

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

Established: 1947

THE BIRTH OF A CHAPTER

At the 43rd Annual Meeting in Boston, 8 Society members from New York State were in attendance. Mr. Edward L. Penfrase was delegated to start the New York Chapter. The New York Chapter was organized with Edward L. Penfrase elected as the first chapter President. The first meeting was held at the Advertising Club on Park Avenue on November 19, 1947. Mr. Leo Newman, National Membership Chairman, conducted the meeting. Membership certificates were given to 20 new members and along with 10 Members at Large, they formed the first 30 New York Chapter charter members. John O'Brien was appointed Vice President and Charles C. Snowden as Secretary/Treasurer. Technical presentations were started at the chapter's monthly meetings.

During the first full year of the chapter, the New York membership increased to 112 members (21 from upstate New York) due to the very technical monthly meetings which averaged 30 members per meeting.

After serving as Chapter President since 1947, Edward Penfrase retired in May. He joined in 1910 and was one of the original Society members (No. 134) and founder of the Chapter. He was succeeded by Raymond J. Markgraf who was Chapter President until 1951. New York State membership increased to 131 members with 27 members from upstate New York.

In 1954, two special sessions were devoted to discussion of the New York City Plumbing code. As a result, the chapter was invited by the commissioner of Housing and Buildings to submit to his office controversial sections of the Code and suggestions for standardized interpretations.

1955 – The chapter proposal for national Regional Directors in lieu of 9 Vice Presidents was noted in the Chapter Report. The report also recommended regional chapter meetings.

On the eve of Columbus Day, the chapter held a special first Dinner/Dance at the "Tavern-On-the-Green" in Central Park and the chapter's ladies Auxiliary was formed.

1957 – The New York Chapter By-Laws were established by Abe S. Pent, Committee Chair. National President Wendell M. Dillon installed the chapter officers starting a chapter tradition. Laminated, framed certificates were given to all the living past chapter presidents starting an annual award tradition of appreciation for their services.

1958 – The Chapter started its Newsletter Meeting Notice (4 pages).

1959 – The New York membership was 242. Chapter efforts persuaded New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to proclaim "Water Conservation Week" in New York State.

1961 – New York Water Conservation Week was observed for the 3rd year in a row. National Water Conservation Chairman, Tom McCarthy, received a reply from President Kennedy. James C. Church, P.E. was elected National 1st Vice President.

1962 – The New York Ladies Auxiliary was formed.

1963 – George R. Jerus, P.E. was selected to rewrite the NYC Plumbing and Fire Protection Code. James Church, P.E. was appointed a member of NYC Building Code Advisory and elected as National's President.

1964 – The chapter membership approved the incorporation of the chapter in New York State. The Josam Manufacturing Co. proposed a plumbing design education program under the supervision of New York Chapter members.

1965 – The chapter added a second meeting during the month, seminar style, dealing with plumbing design. "The Josam Plumbing Designers Training Program", supervised by chapter members, was established. This was a two year program of 40 two hour sessions a year. The program was under the supervision of the Plumbing Designers Education Foundation and it eventually became part of the New York University of Continuing Education Program and was also adopted by the Pennsylvania Chapter for the education program.

1966 – The second seminar meeting each month continued. The average meeting attendance was 75 or more. Tom McCarthy remained 6th National Vice President. New York added 4 members to the Quarter Century Club for a total of 6 New York members. New York was selected to hold the 1969 Annual Meeting.

Social events included the Annual Officers Cocktail Party and Dinner attended by 150, the Annual Dinner Dance attended by 300 and the start of the Annual Golf Outing attended by 84.

1967 – In September, the enlarged Newsletter format was released with an initial mailing of 600. The February meeting on the new NYC Code attendance exceeded 100 people.

1968 – The Mid-Atlantic States Meeting was held with New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware at the J. R. Smith factory in New Jersey. New NYC Code went into effect. An illustrated version of the Code was prepared by George Jerus and Vincent Pantuso and published in book form. The first Annual Chapter Fishing Trip was started by Bill Mueller and Frank Scalia. Frank later designed the plumbing systems for the World Trade Center.

1969 – The Annual Meeting was held in New York at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Over 400 people attended, including 144 members from New York. One of the meeting highlights was the Circle Line Boat Ride around Manhattan Island sponsored by the chapter.

1970 – This year's special events included a Turkey Shoot in December, a Fishing Trip in April, Mid-Atlantic States meeting in June, Golf Outing in August and a Dinner/Dance in November.

1971 – A yearly \$250.00 Education Awards Program was established for New York University and Mechanics Institute students to encourage plumbing design.

1972 – The chapter's monthly meeting programs were geared towards plumbing design for various type buildings with papers on each topic distributed to attendees. Eight surviving New York Chapter charter members were added to the Quarter Century Club.

1973 – The Chapter's membership increased to 290. The chapter continued the \$250.00 awards to students in NYU and Mechanics Institute. Jim Church received the Society's highest honor, the Henry B. Davis Award for his contributions to education, including after hours classes at his office, Society activities on the Seal Control Board and his outstanding contributions to the industry. Seven more chapter members who joined in the first years were added to the Quarter Century Club.

1974 – Field trips were made to the Victaulic Co. and Stevens Institute of Technology. Thomas F. McCarthy received the Henry B. Davis Award for his work on chapter development, chapter assistance, water conservation activities and service as a national officer. Joe Petro was appointed National Chairman of the Plumbing Specification Format Committee and attempted to persuade the Construction Specification Institute (C.S.I.) to provide

separate divisions in their format for Plumbing and Fire Protection. Years later, at a meeting with industry representatives in Texas, the proposal was rejected. However, in recent years there have been major revisions to the C.S.I. format and separate divisions are presently provided for plumbing and fire protection specifications.

1975 – The first lady president of the New York Chapter, Rosemary Shere, was well received at the Annual Meeting, and was elected to the office of 9th Vice President. Herb Panzer and Morris Weinberg (PA), Co-Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, revised the Society structure from 9 Vice Presidents and 6 Directors to 3 Vice Presidents and 8 Regional Directors. This was originally suggested by the New York chapter in 1955.

1976 – Rosemary Sherer was elected 2nd Vice President and Herb Panzer was elected as a Regional Director. At the Annual Meeting, Rosemary Sherer presented a paper on “Investigating the Role Of the Plumbing Designer in ASSE” and recommended that the Society establish a subcommittee to assist chapters in developing a Plumbing Design Course.

1977 – The chapter continued its policy of education awards to encourage plumbing design. Rosemary Sherer was elected as 1st Vice President of the Society. A pre-meeting social policy was initiated by President Mosticchio.

1978 – Incentive programs were developed to increase membership and chapter meeting attendance. President Toder was instrumental in bringing in 105 new chapter members. Morti Hirsch and Tony Florez, chapter members, were instrumental for the legality of requiring sprinkler protection for high rise office buildings. Rosemary Sherer was the first lady elected President of the Society. Rosemary and chapter officers met with New York Governor Carey and received a proclamation designating a week in March as “Sanitary Engineering Week”. The Fellow Award, a prestigious award to recognize and encourage chapter and national activity was proposed by Joe Petro and presented to the Board. The award was approved in 1980 and is presented each year to the Society President and worthy members.

1979 – This was a busy year with chapter and Society activities. Arthur M. Bayen received the Henry B. Davis award for his national and local activities with ASSE. The chapter requested a grant from Governor Carey for metering and monitoring water supplies for buildings since many buildings are unmetered and pay water usage based upon building frontage. The chapter sent President Carter suggestions for postage stamps on water conservation. ASSE International President Rosemary Sherer appointed a committee to develop a Plumbing Design Correspondence Course. For many years after, Society members worked with Stevens Institute in New Jersey to develop this course. The task became monumental and eventually was put aside due to lack of funds. Jim Church was Director of the Standards Committee. Herb Panzer was appointed Director of the Refresher Course (Seminar) and presented an outstanding program on “New Products and Innovations in Plumbing Engineering”. Joe Petro was appointed chairman of the “Energy and Water Conservation Committee” and was requested to prepare a booklet which was eventually published as a book.

Richard Toder was appointed chairman of the “Legionnaires Disease Task Force”. Richard Toder contacted Dr. Norman Runsdorf who had a theory on the disease. Dr. Runsdorf made a presentation at the 1979 Annual Meeting and received the Henry B. Davis nonmember award in 1980. Dr. Runsdorf has since passed away, but, to this day, Richard Toder has remained involved with Legionnaires Disease, traveling throughout the United States, England and other parts of the world.

1980 – Officers: President Robert C. Schnarr, P.E.; Secretary James C. Church, P.E.; Treasurer Elizabeth B. Regan

The chapter continued to give incentives for new membership, meeting attendance, education and also continued with the social activities of fishing and golf, Mid-Atlantic States meetings and a Plumbing Product Expo.

Herbert Panzer, P.E. was elected Regional Director. New York Chapter membership was 311.

1981 – Officers: President Richard W. Woods; Secretary James C. Church, P.E.; Treasurer Elizabeth B. Regan

Herbert Panzer, P.E. was elected the Society’s 3rd Vice President and Joe Petro became Regional Director.

Many New York chapter members served as chairman for various national committees and others served on committees.

1982 – Patricia A. McGarvie became the second lady chapter president and remained active in the chapter until her retirement in 2005. Rosemary Sherer was the first woman to receive the Henry B. Davis Award, the Society’s highest honor.

1984 – Society President Herbert Panzer appointed Joe Petro as Co-Director of the Refresher Course, and established an overall theme of “Hospital Plumbing”. This was the start of a trend for themes for the program. Joe was also By-Laws Chairman and he worked with President Panzer in restructuring the format.

1985 – The special events included a trip to the American Standard plant in New Jersey. Joe Petro, Refresher Course Program Director, proposed that the Refresher Course proceedings be included in a separate large size Yearbook and only the Society business be retained in the regular size Yearbook. Joe Petro was elected 2nd Vice President. The Chapter presented new members, who attended two meetings, with Jim Church’s book “Plumbing Design Guide”.

1986 – The special events included a trip to the Flygt Plant in Norwalk, CT. To obtain pledges for the Legionnaires Disease Research Fund, chapter President Conover completed a 28 1/2 mile swim around Manhattan Island.

1987 – This was a busy year for the chapter preparing for the Annual Meeting in NYC at the Marriot Marquis Hotel.

1988 – Elizabeth Chronicka was the 3rd lady Chapter President following in the footsteps of two previous special ladies. Society President Petro had a very busy year, having published the book Energy and Water Conservation Guidelines, a committee contribution, director of the Refresher Course Program and worked with Stuart F. Asay, PH.D., P.E. developing the first issue of the Society’s Plumbing Standards Magazine.

1989 – The chapter was saddened by the passing of James C. Church. The annual education awards to NYC and Mechanics Institute were given to honor Mr. Church.

1991-92 – Dr. Norman Runsdorf passed away and Richard Toder continued his work with Legionnaire’s Disease.

1993-94 – At the 1993 Annual Meeting, Sal Farruggia was elected International President and his wife Judy was elected President of the Women’s Auxiliary. As International President Sal Farruggia worked on the reorganization of the International Office and worked with the regional directors on chapter organization

In 1996, an “Anti-scald Shower Valve Bill” was passed in New York State and the New York Chapter was one of the contributing organizations that helped pass the bill. The Chapter, New York Auxiliary and Judy Farruggia established the Salvatore Farruggia Scholarship Fund. A program journal was prepared for the Installation Dinner which allowed the chapter to restart the local scholarship and enabled our chapter to donate \$1000.00 to the International Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

1997 – The Installation Dinner was one of the largest in recent years. The proceeds from the Program Journal were presented in the amount of \$2000.00 toward 9 scholarships which were distributed to three students at the UA Journeyman School, NYU and Mechanics Institute. In addition, a \$2000.00 contribution was made to the National Scholarship Fund in the name of the New York Chapter of the Women’s Auxiliary.

1998-99 – Since the beginning, The New York chapter has provided technical programs at the chapter meetings and they continue to this day. Past International President Rosemary Sherer passed away. Jerry Julas, who has been a supporter of ASSE’s activities for many years, also passed away.

1999 – Tony Rini prepared design drawing for the new International Office space and also donated his firm’s engineering services.

2000-01 – Arthur M. Bayen, past Chapter President, who spent most of his life in a wheelchair and drove to the ASSE Annual Meeting almost every year, became a 50 year member of the Quarter Century Club. Anthony rini, III, PE, was installed as ASSE’s International President.

2001 – New Yorkers were shocked by the World Trade Center tragedy on September 11, 2001, cancelling the chapter meeting. Several of our members were witnesses to the tragedy. Chapter members, the Society’s national officers and ASSE staff combined their efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our chapter members following the attacks.

2002 – Chairman Joe Petro’s report on the Plumbing Design Correspondence Course questioned the interest in the course and future status of activities. The Society Board voted to terminate the course. In September, an update of the “World Trade Center” was presented to the chapter.

2003-04 – Robert Benazzi, P.E. is presently adapting the International Building Code to replace the present NYC Code.

SUMMARY

Chapter members from New York have been actively involved with the National Society since its inception in 1906. For the past 58 years, there has been at least one member of the New York chapter who served or chaired on one of the National Committees. Each of our seven past International presidents continued to serve or chair national committees after their presidential terms expired. This is testament to the dedication and belief that ASSE has and continues to provide the necessary standards for plumbing products and serves to safeguard the public from health hazards associated with the use of water.

This is an excerpt from the The ASSE Centennial Book “Celebrating 100 Years of “Prevention Rather Than Cure” 1906-2006”. To purchase a copy, visit www.asse-plumbing.org/Stds%20Prog%20Info/Pubs%20Order.htm. \$10 of every purchase goes to the ASSE Scholarship Fund.