

THE MISSOURI CHAPTER

Established: 1944

The organizational meeting for the Missouri Chapter was held on August 3 and they held their first meeting on August 14, 1944. Steve Gilmore and Larry Dean were instrumental in getting the chapter started with 17 members.

Our chapter was host for the ASSE Annual Meeting which was held in St. Louis 1944 and again in 1949.

After being inactive for a few years, the East Missouri Chapter was re-instated January 1, 1949 with 20 members. By June 1949, the chapter had 55 members. The chapter membership consisted of architects, sanitary engineers, plumbing inspectors, manufacturers, suppliers of plumbing and sanitation equipment, master plumbers and journeymen plumbers. A main objective of the Missouri Chapter was assisting the city and state Department of Health to procure better sanitary laws and see that they were properly enforced. The chapter had also been working to secure a state plumbing law for cities with a population under 15,000.

Regular dinner meetings with an educational program, speaker and sound movie film were held every month and every other month was a Saturday luncheon meeting. Meetings were well attended. For a little extra chapter income, every year we offered a boat excursion in June or July where we would sell about 400 tickets at \$1.00 each. The boat business would get sixty cents and the chapter would get forty cents.

In 1952, the chapter printed its own stationary and made addressograph plates for each member to minimize the time spent in addressing envelopes. Meetings were being held monthly, except during July and August. Meetings were alternated between the fourth Monday of the month in the evening with a guest speaker and the fourth Saturday of the month with a noon luncheon and guest speaker. Average attendance at meetings was 20.

The chapter was closely watching the legislature which was proposing to authorize the Division of Health of the Department of Public Health and Welfare to regulate the following: installation of plumbing; the disposal of sewage; rules and regulations for counties, cities, towns, villages and sewer districts to regulate and enforce plumbing ordinances; to create a Plumbing Advisory Council of seven members, appointed by the Governor (with the advice and consent of the Senate); to provide for their term, duties and compensation; to provide for the enforcement of the rules and regulations of the Division of Health of the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

The chapter was proud of its part in the passage in January, 1952 of the Uniform Code of Plumbing and Sewers, Rules and Regulation of the St. Louis County. The chapter was also active in the Civilian Defense Program, working in conjunction with the Auxiliary Police Division of the St. Louis Police Department.

Regarding the Polio Fund, Art Whitney was appointed chairman for 1952 and decided to collect fifty cents from each member present at meetings, then draw out a name. The winning member would keep half and donate half to the Polio Fund. Because the same members kept winning, the raffle was discontinued.

It was reported in 1953 that every member of the Missouri Chapter was on some committee. The chapter had about fourteen different committees at that time.

When the Western Missouri Chapter officers were installed at the 1953 Annual Meeting by L. Glen Shields, some Missouri members transferred to this new chapter. Because we now had a Western Missouri Chapter, the Missouri Chapter would be know as the Eastern Missouri Chapter.

Due to some effort, membership increased to 101 by 1955. The Ladies Auxiliary was also organized in January of 1955. Past chapter presidents were honored at the March meeting. A presentation from Fred Schneider of Johns-Mansville which included color sound movies graphically illustrating the process of manufacture and application of asbestos sewer, vent, water pipe and transite flue pipe. The May luncheon was highlighted by C. W. Copley of the Sanitation Department of the Health Division of the City of St. Louis. He used movies to show the rat-infested and blighted slum areas of Missouri and then spent time talking about how the municipal government was handicapped by a lack of funds and qualified inspectors. The chapter appointed a committee to work towards correcting this problem. Out-door toilet facilities were being replaced by modern conveniences in compliance with the law. At the June meeting, the chapter adopted a resolution designed to promote legislation stipulating that cities such as St. Louis be required to provide sewage treatment plants at the discharge ends of sewers emptying into the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. It also decided to approve a program calling for inter-industry cooperation between master plumbers, journeymen, apprentice plumbers, wholesalers, manufacturers agents and other representatives in order to protect the interests of the plumbing industry and the community.

By 1956 membership was 119 and it was established that the third Monday of the month would be the regular meeting night except for occasions such as the Annual Stag and Barbecue Dinner Meeting at the St. Charles Fire Plug Inn. The third excursion steamer ride on the Mississippi River was both a financial and social success. Attendance at our meetings increased 60% and our evenings were always too short for the business at hand. Our meetings consisted of speakers and pictures to enliven and entertain.

The Ladies Auxiliary was very active and an important part of our chapter. They worked hard to help make our activities a success. The first Installation Dinner Dance which was held January 25, 1958, was the most successful social event of our chapter and it was due to our Auxiliary.

Passage of the Water Pollution Control Bill was a top priority of the chapter for the past three years. It was passed on July 8, 1957.

At the March 1960 meeting, Vice President Gerry Fogarty told the members that he was about to publish a chapter paper named Sanitizer. He did a fine job of presenting meeting notices, news items and general information to the membership. Six issues were sent in 1962 and 16 since its inception.

At the April 1960 meeting, a resolution for members in retirement was adopted. Members reaching the age of 65 years and retiring from active employment shall have the privilege of participating in all the functions of the Eastern Missouri Chapter without the payment of dues. Members over 65 years, upon payment of \$10.00 per year to the national organization shall have all the privileges of the ASSE and the local chapter.

Once again our chapter was host for the ASSE Annual Meeting which was held in St. Louis in 1961.

By 1963, the chapter had hosted Annual Meetings, Steve Gilmore of the E. Missouri Chapter had received the H. B. Davis Award and the chapter was the home of Past President Arthur Whitney. A phone committee was formed to stimulate interest in attendance at meetings. The chapter was also involved in attempting to establish a minimum Standard State Plumbing Code for Missouri.

The objective selected for 1964 was to promote the plumbing industry state wide and educate the general public to the necessity of maintaining adequate health and safety standards.

We were saddened by the death of Gerry Fogarty in 1964. He had been our past president and editor of the Sanitizer magazine.

In 1965, the chapter tried rotating nights and places of their meetings in order to attract more members to the meetings.

We had a rewarding and productive year in 1967 thanks, in part, to our very active program Chairman Thomas Wallenberg. He held this position for many years.

Our newsletter Sanitizer was sent to our 66 members and 350 contractor friends. This newsletter was a single page, very compact, with a single message each month.

The chapter had been holding monthly meetings on products related to our plumbing industry. The average attendance was about 30 members. The Board of Directors were assigned to various committees and asked to become very active and report on their activities at each meeting.

Our 1971 January meeting was on sewage treatment and pumping equipment, our February meeting was cross-connection control, our March meeting was a discussion of our chapter's future and assigning duties to

our members, our April meeting was secondary sewage treatment and our September meeting created great interest on our revised plumbing code.

Our chapter has been very busy with code committee meetings, back siphonage committee meetings and even meetings with the Ladies Auxiliary. We were getting a good start on the State Code.

It was reported in 1976 that President Leonard B. Meiners attended the graduation ceremonies and dinner dance of journeymen plumbers of Local Union #35 and presented a trophy award to the outstanding graduating apprentice, which also included a one year honorary membership with the Missouri Chapter.

The chapter had been working with County Health and Medical Care for air pollution control, the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District which covers St. Louis City and County, the Board of Alderman and the City of St. Louis to keep the plumbing code upgraded, backflow prevention, education and testing of personnel.

The chapter was also trying to increase membership. Our chapter's dinner meetings were held on the fourth Thursday of every month except June, July and August. We had speakers with topics pertaining to codes, code changes, new products and new methods for using the old products. Our family picnic in June kept getting better every year. We also invited all plumbing inspectors from St. Louis and St. Louis County.

In 1984, we had a bar-b-cue in July at Tower Grove Park and all plumbing inspectors from St. Louis and St. Louis County were invited along with our members.

Our January 1986 meeting was an open forum type meeting and gave everyone the opportunity to voice an opinion or discuss something. Our other meetings were our standard format of a dinner, business meeting and a guest speaker.

The ASSE Annual Meeting was again held in St. Louis in 2005.

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.