



Chicago ASPENews



Chicago Regional Chapter of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers
Vol. 55, No. 5
January 2024

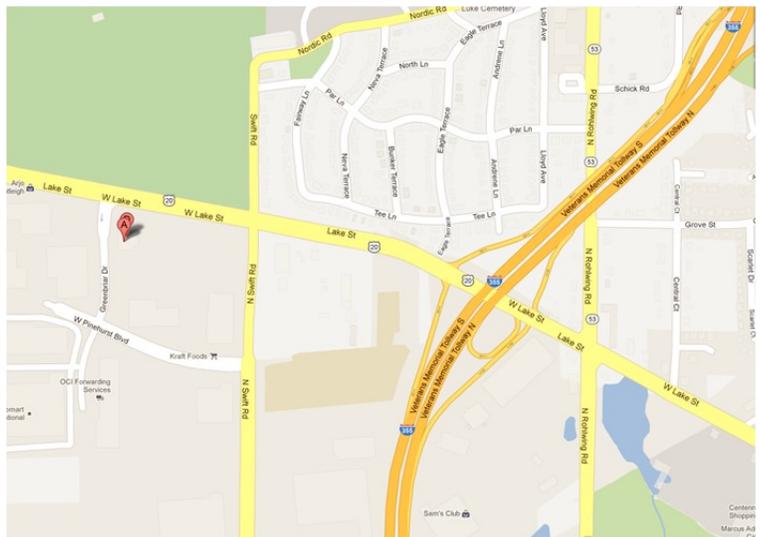


Chicago Chapter General Meeting Thursday, January 18, 2024



**Venuti's Ristorante
And Banquets**
2251 W. Lake Street
Addison, IL 60101

Plenty of free parking!



AGENDA

- 5:30-6:30 pm **Cocktail Hour Sponsored by:**
+GF+ GF Piping Systems
- 6:30 pm **Dinner** (\$45 for ASPE Members \$70 Non-Members).
RSVPs must be received by 6:00 PM on Monday, January 15th (RSVPs received after this time will be charged a \$5 late fee).
- 7:15 pm **Manufacturer Spotlight:** *Hycleen Automation System for Centrally Controlled DHW Balancing by Edwin Gonzalez with GF Piping Systems*
- 7:30-8:30 pm **Main Presentation:** *CPVC Piping Systems for Plumbing Applications by Edwin Gonzalez with GF Piping Systems (0.1 CEUs Available!)*

Please RSVP on the Chicago.aspe.org website in lieu of calling or emailing, thank you for your cooperation!

MENU:

- Starters:**
Creamy Tomato and Basil Soup
Ceasar Salad
- Dinner:**
French Cut Pork Chop W/garden fresh medley and Potatoes Lyonnaise

Vegetarian option – Eggplant
(Please specify when registering!)
- Dessert:**
Ice Cream Sundae
- Drinks:**
Coffee, Soda, Tea



Chicago ASPENews



2023-2024 ASPE Chicago Meeting Schedule

Date	Technical Presentation & Manufacturer Spotlight	CEU	Location
Thursday, September 21, 2023	<p>Presentation: 13 Pitfalls of Heat Pump Water Heaters Speaker: Robert Svidron</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: Intellihot Tankless Water Heaters Speaker: Robert Svidron</p>	0.1	Church Street Brewing 1480 Industrial Dr, Unit C, Itasca, IL 60143
September 28 - October 1, 2023	<p>ASPE Technical Symposium</p> <p>CLICK TO REGISTER: https://www.aspe.org/2023-tech-symposium/</p>		Bellevue, WA
Thursday, October 19, 2023	<p>Presentation: Smart Restrooms for Smart Cities Speaker: Gordon Tai - TOTO</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: TOTO Eco Products Speaker: Gordon Tai - TOTO</p>	0.1	Westwood Tavern & Tap 1385 N. Meacham Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173
Thursday, November 16, 2023	<p>Presentation: Commercial Heat Pump Water Heaters Speaker: John Brody - LAARS</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: LAARS commercial solutions Speaker: John Brody - LAARS</p>	0.1	Noon Whistle Brewing Co 800 E Roosevelt Road Lombard, IL 60148
Thursday, December 07, 2023	<p>Presentation: Mixing and Balancing Valve Selection Considerations: What Are the Key Criteria?</p> <p>Speaker: Kevin Freidt - Caleffi Hydronic Solutions</p>	0.1	Virtual Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Thursday, December 14, 2023	<p>Booster Night Holiday Party & Casino Night</p>	N/A	Noon Whistle Brewing Co 800 E Roosevelt Road Lombard, IL 60148
Thursday, January 18, 2024	<p>Presentation: CPVC Piping Systems for Plumbing Applications Speaker: Edwin Gonzalez, CPD, GPD, ASSE 12080 - GF Piping Systems</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: Hycleen Automation System for Centrally Controlled DHW Balancing Speaker: Edwin Gonzalez, CPD, GPD, ASSE 12080 - GF Piping Systems</p>	0.1	Venuti's 2251 W. Lake Street Addison, IL 60101
Thursday, February 01, 2024	<p>Presentation: The Importance of Backflow Speaker: Ryan Moore - MIFAB</p>	0.1	Virtual Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Thursday, February 15, 2024	<p>Presentation: Guide to Siphonic Drainage Speaker: Brennan Doherty</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: Siphonic Drainage Speaker: Brennan Doherty</p>	0.1	Westwood Tavern & Tap 1385 N. Meacham Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173
Friday, March 22, 2024	<p>ASPE Chicago Product Show and Technical Seminars Co-located with ILPHCC Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois</p>	0.4	Drury Lane Conference Center, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, 60181
Thursday, April 18, 2024	<p>Presentation: New Innovation in Med Gas Piping Speaker: Mathis Carlson - MediTrac</p> <p>Mfr Spotlight: TBD Speaker: Mathis Carlson - MediTrac</p>	0.1	Noon Whistle Brewing Co 800 E Roosevelt Road Lombard, IL 60148
Thursday, May 16, 2024	<p>Presentation: Plumbing Installation Demonstrations Speaker: Frank Borkowski</p> <p>No Manufacturer Spotlight - Extended Demonstration Time</p>	0.125	Plumbers Local 130 Training Center 1400 W Washington Blvd Chicago, IL 60607
Friday, June 14, 2024	<p>Stephen Triphahn Memorial ASPE Chicago Golf Outing</p>	N/A	Makray Memorial Golf Club 1010 S. Northwest Hwy. Barrington, IL 60010

If you would like to present any of these topics or become a meeting sponsor, please contact Justin Wroblewski at aspe.chicago.vptech@gmail.com.



Manufacturer Spotlight



*This month we would
like to thank:*



+GF+ GF Piping Systems

Thank you for your support!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Chicago Chapter! I hope everyone has had a safe and happy holiday season this year! I am looking forward to seeing what 2024 has in store and hopeful that we can maintain the forward momentum not only seen with the Chicago Chapter, but Society as a whole.

I am beyond grateful for our membership and the amazing support we receive for our events. We once again had amazing and possibly record-breaking support for our 2023 Holiday Party at Noon Whistle Brewing Co. We had 50 individual sponsors this year across all our sponsorship levels! We cannot put on these sorts of events, let alone for free, without the amazing support we get from our Affiliates! THANK YOU! We once again had over 90 people show up and collected close to 200 toys for Toys for Tots. Unfortunately, the Marines were unable to attend due to some unexpected circumstances, but our members always come through with a great amount of toy donations! Thank you to our VP Affiliate, Darren Rich, for doing all the prize shopping for the party, and for soliciting all the sponsorships.

This month we head back to one of our favorite traditional locations, Venuti's Italian Restaurant in Addison, IL. This month's technical presentation will be on *CPVC Piping Systems for Plumbing Applications* by Edwin Gonzalez of GF Piping Systems. Please see Justin Wroblewski's article for more details!

Virtual Meeting on February 1st:

We had 41 members in attendance at our December Virtual Meeting and will be hosting another Virtual Meeting on February 1st from 12pm-1pm. Ryan Moore with MIFAB will be presenting on "The Importance of Backflow". See VPT Justin Wroblewski's article for more information.

ASPE Membership Milestone Anniversary – FREE Dinner

In our effort to continue to celebrate ASPE Membership, starting January 2024, any member celebrating a milestone anniversary of **20, 30, 40, and 50** years, will receive a FREE Dinner for the month of their Anniversary. If your anniversary falls in a month without a meeting, you can use it at the next meeting. For instance, a June, July, or August Anniversary could use their free dinner at the September meeting.

But wait, there's more! You will also receive ten (10) 50/50 Enhanced Raffle tickets for the same meeting!

Please see the VP Membership article each month for anniversary announcements!

Congrats to our newest CPDT!

A big congratulations goes out to Steven Wuthrich of the Syska Hennessy Group, who recently passed the Certified in Plumbing Design Technician (CPDT) exam!

Chicago Chapter Membership Drive

Are you ready to help the Chicago Chapter get over 300 Members and stay ahead of Dallas/ Forth Worth and Boston? We have incentives for both Affiliates and Engineers!

Affiliates:

If you get just one (1) new member registration, you will get one (1) **FREE** Full-Page ad in our newsletter (\$200 value). If you sign up more, you will get more months of **FREE** advertising. To keep track of new member registrations, Affiliates will need to self-report to our VP Affiliate, Darren Rich, aspe.chicago.vpaff@gmail.com. For more information, please see Darren's article!

Continued on Page 5

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED...

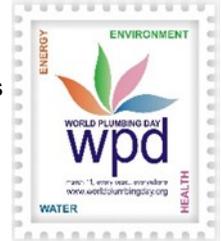
Engineers:

This month, we are introducing an incentive for Engineers! For each new member registration, Engineers will receive a **FREE** Dinner, twenty (20) 50/50 Enhanced Raffle Tickets, and the Engineer with the most new member registrations by June 30, 2024 will receive a **FREE** ASPE Membership for 1-year. Engineers will need to self-report new member registrations by emailing me at aspe.chicago.president@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE! World Plumbing Day - Feed My Starving Children Event

Mark your calendars for Friday morning on **March 8, 2024**, for what has become our annual tradition of packing meals for Feed My Starving Children in celebration of World Plumbing Day (March 11). Each attendee will receive a free T-shirt to wear while we pack meals to show the strength of ASPE's support!

Last year, one of our great affiliates challenged other affiliates in attendance to donate towards the purchase of a pallet of food, which costs \$2,250 and will feed 21 children for an entire year. This year, we are going to accept donations in advance towards this great cause. There will be no obligation to donate, this is just a way to help increase and show the impact ASPE Chicago Chapter has. Please be on the lookout for e-blasts.



ILPHCC / ASPE Chicago EXPO

The co-located ILPHCC / ASPE Chicago EXPO will be returning on March 22, 2024 at the Drury Lane Conference Center in Oakbrook Terrace. We will once again have 4-hours of continuing education classes with the product show to follow. Stay tuned for more information and watch for e-blasts.

If you're an Affiliate Member who has not registered for a booth for the show and would like to participate, please reach out to our Product Show Chair, Scott Jagodzinski, for more details jagz1337@gmail.com. ALL manufacturer registrations are handled directly through the ILPHCC website, www.ilphcc.com/expo

CPD Exam Registration is OPEN

The 2024 Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD) Exam Registration is officially OPEN! The exam dates will be April 15-26, 2024, with a registration deadline of April 1, 2024.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



ASPE Chicago gets Social!

Did you know that ASPE Chicago is also available via social media? Be sure to tag ASPE Chicago in your posts to help generate more views using the following social media accounts:



While you are connecting to ASPE Chicago, please also follow ASPE National here:



Hope to see you at Venuti's!

Chris Rohan, CPD
Chicago Chapter President
aspe.chicago.president@gmail.com



TOTAL DYNAMIC HEAD (TDH) MOVES INTO THE NEW YEAR

TDH now have three gatherings under our belt and we are ready to move into 2024. How were your holidays? Did you struggle with family time or something else? Family and the holidays can be very stressful for some. And it's a different stress than we have at work.

Speaking of work, how was it coming back after a break (if you took a break)? Overwhelmed by all the emails waiting for you? Come on, you didn't CHECK your email while on break, did you?? We have been talking about things like that recently – being reachable 24/7 either because others abuse that or you bring it on yourself.

How about everything else? If you want to chat, get something off your chest, or just want to listen to others share their stories while you try to get comfortable enough to share your own, please join us for our next conversation at the ASPE Chicago meeting on January 18 at Venuti's in Addison – 2251 W Lake Street. We will plan to start at 5pm. However, I intend to be there by 4:30pm if any of you want to come early. We will meet in the bar (walk into the building and turn left) first and if we need to relocate, we will.

Two final things – this is not a b.s. group. We are there to give support to each other for whatever each are going through and anything personal shared will not leave the group. We hope to see you on January 18. If you plan to sit with the TDH group, please drop me a line so we know to look for you.

Jason McDonald
ASPE Chicago Past President
jmcdonald@grummanbutkus.com; 847.316.9258



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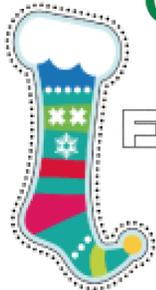


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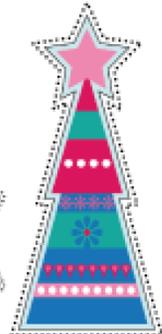
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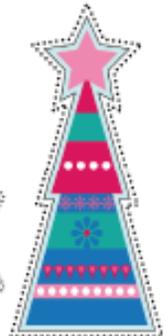


Would Like to thank all of the sponsors who made
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*ASPE Chicago 2023 Holiday Party Photos!!
More photos can be found [here!](#)*





VICE PRESIDENT, TECHNICAL: TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Greetings ASPE Chicago Chapter Members,

I want to start off by saying thank you to our sponsors who made Booster Night possible. Without their help and support our chapter would not be where it is today. We finished with 50 different sponsors for our Booster Night, which might be a record! Lia's catering again did a wonderful job, and I thought the food was great!

I want to give a thank you to Kevin Freidt for our virtual presentation last month. It was very beneficial to our membership for future mixing and balancing considerations when designing a project. If you have further questions on the topic please reach out to Kevin directly @ kevin.freidt@caleffi.com

Our next meeting will be at Venuti's:

Manufacture spotlight: **Hycleen Automation System for Centrally Controlled DHW Balancing**
Presented by: **Edwin Gonzalez, CPD, GPD, ASSE 12080**

CPVC Piping Systems for Plumbing Applications
Presented by: **Edwin Gonzalez, CPD, GPD, ASSE 12080**



CPVC piping systems have been successfully used in commercial and industrial applications for decades. However, copper still dominates our industry as the most specified material in many piping systems. Growing challenges faced by copper piping, such as price instability and supply shortages, has led to engineers, contractors, and owners looking for a substitute that can provide both the value and performance required for demanding commercial/institutional projects. This course will discuss the history, design considerations, and benefits of providing Sch. 80 CPVC piping systems for potable water distribution.

Presenter: Edwin Gonzalez, CPD, GPD, ASSE 12080: Edwin Gonzalez is an Application Specialist, Commercial Water for GF Piping Systems and has over 30 years of experience in plumbing design, project management, and solution provider. He is former President and Education Chair for the Central Florida ASPE Chapter, and holds professional certifications in plumbing design (CPD), green plumbing design (GPD), and Legionella water safety (ASSE 12080). He is also a contributing member for the IAPMO Manual of Construction Practices for Potable Water committee.



Join us for our next Virtual meeting on February 1st:

The Importance of Backflow
by **Ryan Moore - MIFAB**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

ASPE Chicago Virtual Zoom Meeting:
When: Thursday, February 1, 2024 @ 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

This course outlines how crucial backflow preventers are in a plumbing system and how they are used. The course also outlines different types of backflow devices and how they are assembled.

Ryan Moore – National Sales Manager. - MIFAB - Nashville, TN.

Ryan is a veteran of Desert Storm in the United States Navy. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee. He has 23 years of experience in the mechanical and plumbing industry. He worked as an estimator and project manager for The Comfort Group Mechanical and Plumbing in Nashville. Ryan worked as a District Manager in the Southeast US for Victaulic Company. He also worked in the Eastern US for NIBCO, Inc as a Commercial Sales Manager. He is currently with MIFAB as the National Sales Manager. He has been published in MCAA and Plumbing Engineering Magazines. He resides on a farm outside Nashville, TN with his wife, Erica and their three daughters.



Continued on Page 12

VICE PRESIDENT, TECHNICAL: TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, CONTINUED...

2023-2024 Chapter Meetings and Beyond

After a pretty good year of success using the QR Code for meeting evaluations, this year we intend to eliminate the use of paper evaluation forms. In addition to the QR code, we will send out an e-blast each Friday to all meeting attendees that will include a link to an evaluation survey. Just like last year, you will be able to scan the QR codes that will be located at each table. If you require a paper evaluation form, they will be available at the sign-in table. You can scan the code by either using your smartphone camera, which will automatically detect the code (depending on the age of your phone), or by using a QR Code scanner app on your phone. The QR Code will take you to a Google Form to fill out an evaluation. Your meeting evaluations are very important in helping us plan for future meetings and presentations. Please take a minute or two to provide your feedback.

Future Special Event Opportunity: If you are an Affiliate that has access to mobile product demonstration trailers, please reach out to me at ASPE.Chicago.VPTech@gmail.com. We are looking at the possibility of hosting a special outdoor event in the future and I would like to get an idea of what is available and the interest level. If you have an idea for a technical presentation you want to see, or you have a great technical session you want to present, please reach out to me and we can look to get you or your topic on the list for the Expo or for the meeting season next year. We are also looking to lock in Manufacturer Spotlights and Cocktail Hour sponsors as well if you have an interest.

Stay safe!

Justin Wroblewski, CPD

Chicago Chapter Vice President, Technical
aspe.chicago.vptech@gmail.com





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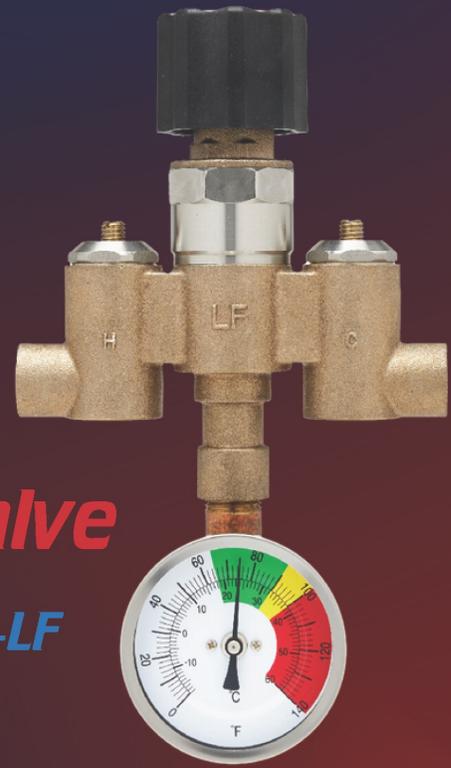
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VICE PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE

Greetings Chicago Chapter Members!

Hot off the Press!!!! Wisconsin Administrative Code Changes, the first in 14 years

The entire list of Plumbing code changes can be found here: [Business Information \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/BusinessInformation)

Some of these changes may look familiar for those that have worked in states following the International Codes. It'd be so great if was only one code for the country to follow, but maybe that'd make our careers too easy?

Second HOT UPDATE! State of Michigan Code Updates

The new Michigan Codes have been announced and they will be adopting the 2021 International Plumbing (IPC), 2021 International Mechanical, and 2023 National Electric Codes effective March 12, 2024. Here is a link to the 2021 IPC changes: ars.apps.lara.state.mi.us/Transaction/DownloadFile?FileName=FinalRule%28s%29.pdf&FileType=FinalRule&TransactionID=1415&EffectiveDate=3%2F12%2F2024&ReturnHTML=True

State of Illinois Updates

Illinois has adopted the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code with amendments, effective January 1, 2024. Please be aware and get familiar with the new code as it applies to your projects. To keep up on scheduled IDPH Events, the regularly updated calendar can be found here: [Search Results \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.idph.state.il.us/SearchResults)

Please reach out to me if you have any code questions, code updates, ideas for topics of discussion, or you are looking for any interpretations and I will try and include pertinent information in future newsletters.

Please email me at aspe.chicago.vpl@gmail.com with any options you want to learn more about and I'll figure out how to get the content out. Feel free to expand upon the suggestions and/or create your own suggestion!

City of Chicago Updates

To stay up to date on the happenings of the City Council and Committees, you can find the regularly updated calendar here [Office of the City Clerk - Meetings \(legistar.com\)](https://www.legistar.com/OfficeoftheCityClerkMeetings)

Selecting Hot Water Recirculation Balancing Valve(s) For Your Project

Of the six standard (DWV, water, storm) plumbing systems in our buildings, hot water return design has become the most critical in recent years. Water-saving fixtures have proven to be effective at saving water, but it has been a part of the decreasing water quality in potable water systems. Stagnant and slow moving water is bad for your plumbing systems. As members of the plumbing community, we must be aware of this and do our part in maintaining water quality.

A couple questions to ask when designing the hot water return system: Where does the hot water supply system separate from the hot water recirculation system? What controls the amount of water recirculating through each circuit?

Would you agree that a balancing valve is the point of separation between hot water supply and return systems?
Would you agree we systematically oversize the hot water return pipes and the recirculation pumps?

My point?

We select balancing valves to serve the circulating hot water system. Their purpose is to direct/balance water flow to maintain a consistently elevated temperature throughout the hot water supply system and keep water moving back to the water heater. Increasing the number of daily passes through the entire circulation system will improve water quality.

Also included in the circulating system are: supply piping, return piping, water heater and the recirc pump. The sizes of pipe impacts the velocity of water moving through the system while the size of the recirc pump impacts the flow rate of the circulation system. The water heater is sized to maintain a temperature in the system based on both water usage and standby losses.

You should be asking, "How many types of balancing valves are there?" and "Which one serves me best?" In my opinion there are five types:

- Ball/Multi-turn valves; pressure dependent
- Thermostatic Balancing Valves, fixed-cartridge

Continued on Page 17

VICE PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE, CONTINUED...

- Thermostatic Balancing Valves, adjustable
- Venturi-type valves
- Electronically Actuated Balancing Valves

Ball/Multi-turn valves are the historically most used balancing devices. These devices are well known. The ball valve types are a cheap alternative to any other valve but they are limited in their abilities while the multi-turn valves offer better control on the pressure drop as supply water is returned back to the recirc pump.

Thermostatic Fixed cartridge balancing valves are devices ordered from the manufacturer with no adjustment on-site possible. These valves have a pre-set temperature the flow is balanced around. If the designer wants a 120°F balancing valve rather than a 130°F valve, these would be specified and ordered separately through an approved submittal. If the wrong valve is received on site, the valve would need to be sent back to the factory for a replacement. They operate by throttling the opening as temperature at the valve changes, as temperature increases the valve will close and as temperature drops, the valve will open.

Adjustable thermostatic balancing valves are devices that operate in the same manner as the fixed cartridge valves, but the field team is able to manually adjust the temperature the valves are set to. This then would not require shipping from the factory if a different temperature set point is required. It does, however, allow the users to adjust the temperature set point after building turnover.

Venturi valves are devices that are put into the hot water supply line in series. They divert some water to circulate through a room and then the diverted water is directed back to the supply line. There is added pressure drop to the system that the recirculation pump will need to compensate for and as such, the manufacturers will give guidelines regarding how many venturi balancing valves you can design with in series. In the product data I've seen for these, the manufacturer had recommended the use of these valves as HW distributes across a floor, and to pair it with a thermostatic balancing valve at the HWR riser.

Electronically actuated balancing valves are the newest to me. Previously I had thought the only way to control balancing with solenoid valves and sensing probes would be to require a control point or two and tie it into the Building Management System (BMS). This would be costly. At the ASPE Technical Symposium, a manufacturer introduced a system where all of the balancing valves in a building are daisy-chained together with a control wire running through the building and back to a "brain". This brain has a display screen showing the water temperature at each valve and required only one control point to the BMS. The temperature readings can be trended and saved for your client's use should a lawsuit regarding legionella arise. It is the most expensive hot water balancing option, but if your client is sensitive to lawsuits originating from issues with the hot water allowing bacteria growth, the associated premium might be acceptable.

Which balancing valve strategy do you want to use? Do you know how flow and Cv affect pressure drop across a valve?

Thanks!

Chris Winnie
Chicago Chapter Vice President, Legislative
ASPE.Chicago.VPL@gmail.com



Women of ASPE®

Learn more about our group!

WOA is dedicated to **engaging, retaining,** and **advancing** women in the plumbing design industry through:

- > Mentoring programs
- > Membership outreach
- > Partnerships with industry-related associations
- > Educational and leadership offerings

And more!



Email rrodriguez@aspe.org and visit aspe.org





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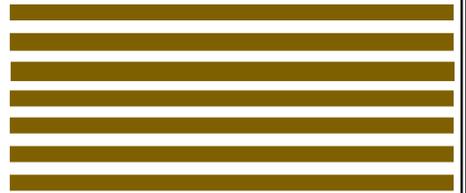
Any questions regarding this can be directed to Darren Rich - VP Affiliate

Darren Rich 224-833-6023 - darren@fanddsales.com - aspe.chicago.vpaff@gmail.com

VP MEMBERSHIP

Philip Traynor CPMR.

Jan. 2024



Current Membership Standings

Chapter	Total
New York City	394
Chicago	287
Boston	274
Dallas/Ft. Worth	271
Philadelphia	255
Houston	235
Los Angeles	234

MEMBERSHIP PUSH 2024

Please be sure to continue to inform any fellow industry partners about ASPE and the benefits!

THE VALUE OF ASPE MEMBERSHIP

This month we will look into why our President Chris Rohan joined ASPE.

JANUARY 2024 ANNIVERSARIES

1 year

Ethan Bauer, Michael Kerrigan Casey, Zachary Goldstein, Peter McLennan, Greg Pardue, David Short, Adrian Vlad

5 years

Aaron Kilburg

15 years

Scott Hoffman

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS!

I would like to extend a warm Happy Birthday to our cherished members below. Thank you for your continued support and I hope your special day is filled with fun!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Brian M Andersen | Cyrille Faugeras | Peter Mervyn McLennan |
| Plamena Petkova Angelova | Joseph F. Ficek | Patrick J McMahan |
| Troy Baebler | David W. Gibbs | James H Richardson |
| Mario Berrones | Gabriel Gomez | Alex A. Rigoni |
| Stephen Bremer | Robert Gonsch | Franklin Sanchez |
| Nicholas Anthony Capretta | James Harbacek | Adam Bryan Sanders |
| Robert P. Dahlmann | Sean Kelly | James Spurney |
| Daniel Scott DeLonjay | Lindsey A. Lehman | Steven Wuthrich |
| Charles P. Eggert | Aaron Jory Lenchner | |
| David Wood Everhart | Brian Makenas | |

Happy New year to all of ASPE Chicago. I look forward to all our members getting together throughout 2024. If you are looking to get involved and help, please reach out to your board members so we can get you plugged in where we can.

Yours Truly,

Philip Traynor

Chapter President Chris Rohan gave us some insight this month on his thoughts on ASPE and how he got into the industry!



Why did you join ASPE in the first place?

Way back in 2002, I was hired to be our 2.5-year-old firm's first full-time plumbing designer but was going to need a lot of training. The principals knew about ASPE from their time in the industry working for other firms and recommended that I get involved with ASPE to assist me with my education. I joined ASPE within a year of being hired.

Do you remember your first meeting?

I do not recall anything specific about my first meeting, but as a young designer, and new to the Chicago area, I recall being very intimidated and nervous about attending meetings since plumbing engineering was relatively new to me. My company hired a veteran designer and fellow ASPE member, Miguel Garcia, to assist me with my development. With his connections, I was introduced to local affiliates, including Luczak Sales and Daugherty Sales, which were both very instrumental in getting me to meetings by sponsoring my dinners. I will forever be grateful for their efforts. Those meetings not only allowed me to get the education I desperately needed, but it also gave me the opportunity to build long lasting relationships with other affiliates and engineers and helped me to overcome the intimidation I initially felt walking into this new world. If there is anything about the early meetings that still stand out to me, it's all those meetings we used to have in Greek Town, the great food, the saganaki "OPA!" and the fun that was had.

Why plumbing engineering?

I always wanted to be an Architect since I was in grade school and applied to colleges with that in mind. I changed my mind when I discovered some other intriguing career options, but after 5 years in school, I was burned out and the job market for my chosen career had dried up at the time. I had never heard of Plumbing Engineering until I was made aware of a job opportunity in Chicago through a friend. I was intrigued and saw it as an opportunity to get closer to an industry I always wanted to be a part of. I learned that Plumbing Engineering was becoming an increasingly more important position due to not only the complexities of plumbing systems, but the frequently changing conservation efforts. I wanted to be part of something that was growing, changing, and would provide different challenges along the way.

CHRIS ROHAN - CONTINUED... BOY CAN THIS GUY TALK...

Do you have any suggestions to younger members?

It's okay to feel intimidated, but with a little effort, the relationships that can be built by being an active member will help you thrive in this industry and make you a valuable asset to your employer. When an affiliate offers to sponsor you for a meeting, do not shy away from the offer, take them up on the offer and see where it goes. I would not be where I am today without the ASPE and all the benefits the organization provides. There are an incredible number of resources and benefits that were not all available when I joined ASPE 20 years ago, including ASPE Connect, ASPE Young Professionals, Women of ASPE, Mentor/Mentee programs, on-line educational courses, etc. I cannot stress enough the importance of taking advantage of what is available to you.

As a long time involved member, what impact would you like to leave on ASPE as a whole?

There is the old saying that you should leave things better than you found it. The Chicago Chapter has benefited from so much great leadership over the years, making it difficult to improve. If there is one impact I want to leave on ASPE, it would be to find a way to keep things fun, fresh, and interesting for not only our current members, but the next generation of members that we will rely on to keep the momentum moving forward. I think we have done a great job in recent years in trying to mix things up to boost participation, but there are always ways to improve.



VICE PRESIDENT, AFFILIATE

Greetings All!

I hope everyone was able to relax with family and friends and enjoy the holidays, Happy New Year to All! I hope everyone has continued success & nothing but good things happen in 2024!

Let's talk about Booster Night. Another amazing, well-attended event. As you know, we had decided to make this a free event if you register by the deadline date. To Make this a success and to consider continuing to do this for future Booster Nights, Sponsorships were more important than ever. This year we hit 50 Sponsorships, 15 more than last year. Plenty of new companies sponsoring and some rep firms doing multiple sponsorships with their manufacturers, helped us hit the 50 sponsorships plateau.

I would like to thank each and every sponsor and the Chicago ASPE community would also like to thank each and every sponsor for making this happen. We are currently looking into ways to better display sponsors that will be adaptable to the venue where we hold this event. We are open to suggestions, if you have any, please reach out to me so I can discuss with you and then the Board.

The pile of Toys For Tots was high and plentiful. Representatives from Toy For Tots took the toys away before we could get a count, but the donation ASPE Chicago made to the Toys For Tots was impressive. Thank you to everyone that brought toys and participated.

Please see the pages in this publication that thank our Booster Night sponsors and make sure you show them your appreciation.

Also, if you are interested in advertising in our monthly newsletter, please take notice of the flyer in this publication with the advertising rates. Also take note of the membership drive info flyer and learn how you can get free advertising just by signing up new ASPE members.

As usual Affiliates, I am your voice to the ASPE boards, any thoughts, concerns, comments, questions, let me know!

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Darren Rich

Chicago Chapter Vice President, Affiliate

P# 224.833.6023 aspe.chicago.vpaff@gmail.com



ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Hello ASPE Chicago,

Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you all at Venuti's on 1/18/24 for our January meeting.

The AHR Expo is returning to Chicago for the first time since 2018 from January 22-24, 2024 at McCormick Place. AHR is a trade show organized by The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The focus of the event is HVACR, but there will be plenty of plumbing products on display too from ASPE affiliate members/manufacturers. There will be over 1600 exhibitors with over 370 speakers. Many of our Chicago chapter members will be attending, myself included. More details about the event here: <https://www.ahrexpo.com/about>

This event is free as long as you register by 1/20/24 here:

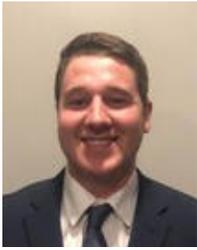


Sincerely,

Chris Swade

Chicago Chapter Administrative Secretary

aspe.chicago.admsec@gmail.com



AYP Liaison

Hello ASPE Chicago Members!

It was great to see all who attended Booster Night last month and I hope everyone had a great holiday! We are currently working on planning the next AYP event so please stay tuned for details. Our last event took place at Pinstripes in Oak Brook where we were able to play some fantastic games of Bocce Ball and enjoy great food and beverages. A huge thank you to our sponsors ISIMET and Woodford Manufacturing Co. as well as everyone that attended!

Getting Involved with ASPE Young Professionals

If you have interest in getting more involved in ASPE Young Professionals, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you might have! If you are a member of ASPE and under the age of 35, you are automatically a member of ASPE Young Professionals at no additional cost and can attend any of our events. All events are sponsored by various vendors and the ASPE chapter so there is no cost for attendees.

ASPE Mentorship Program

If you are interested in having someone to connect with that has years of experience in the industry, look no further than the ASPE Mentoring Program! ASPE has an online tool that can connect you with a mentor that is a member of the Chicago Chapter or is a member of a chapter across the country. Connecting with a mentor can help you further your career through networking, learning more about the industry, and sharing experiences.

If you are interested passing down your knowledge to the younger generation by becoming a mentor, you can sign up here as well.

[Click Here to Sign Up as a Mentor or Mentee](#)

Robb Thomm

Chicago Chapter AYP Liaison

rt@evergreensls.com

ASPE Mentoring Program

Connecting **ASPE members** who have a particular skill set with others who want to acquire the same skills to achieve their personal and professional goals.

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Please contact Darren Rich for more information

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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: INDUSTRY NEWS

Dear Fellow ASPE Chicago Chapter Members & Guests, It was wonderful to see everyone at Booster Night! What a fantastic turnout. Let's keep the momentum going into the next meeting at Venuti's in Addison, IL on January 18thth to kick off the New Year! Join us for a night of delicious food, networking, and education. And of course, no ASPE event is complete without a charity raffle! Bring cash for your chance to support this month's cause: **Big Brothers Big Sisters Chicago**

Please take the time to connect with us on social media and tag us in your posts! We encourage everyone to share pictures of the projects you're working on and any other ASPE events you attend. You can reach us at ASPE.chicago.social@gmail.com or find us on the following platforms:



Here are some upcoming events and opportunities that can greatly benefit those of you who invest your time in professional development:

American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE)

2024 ASSE International Mid-Year Meeting **(No local meetings or events)**

- Date: April 2nd – 3rd, 2024
- Location: Plumbers 75 Training Center - 2102 E Springs Dr. Madison, WI 53704
- Link: [IAPMO \(asse-plumbing.org\)](http://IAPMO(asse-plumbing.org))

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

- Eastern Illinois Chapter January Meeting
- Date: January 31st, 2024
- Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Location: Flossmoor Station - 1035 Sterling Ave., Flossmoor, IL. 60422
- Link: [AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter - Meeting/Event Information \(aiaaic.org\)](http://AIA Eastern Illinois Chapter - Meeting/Event Information (aiaaic.org))

Illinois Chapter of ASHRAE

- **(No events or meetings scheduled at this time)**
- Date: TBD
- Time: TBD
- Location: TBD

Illinois Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (ILPHCC)

Illinois 2024 PHCC EXPO North

- Date: March 22nd, 2024
- Time: 12:00PM – 5:00PM
- Location: 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
- Link: [EXPO \(ilphcc.com\)](http://EXPO(ilphcc.com))

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

- 2024 NFPA Conference & Expo

- Date: June 17th – 19th, 2024
- Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL.
- Link: NFPA Conference & Expo

Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE)

SFPE Chicago – Wisconsin Joint Chapter Meeting
Date: April 10th, 2024

- Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Location: The Brat Stop - Parkway Chateau - 12304 75th St., Kenosha, WI 53142
- Link: [Chicago Society of Fire Protection Engineers - Meeting/Event Information \(chicagosfpe.org\)](http://Chicago Society of Fire Protection Engineers - Meeting/Event Information (chicagosfpe.org))

Illinois Rural Water Association (ILRWA)

IRWA's 42nd Annual Technical Conference
Date: February 20th – 22nd, 2024

- Time: N/A
- Location: Holiday Inn - 1301 Ave of Mid America, Effingham, IL 62401
- Link: ilrwa.org

National Rural Water Association (NRWA)

Rural Water Rally **(No local meetings or events)**
Date: February 6th – 8th, 2024
Location: Washington, DC.
Link: Rural Water Rally | NRWA

American Water Works Association Illinois Section

Present Like a Pro: Tips to Engage Technical Audiences
Date: January 24th, 2024

- Time: 1:00PM – 4:00PM
- Location: Medinah Banquets - 550 Shriners Dr., Addison, IL 60101
- Link: [Illinois Section American Water Works Association \(isawwa.org\)](http://Illinois Section American Water Works Association (isawwa.org))

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Looking forward to a productive year ahead!

Erik Fridlund

Chicago Chapter Corresponding Secretary
aspe.chicago.cspsec@gmail.com