

# THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER

**Established: 1952**

In the spring of 1952, Chief Inspector of Minneapolis, Walter Dunn, who was National Secretary, organized a meeting to start the Minnesota Chapter. He received support from the Plumbers's Union #15, the Minneapolis Gas Company and from Dunwoody Institute. Financial records indicate that 31 people paid dues of \$15.00 to become our Charter Members. \$10.00 of those dues went to the National and \$5.00 gave the Chapter a working capital. Walter Sahlin, of Dunwoody, became our first President and Clarence Straiton, a Minneapolis Inspector, became our first Secretary/Treasurer. Plumbers Union #15 voted to assist by granting expense money for the Annual Meeting for one Inspector and the President of the Union so they could attend that meeting. The City of Minneapolis paid for the Chief Inspector. The newly formed Minnesota Chapter donated \$25.00 to Dunwoody Institute for many years to come. Our meetings were held on Tuesdays, but this later had to be changed because of a conflict with some members who taught Plumbing Apprentices on Tuesdays.

Financial records indicate that the following paid dues on April 15, 1952 to become Charter members: A. W. Andresen, Raymond M. Anderson, Donald O. Bergerson, Ralph L. Bloom, Robert W. Bowler, William J. Egan, Leonard J. Elwood, Lloyd S. Harris, Frank P. Hogan, Burton R. Hovde, Arthur J. Johnson, George H. Johnstone, Allen O. Larson, Bernard P. Mooney, Donald J. Nelson, H.C. Nicols, Clare Nordwall, L. K. Olson, Milton G. Orr, George G. Penny, Miles E. Quigley, C. J. Schneider, Albert W. Schultz, Maurice Sussman, Robert H. Sweeney, Paul G. Kurzeka, Walter A. Dunn, Ralph Lichliter Sr., C. W. Straiton and William J. Traub. Others who joined later in the year were Arthur Kaplan, Henry Agnes and I. J. Oakes.

1953 – Through the persuasive abilities of Walter Dunn, our chapter grew to about 50 members. The President was Walter Sahlin of Dunwoody Institute and the Secretary/Treasurer was Clarence Straiton, a Minneapolis Inspector. Monthly meetings were held which were primarily dinner meetings.

1954 – The chapter grew to 63 members with the same officers, President Sahlin and Secretary/Treasurer Straiton. Through the efforts of John Pegors and the Dunwoody Institute, the chapter started a newsletter. Originally entitled, U Name It U Can Have It, after a contest for a title won by Ray Anderson, it was later renamed Pipeline Echoes. The prize was 5 pounds of caulking lead. On August 18, we lost our Secretary with the death of Clarence Straiton. John Pegors took over the secretarial duties.

1955 – The chapter now had 68 members with officers President Sahlin and Secretary John Pegors. Interest improved with the circulation of the Pipeline Echoes newsletter. Eight monthly meetings were held, three of them dinner meetings. During the summer months, Minnesota had too many competitive outdoor activities, so meetings were not held then.

1956 – Kenneth L. Anderson was elected as our new President and John Pegors continued as Secretary. We had 68 members. There were seven monthly meetings, most of them were dinner meetings. Speakers and discussions were held on such subjects as Problems Concerning Commercial Detergents, and a presentation was given by the Gas Company on Providing Sufficient Hot Water In Eating Establishments, Primarily For Dishwashing.

1957 – Kenneth L. Anderson continued as the Chapter President and John Pegors as Secretary/Treasurer. We had 61 members and held eight monthly meetings, mostly dinner meetings, on the first Wednesday of the month.

1958 – Most of the chapter's dinner meetings were held at Dunwoody Institute with dinner being made by students. We had approximately 60 members. We had a support program for the Clean Air Clean Water movement with John Pegors leading. Our President was Kenneth Anderson and Oliver Dunn took over as Secretary/Treasurer.

1959 – A downward trend began this year with an internal ruling from the Building Inspections Department that limited the time off the inspectors could have to participate in outside activities and receiving reimbursements for those expenses. This virtually stopped all attendance to the Annual Meetings by the inspectors.

1960 – This year we had some very interesting meetings, one with respect to air pollution and another pertaining to water contamination in private wells. Our membership had declined to 41 members. Kenneth Anderson remained as President and Oliver Dunn was Secretary/Treasurer.

1961 – Oliver Dunn continued as Secretary/Treasurer and Kenneth Anderson as President. One of our meetings was with the Minneapolis Gas Co. concerning Gas Pipe Sizing and another with the Health Dept. discussing the Multiple Housing Code.

1962 – In January, Ralph Nelson was requested to assume the Presidency of the Chapter. Loren Simer was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The Chapter was at a very low ebb and our monthly meetings were attended by only 5 or 6 people. Realizing this, Mr. Nelson accepted with the stipulation that there would be no further meetings until an assessment of conditions and possible corrections be initiated. With the knowledge that the budget for the Department of Inspections was soon to be submitted, Mr. Nelson asked Don Erickson, head of the Department of Inspections, if the order restricting the Inspectors participation in the Annual Meeting could be lifted and that the new Chief Inspectors dues, travel expenses and registration fees for the Annual Meeting be paid for by the Building Department's budget. Mr. Erickson agreed asserting that he considered the American Society of Sanitary Engineering a very worthwhile organization. Later in the year Ralph Lichliter Jr. became the new Chief Inspector.

In October, I attended the Annual Meeting along with Reuben Porter, Union President, and Frank Thomas at Little Rock, Arkansas. In an attempt to find methods to further our chapter, my wife Averyl and I spoke with Mrs. Mildred Ignatius, Membership Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary and she encouraged the formation of an Auxiliary for our Chapter. I promised her that I would work toward that goal.

In December, we had our first Christmas party at the President, 3021 Nicollet Ave. Minneapolis. My wife, Averyl, and I hosted this party. Averyl and a friend of ours, Grace Jensen, made and acquired many favors and door prizes for this party, which turned out to be a huge success. Fifteen wives of members attended. Mrs. Jensen was the receptionist and a secretary at the Department of Inspections. At this meeting I explained the idea of having a Women's Auxiliary as an incentive for the improvement of the Chapter. Mrs. Oliver Dunn accepted the chairmanship of a committee to organize this Auxiliary. Ramona and Averyl spent the next few weeks contacting wives of our membership explaining and encouraging them to attend an organization meeting to be held in January. We had about 40 faithful members at the time. As a result of this Christmas party and the following organization of the Women's Auxiliary of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Sanitary Engineering, I feel that our Chapter was resurrected from an almost certain demise.