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Inside this issue:

March 2008

President's Thoughts	2
VP Tech	4
VP Legislative	5
VP Education	6
VP Membership	6
Just for Fun	7
Birthdays	8
Anniversaries	8
Dates to Remember	8
Golf Tournament	9 & 10
Ads	11-16
Convention Info	3
Grassroots Budget Mtg	18

**March  
ASPE Meeting**

March 25, 2008

11:00 AM Board Meeting

11:30-1:00 PM General Mem-  
bership  
Lunch & Technical Meeting

DOWD YMCA  
7th Floor  
400 East Morehead Street  
Charlotte, NC

**COST:  
\$15**

## March Tech Session

Be sure to mark this month's meeting on your calendar. The speaker will be Phil Edwards, Chief Mechanical & Plumbing Inspector for the Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement. He'll be going over common errors, and open it up for questions.

Don't miss this opportunity!

# FREE LUNCH

AT THE FIRST MONTHLY MEETING  
FOR NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR  
SPONSOR MEMBER WITH COMPLETED  
APPLICATION AND PAYMENT.

Remember to sign in for your  
CPD CREDIT!!



# CHARLOTTE CHAPTER

OF THE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

**Volume 8, Issue 5**

LOCAL CHAPTERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED  
TO SPEAK FOR THE SOCIETY

**March 2008**

## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS...LES SCOTT

Change is in the air **Chapter Elections** are here again and Spring is on its way. In April the chapter will be voting on new chapter Board members. The chapter is receiving nominations for anyone wanting to serve on the Chapter Board this year. This year the chapter is seeking potential candidates to serve as Treasurer. If you are interested, please contact Les Scott or Todd Arnett for details and to answer any questions you may have.

Todd has scheduled a great guest speaker this month. Please check out his article and see who it is. I think everyone will want to be at this one. So please plan to join us this month at our monthly meeting to be held on Thursday, March 25, 2008 at the Dowd YMCA. Hope to see you there.

Let's not forget this is a convention year. It is also the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Charlotte Chapter. If you plan on attending start making your plans now!!! Long Beach sounds like a great place to visit and we can see what influenced our own Scott Steindler and his personality.

Les Scott  
Charlotte Chapter President  
P: 704-586-2375  
[lscott@freemanwhite.com](mailto:lscott@freemanwhite.com)

## **2008 ASPE Convention and EPE Show** **LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA** **OCTOBER 25 - 29, 2008**



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS...CONTINUED

Here is some information that I received from David Anelli ASPE Region 3 Director with preliminary hotel cost for this years Convention and Engineered Plumbing EXPO (EPE).

The Hyatt is the convention hotel and is directly adjacent to the center connected with walkways. If the weather is nice, it is actually quicker to access the convention center by going outside and around a corner.

Speaking of hotels, there are three hotels in close proximity to the convention center.

The next closest is the Renaissance Hotel, which is two blocks up the hill from the convention center with the Westin Hotel being two blocks south of the Renaissance making it a little less than a 4-block walk. All of these hotels are within \$15 per night of each other ranging between \$140 and \$155 per night. It is my personal opinion that the Hyatt and the Renaissance are the two best hotels available to ASPE. Other hotels in our group will be the Queen Mary, the Hilton, Courtyard and several others that will require shuttling.

You are probably wondering how you can get your chapter into the hotel of your preference. Well we are proposing a special deal for housing specifically designed to accommodate the delegates and our most gracious manufacturer has and affiliate representatives.

Beginning March 1, the chapters will be able to get a block of rooms to accommodate their delegates in either Hyatt or the Renaissance by posting a credit card for guarantee. We will also be booking suites for the chapters wanting one during this introductory period. Let me help you with booking your accommodations especially if you need a suite and I will make sure you get the best available to ASPE. As always it will be first come first served so don't be tardy and decide early on what your budgets will support as far as delegate attendance goes, because after March it will be opened up to our exhibitors in efforts to encourage exhibitor hospitality at the two prime hotels. There are some very good low end, high end and casual restaurants, bars and sites to see surrounding the convention center and adjoining Hyatt. The entertainment district is lit up like Vegas at night.

Besides the room accommodations, the convention will be presenting some top-notch educational seminars, programs and workshops. I have seen the potential lists and the Educational and Technical Committees have their hands full in making the final selections

We will not be focusing on as many "Track" for programs as we did at the Symposium. Instead the programs will lean toward more diverse programs with specialized topics and at the same time add in more workshops

The Engineered Plumbing EXPO (EPE) will again be the greatest and one of the largest exhibits of plumbing products in the world. The show is a sell out once again and appears to be every bit as large as Tampa's. Not to forget the most important business of this convention is the business of "The Society".

### **Les Scott**

ASPE Charlotte Chapter President  
704-586-2357

Greetings to all,

Spring is upon us which is a sign of important events for the chapter. First, our chapter golf tournament is on April 18<sup>th</sup>. This is an excellent opportunity to leave the stress of the office behind and interact with your fellow members and manufacturer representatives. The tournament is also a major source of income for the chapter. Please see the enclosed form for team registration and hole sponsorship.

Second, our chapter elections will be held during our April 22nd technical session meeting. There are several board positions that are open and you are encouraged to announce your candidacy if you are interested. Please see the President's article for the available positions and details.

The Dowd YMCA has announced a 100% increase in the room rental rate that goes into effect this month. The chapter has a signed agreement with the YMCA for rental of the room for the entire year of 2008. However, the YMCA has informed me that the rate increase will still be applicable regardless of the agreement. The chapter is currently seeking other meeting places and believe we have a possible new location. This has not been confirmed yet. Once we have received confirmation, I or Laura Pelchat, will announce the new location via e-mail to all members.

Phil Edwards of the Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement will be our speaker at this month's session. Phil is the Chief Mechanical and Plumbing Inspector and will speak about common errors seen on submitted drawings. Phil will also answer any questions or concerns that you may have. We will be meeting on March 25, at 11:30 on the **7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Dowd YMCA**. I hope to see you all then.

Best Regards,

Todd Arnett  
Vice President Technical

**LOST**

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the cast iron golf tournament trophy?

It seems to have been missing for awhile.

**REWARD OFFERED**

**RESULT OF DROUGHT**

*Good job conserving water  
... and now rates may go up*

*Average monthly increase would be about \$6.36 if city approves new plan*

**JULIA OLIVER** [joliver@charlotteobserver.com](mailto:joliver@charlotteobserver.com)

*The drought has made water precious, and it may make it more expensive, too.*

*Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities wants to increase water and sewer rates more than usual this year to make up for low sales.*

*The increases would cost a typical customer about \$6.36 each month, beginning in May, if approved by City Council.*

*The proposal also would penalize heavy water users more. Customers are charged on a tiered system: The more water used, the more expensive it is per gallon. The proposal makes those tiers more aggressive, increasing the cost of water more quickly.*

*Utilities Director Doug Bean, who presented the proposal to City Council on Wednesday, emphasized that he still encourages customers to conserve water.*

*"Over the long haul, conservation is good," he said. But over the next fiscal year, that conservation is expected to cost the city about \$30 million in lost water and sewer revenues.*

*The shortfall threatens the system's bond rating -- and its ability to borrow money at low interest rates, Bean said. If the city doesn't increase fees, it could cost the system millions of dollars in interest.*

*The water and sewer system is funded entirely by rates and fees, not taxes.*

*The proposed rate increase is large by city standards. Typically, Charlotte raises water and sewer rates by 5 to 8 percent each year. This would be an almost 16 percent jump.*

*Council members said they hoped the rates could go back down once the drought ends.*

*Bean said it is impossible to tell what will happen, because people's behavior may have changed. They may continue to conserve water, even if the dry weather ends.*

*"What we don't know is what consumption pattern we will see in the future," Bean said.*

After reading this article I went online and read the budget revision posted by CMUD. It is very clear in the verbiage of this revision that there will never be a reduction in rates after the drought ends.

It is also true that compared to other local jurisdictions Charlotte/Mecklenburg rates have historically been lower than the surrounding areas, and the current increase will only close the gap, but not put us over the average ratepayer in NC.

Rate increases are just a fact of life in the current times. Gas, Electricity, and Water rates have increased all around. Economists have predicted that we would be seeing increased energy rates and we are indeed seeing them now in Charlotte.

At this point I think the best we can expect is that rebate programs will eventually be instituted. If this is accomplished we have reached our goals.



## VP MEMBERSHIP...LAURA PELCHAT

Thank you to David Lovein, David Williams & Doug Hall from Siemens for their presentation on pure water. They graciously gave up some of their time so we could hear from the Green Industries representative regarding the ongoing effects of the drought.

ASPE will be conducting another webinar, this one will be April 16th. The topic is Green Opportunities in Medical Gases. More information available on the National ASPE website.

### WHO DO YOU KNOW?

We need to increase our membership to 90 before July. With the Convention coming up in the fall, our number of delegates will be determined by our June 30 membership enrollment. By increasing our size to 90, we will gain an additional delegate for voting purposes. Check with lapsed members, fellow workers, friends in the business. Remember also, if you have interns in your office, there is a student membership level that is only \$25. As always, if you would like membership information sent to someone, please let me know, [lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com](mailto:lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com)

### **Top Ten List of reasons to join, and here's #6**

Watch you mailbox, you should be receiving Volume 3 of the Plumbing Engineering Design Handbook.

## V.P. EDUCATION...GEORGE REESE

### FIELD TRIP!

Did you get the same tingle of excitement as you did when you heard that in school?

We will be touring the McDowell Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday, April 2nd, 10:00am. We need a head count for this, please respond back to Laura, either phone 704-525-3388 or email [lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com](mailto:lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com)

### Directions

The McDowell plant is located at 4901 Neck Road, Huntersville. This is located just off Beatties Ford Road near the intersection of Hwy. 73. Take I-77 north to exit 25 for Hwy. 73. Travel west on Hwy. 73, and turn left on Beatties Ford Road. Neck Road will be a couple of miles on your right, at the sign for Rural Hill Farm. Continue on Neck Road, and you will see the McDowell plant entrance on your right. Please pull up to the security gate, and push the button to notify the operators of your arrival. I'd suggest carpooling, as parking is limited.

## YOUR AGE BY DINNER & RESTAURANT MATH

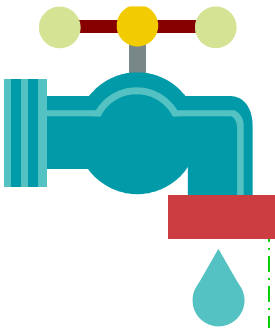
Okay, get out your slide rules and figure out how this works!  
It takes less than a minute. Work it out as you read .

1. First of all, pick the number of times a week that you would like to go out to eat.  
(more than once but less than 10)
2. Multiply this number by 2 (just to be bold)
3. Add 5
4. Multiply it by 50
5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1758...  
If you haven't, add 1757.
6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born.  
You should have a three digit number

The first digit of this was your original number. (I.e., How many times  
you want to go out to restaurants in a week.)

The next two numbers are  
**YOUR AGE ! ----- (Oh YES, it is!)**

*THIS IS THE ONLY YEAR (2008) IT WILL EVER WORK*



### WATER SAVER TIP

CMUD customers can measure how much water they use, and identify problem areas, with do-it-yourself home water audits. Audit material comes with a free water-conservation kit. E-mail [mklein@ci.charlotte.nc.us](mailto:mklein@ci.charlotte.nc.us) or call 704-399-2221

## Anniversaries

### March

Bill McElrath, Jr - 32 years  
Bobby Morrison - 21 years  
Willis Horton - 18 years  
Les Scott - 11 years  
Tim Rape - 9 years  
Joyce Henderson, Greg Andrews - 7 years  
Wes Horne, Charlie Curlin - 7 years

Check out our great sources of experience, this is a lot of years with ASPE!

## Birthdays -

### March

Gary Burton 9th  
Ron Deese 11th  
Lee Johnson 13th  
Robert Rees 16th  
David Hawthorne 20th  
Donnie Taylor 22nd

## *Dates to Remember*

March 25 - Charlotte Technical Meeting

April 2 - Tour of McDowell Water Treatment Plant

April 4 - Golf Tournament Registration due

April 5 - Grassroots Budget Meeting for Chapters - see page 18 for information,

April 16 - ASPE Webinar: Green Opportunites in Medical Gases

April 18 - Charlotte Chapter of ASPE Golf Tournament Fund Raiser

April 18 or 19 - CPD online exam

October 25-29 - ASPE 2008 Convention & Engineered Plumbing Exposition  
—Long Beach, CA

# CHARLOTTE CHAPTER



## 2008 ASPE / CP&F OPEN ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CHARLOTTE CHAPTER FUND RAISER

IT IS TIME TO GET YOUR FOURSOME READY AND REGISTER !

**WHERE :**  
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**WHEN :**  
FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2008  
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**WHY :**  
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PRIZES FOR LONGEST DRIVE AND CLOSEST TO THE HOLE  
HOLE IN ONE CONTEST

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CAPTAINS CHOICE

**REGISTER YOUR FOURSOME BY APRIL 4, 2008.**  
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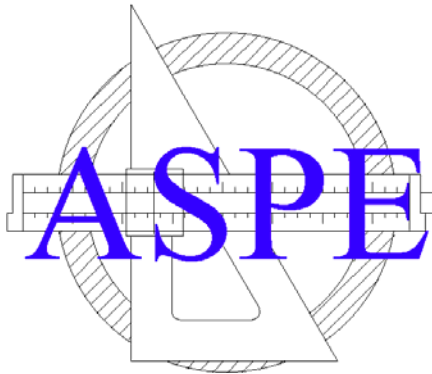
COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE AND MAIL TO:

SCOTT CATHEY

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SUITE 500  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28211

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2008 Chapter Fundraiser**

**Emerald Lake Golf Club** 9750 Tournament Drive Matthews, N.C.  
Phone 704-882-7888 www.emeraldlakegolfclub.com

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**TOURNAMENT PLAYERS**

**TEAM MEMBER NAME**

**COMPANY NAME REPRESENTING**

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YOU MAY SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY ( WE WILL PLACE YOU ON A TEAM )

**PLAYERS ENTRY FEES**

NUMBER PLAYERS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60.00 PER PLAYER PAYMENT RECEIVED BEFORE APRIL 4, 2008 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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---

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASPE**

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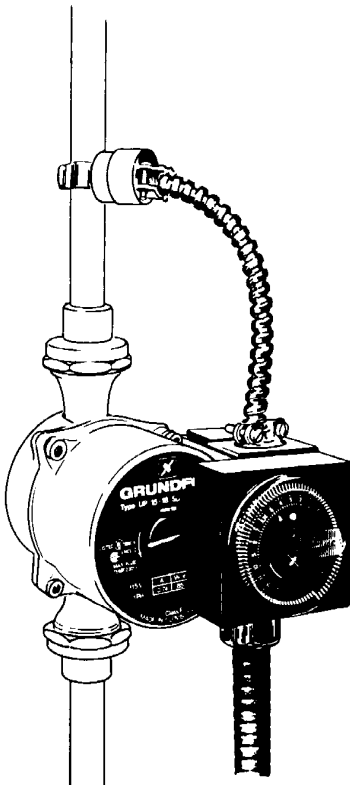
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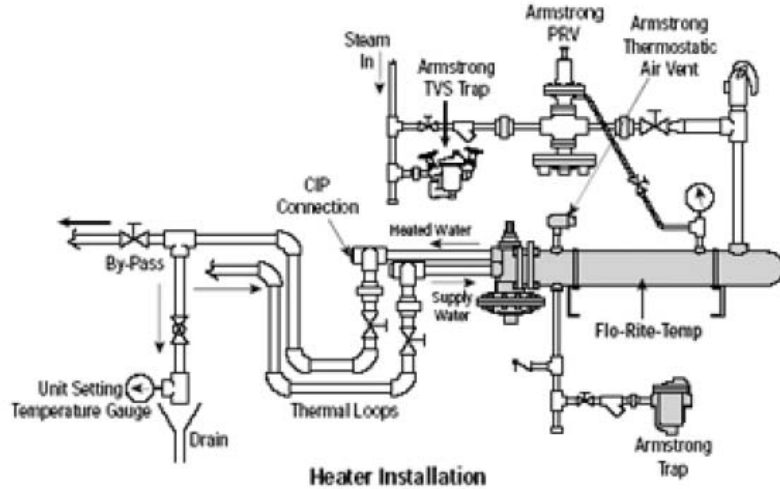
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# CHARLOTTE CHAPTER

## 2007—2008 Charlotte Chapter of ASPE Board Members

Feel free to contact any of your local board members with questions or suggestions.

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### Editors Corner

**HELP!** We need input from you regarding helpful information, articles, or websites that you find useful. Let me know of any dates of upcoming events that would be beneficial to the membership.

Laura Pelchat  
704-501-1421  
[lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com](mailto:lpelchat@smithandstevenson.com)



# American Society of Plumbing Engineers

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## PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Yes, I will be attending the Saturday, April 5, 2008 Grassroots Budget Meeting at the ASPE Office.

Yes, I will be attending the Saturday, April 5, 2008 Grassroots Budget Meeting via webcast.

Yes, I will be attending the Saturday, April 5, 2008 Grassroots Budget Meeting via webcast and will have additional members of my chapter attending.

No, I will be unable to attend this meeting.

Yes, I will need sleeping accommodations.      No, I will not need sleeping accommodations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Chapter/Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Position (e.g., Chapter President): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(must supply)

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