

THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Established: 1949

Leo Newman, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced the formation of the Wisconsin Chapter at the 1949 Annual Meeting.

The chapter, with the help of its sister chapter, the Illinois Chapter, tried to encourage the government to enforce the Wisconsin Plumbing Codes, and encourage only competent people in the plumbing industry to deal with the health and general welfare issues. This was especially important because of the stockyards near Chicago. Along the shore of Lake Michigan south of Milwaukee, some old existing sewers were emptying directly into the lake. The State Board of Health was concerned about this condition, and hopefully within the next year or two, the Metropolitan Sewage Commission will have eliminated these lake outlets. The chapter officers have asked the Legislative Committee to review all Wisconsin Codes and make a recommendation, pointing out the necessity for a reasonably restrictive plumbing code. We felt that during the upcoming session of the legislature, bills would be introduced proposing changes in our sanitary code which, if passed, would seriously handicap those charged with the responsibility to safeguard public health. At the 1952 Annual Meeting, the chapter was proud to say they were partly responsible for three bills with the Legislative Council. If they are approved, the staff of state plumbing inspectors will more than double and control the sale, delivery and installation of plumbing materials.

By 1954, even though the chapter had 39 members, it has been quite inactive, but we plan to rejuvenate it. The Health Commissioner was guest speaker at the October chapter meeting and talked about the new Housing Code for the city of Milwaukee which would give the Health Commissioner authority to have sanitary facilities inspected and, if found inadequate, it would give him power to have such conditions corrected.

For the February 1955 meeting, which was held in Madison, the chapter invited as guest speaker the sanitary engineer for the State of Wisconsin and Dr. Neupert, Secretary of the State Board of Health. Then in May, in Milwaukee, there was a discussion pertaining to legislation pertaining to health sanitation.

Our chapter supported the State Sanitary officials in their demands to strengthen legislation which would give the state sanitary engineer additional powers for the department's program to eliminate the pollution of our streams and inland lakes.

In 1956, the chapter launched a drive for new members. Three meetings were held during the year with notice being sent to all members and other individuals who it was felt might consider membership. The chapter gained 11 new members during the year.

After our Secretary, Elmer Schield, died unexpectedly on April 7, 1958, Charles Strancke stepped in as interim Secretary. Elmer was a hard and diligent worker for our chapter and he will be missed.

By 1961, our Ladies Auxiliary had been formed. Membership was at 83 and represents the various experiences and sources of information necessary to fulfill the purpose of this organization.

On July 13, 1961 our chapter, along with the Illinois Chapter, were guests of the Line Material Industries for a luncheon, refreshments and a tour of the Barton Fibre Products Plant in Barton.

In 1963, the chapter traveled monthly to a different part of the state for its meetings so every member could have the opportunity to attend. We

had 101 members. Our committees were very active; especially the Research and Membership Committees. Not a meeting passed without having these two committees promoting something new.

The attendance at monthly meetings was very good, thanks to the phone and post card system and the dedication of our members to participate in the purpose of this Society.

It was reported in 1976 that, through the efforts of our Legislative Committee, the chapter was instrumental in defeating a state bill which would have allowed municipalities to hire unlicensed personnel to inspect plumbing in one and two family homes.

By the end of March 1977, the chapter had completed the last phase of their 2500 piece mailing to master plumbers in Wisconsin who were not members of ASSE. Members were asked to contact them and try to be the new member's sponsor. The person with the most new members received a \$100.00 bond and everyone else signing a member would get a less valuable prize. Everyone received something. These awards were made possible through donations of the Bradley Corporation, Felly & Associates Insurance, Halquist Stone Company and the Troy Plumbing Company.

As with other years, we have had interesting speakers with timely subjects. We realized that without a little social life you lose some members, so we break up our dinner meetings with a social event in May and hold our annual Wisconsin golf outing and steak dinner in August. We started our annual picnic in 1972 which was held at fellow member Mike Toebes' little farm.

Erv Mirr mentioned in his chapter report that the chapter had an annual meeting at one of the local breweries with the Plumbing Section of the Division of Health of our State. The chapter usually had about 100 people in attendance enjoying a full glass of "Milwaukee Kool Aid."

Along with other informative chapter meetings, we had an annual theatre-dinner evening, a golf outing, an installation dinner and the newest activity for our group was the tailgate party where we served lunch and refreshments under a huge ASSE sign in the parking lot at Milwaukee County Stadium prior to the game between the Milwaukee Brewers and the Boston Red Sox. We also had about 40 members awake early enough to meet jointly to see the sun rise on May third, this nation's first Sun Day.

During the summer of 1980, the chapter participated in the first Regional Meeting for this area which was held in LaCross, WI.

We published a newsletter each month which was sent to all chapter members. Our attendance at the meetings was good, and we came to the conclusion that if you give people the proper speakers which give them the knowledge they are looking for, your attendance will be good.

Our meetings in 1985 consisted of the plumbing code meetings in general because Wisconsin had revised their codes and they were very different from the codes we had before.

Programs throughout the year included showing an ASSE slide presentation, a discussion on water distribution materials and their product evaluation and educational seminars and a joint dinner meeting with the Wisconsin ASPE Chapter with a speaker from the Wisconsin Department of Labor & Human Relations. Our chapter also held a 25 year Membership Award Dinner. The Auxiliary was present at each of our meetings.

In 1990, we had almost 100 members.

In 1996, meetings were held in March, May, June and September. Our guest speakers gave talks on subjects pertaining to grease separators, ADA and backflow. At the September meeting, we were told of the new state code and code enforcement.

In 1997, Chapter Secretary Erv Mirr said because the State of Wisconsin now required continuing education, the chapter asked and received permission from the Commerce Department to honor the papers of our meeting speakers for one credit hour each.

We were able to hold two meetings in 1998 where our attendees were able to get credit for three hours of continuing education for their state license.

THE BADGER WISCONSIN CHAPTER

A group of 11 interested persons met on February 15, 1968 in the City of Wausau and determined that a chapter based in the geographical north center of Wisconsin could most effectively provide contact and serve those interested persons living in the west, central and northern sections of the state who are generally at too great a distance to travel to the urban areas in the south for meetings.

A program was set up for the first official meeting on May 23 and a chapter dinner meeting on June 13 which was attended by our International President William Koenig.

The ASSE Annual Meeting was held in Milwaukee in 1971.

In 1976 it was reported that the chapter held monthly dinner meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month with the exception of June, July and August. The chapter also had a number of outings and an annual banquet in December.

It was reported at the 1980 Annual Meeting that the chapter had become inactive.

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.