just so happens to be next to one of the fire extinguishers. Returning to the family room I turned my gaze to the television to watch a replay of the long touchdown pass that I had just missed. (Cool I thought to myself, I have that receiver on my fantasy football team. Six more points for me).

As I lit the newspaper to start the fire, I watched the initial wisp of smoke slowly rise up towards the chimney, almost in slow motion. I suddenly realized that it was in fact moving much slower than usual. That's odd I thought. Almost immediately it occurred to me that there was little or no draft...and I hadn't visually checked the damper to verify it was open like I always have done. Within the 10 or so seconds since I lit the newspaper, the fatwood had ignited. The flames were beginning to grow and smoke was rising up to the ceiling. Looking up into the chimney I could see the damper had disengaged from its track and was almost completely closed. I grabbed the poker and tried to push the damper open but it wouldn't budge. Turning the handle didn't budge it either. Not good.

Smoke was now beginning to pour out into the room. The family room and kitchen smoke alarms began screaming at deafening levels almost simultaneously. I jumped up to get the fire extinguisher that was stored in the pantry closet. "This is going to make one hell of a mess" I thought to myself with fire extinguisher in hand. I pulled out the pin, pointed the extinguisher at the base of the fire, squeezed the trigger, and....nothing. What the #@*%! I pulled the trigger again, harder...nothing! I looked at the pressure gauge on the extinguisher and to my horror saw it had lost its charge. No pressure. I ran and grabbed the second extinguisher from under the kitchen sink. I pulled the pin, pointed the extinguisher, pulled the trigger and got the same result. Nothing. Panic time!

I suddenly realized my wife was in the kitchen behind me. Just as I was about to yell "Call the Fire Dept" she handed me a large pot of water and calmly said "Use This". I threw the pot of water onto the fire and to my surprise it knocked the flames down to almost nothing. Lots of smoke though. I could see the fatwood was still burning under the logs. I slid open the sliding door going out to the deck, grabbed the cast iron fire box and carried it with the still burning logs out to the deck. I grabbed the garden hose and hosed it down good. That was the end of that fire. I looked back into the house and saw smoke blowing out the windows on the far side of the family room. Damn, that was a lot of smoke.

Looking back, that entire scene lasted less than a minute, but it seemed like an eternity. I was amazed how many things crossed my mind during that brief period of time. This can't be happening to me I thought. I had always been very careful, and safety minded I thought. I had installed smoke detectors in all the bedrooms, hallways, kitchen and throughout the basement like I was supposed to do. I also installed CO2 detectors. I change the batteries religiously every daylight savings without fail. I kept two fire extinguishers in readily accessible locations. We worked out a family fire escape plan years ago when my eldest son first joined cub scouts. I'd been a member of NFPA for years and years. We don't even use candles in our home and the matches and lighter are kept in a Mason jar on the top shelf of the pantry where the boys couldn't reach them. The boys; I have to get everyone out of the house and call the fire department. This can't be happening I thought. What a nightmare.

I learned a number of valuable lessons that day. Luckily it was only minor smoke damage, and not an actual fire. It could have been a lot worse. If only I had visually checked the damper first this never would have happened. I should have checked the fire extinguishers on a regular basis as well. It never occurred to me that they would lose their charge over time. In hindsight it makes perfect sense, but I had never thought to check them. I won't make that mistake ever again. I went out and bought two new fire extinguishers that day. I also found a new style extinguisher that is white and is intended to be stored in your kitchen in plain sight on your counter or under your sink. It doesn't even look like a fire extinguisher, more like a large white decanter (see attached photo). It is made by HomeHero costs about \$30 and is available at your local Lowe's or Home Depot. I recommend everyone get fire extinguishers if they don't already have them.

I am relaying this story to all our members in the hope that you will think about your own situation at home. If you have extinguishers, check them to make sure they will work if you need them. Make sure your smoke and CO2 detectors are working. Replace the batteries regularly. The risks of fire at home are real. The US Fire Administration gathers statistics about home fires and they are startling. Every ten seconds, somewhere in the United States there is a fire in a home. Every 60 seconds, a fire department somewhere is called to a home fire. Annually 2,600 Americans lose their life in a fire and 13,000 others are injured. So take fire safety seriously. Do what you need to do to protect yourself, your family and your home. We don't want to lose any ASPE members. On the bright side, this whole incident gave me something new to write about for the newsletter, and that's a welcome change.



By John Callahan, CPD, V.P. Membership, Boston Chapter ASPE

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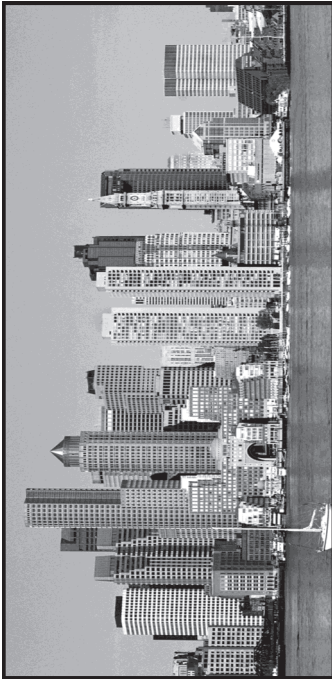
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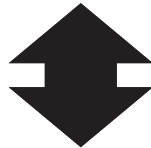
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