



Newsletter

Western Michigan Chapter

April 2026

WESTERN MICHIGAN

This months meeting info:

Grand Rapids Meeting:

Kalamazoo Meeting:

Dates:

April 15th & 16th

Location:

**Canopy by Hilton - Grand Rapids Downtown
131 Ionia Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Location:

**Park Club of Kalamazoo
219 W. South Street
Kalamazoo , MI 49007**

Speaker:

**Kyle Emmons
JJM Alkaline Technologies**

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Subject:

A Burning Question: What is Acidic Condensate?

Cost:

\$30 per person

Cost:

\$30 per person

Important Information

2026 ASPE Golf Outing

Registration for the 2026 ASPE Golf Outing is now open. Get your foursomes together and click [HERE](#) to reserve your spot. There are also plenty of opportunities for sponsorships and advertising for our vendor partners.



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Chapter President — Nick VonMyhr

April President's Message

As we move into April, I'd like to start by thanking our March speaker, Tyler Oatman of Associated Heating and Sales, for an outstanding presentation on commercial lift station design.

Tyler did a fantastic job revisiting the fundamentals while also providing practical, real-world insight into basin sizing, pump selection, control strategies, and coordination considerations. Whether lift stations are a routine part of your work or something you encounter occasionally, the presentation offered valuable takeaways that can be immediately applied in the field. We appreciate Tyler taking the time to share his expertise with our chapter once again.

Upcoming Event – ASPE Golf Outing (May 18th)

Our annual ASPE West Michigan Golf Outing is right around the corner on **May 18th**, and spots are filling up quickly.

If you haven't already registered, now is the time to secure your place. This event is always a great opportunity to connect with fellow engineers, contractors, and industry partners in a relaxed setting outside the office.

Please use the link below to reserve your spot:

[Western Michigan ASPE - Meeting/Event Information](#)

We're looking forward to another great turnout for the chapter.



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C (513) 633-2609

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Ross Beck
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Emikez@newcenturysales.com

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Chapter President — Nick VonMyhr (continued)

Get Involved – Join the ASPE West Michigan Board

As our chapter continues to grow, we are always looking for members who are interested in getting more involved and helping shape the future of ASPE West Michigan.

Serving on the board is a great opportunity to:

- Build stronger connections within the local industry
- Develop leadership and organizational skills
- Contribute to the direction and growth of our chapter
- Support the next generation of plumbing engineers

If you are passionate about the plumbing engineering profession and want to take a more active role, serving on the board is an excellent next step. Whether you're newer to the industry or have years of experience, your perspective and involvement can make a meaningful impact.

If you're interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to reach out, we'd love to have you involved.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our April meeting.



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The Smarter Way to Heat Water

Say goodbye to storage tanks. Intellihot's commercial tankless water heaters are revolutionizing how buildings deliver hot water – with reliability, redundancy, and rapid response. These systems are ideal for restaurants, hotels, multi-unit residential, healthcare, and more.

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Let's connect – reach out to your Hedrick Associates rep to schedule a product demo, request a spec review, or learn more about these innovative systems.

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VP Education — Brian Peceny

So, your and engineer or designer and would like to add some professional accreditation to your signature line?

Or maybe you truly just want to be become a better plumbing engineer?

ASPE has a few opportunities for you.

1. Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD); This is ASPE's flagship program is design to demonstrate that the person who completes the training and passes the exam is truly a professional at plumbing design. It is the only recognized credentialed plumbing engineering program in the United States. We've attached a flyer that better explains the benefits for attaining this accreditation.
2. Green Plumbing Design (GPD); This certificate program is sponsored by ASPE and by the international Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. This certificate is only available to those who already hold the CPD certification or are a PE. As the name suggests, this program is dedicated to ensuring the efficient use of our water resources through water conservation. ASPE office this program through an on-demand platform found at ASPE Education. Self-paced and done on your own timeframe. The cost is \$500 for ASPE members or \$600 to others.
3. Certified Plumbing Design Technician (CPDT): The CPDT was design to be the first step towards obtaining the CPD designation.
4. Med Gas Workshop: As in 2025, ASPE has created workshops that will prepare individuals to site for the ASSE 6060 exam. The workshop includes a copy of NFPA-99, 32 hours of instruction, practical design exercises, 6060 practice exams and other activities. There are currently three workshop dates available this year.

For more information on why to earn your CPD, click [HERE](#). More detailed information is available online at ASPE.org. Look under the Education & Credentialing header.

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VP Membership—John Cassady

Hello ASPE Members,

We are currently at 96 members in the West Michigan chapter.

For those of you who have a membership expiring by the end of May, you should have received an email reminder from the national society already. I will send out follow-up reminders to you all as well.

When you are renewing your membership, please be sure to select West Michigan as your “home chapter”. Any “at large” members may miss out on communication from the chapter.

You can also update your chapter affiliation by logging in to [ASPE.org](https://www.aspe.org), following My Account > My Profile, and editing your information.

If you have a coworker interested in joining our chapter, please have them contact me with questions about membership.

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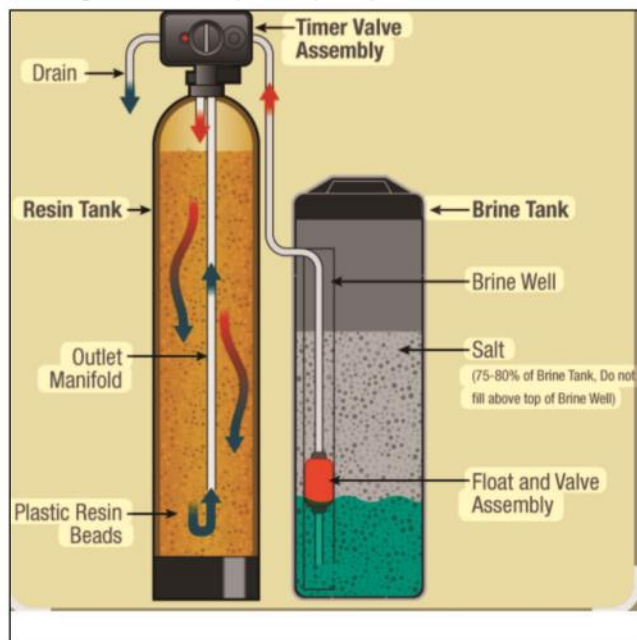
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EFFECTS OF SODIUM IN SOFT WATER AND ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS

There's been a lot written over the years about the adverse effects of a water softener with sodium as a byproduct in drinking water and in your septic system.



Generic Water Softener System

A water softener adds a small amount of sodium to drinking water, typically ranging from 12.5 mg to 35 mg per 8-ounce glass, depending on the initial hardness of your water. This amount is minimal, as one cup of milk has roughly 4 times more sodium.

Most water softener installations bypass the kitchen cold, (where a majority of the drinking water is taken). If you installed a unit without a Reverse Osmosis system you may or may not have soft water to your refrigerator chilled water dispenser and ice maker.

You would really need to consume a lot of softened water for it to elevate your sodium level but if you are on a sodium restricted diet you should drink Reverse Osmosis or raw water for the most part, or bottled water.

Many people have Reverse Osmosis systems installed along with a water softener to have drinking water at the kitchen sink, or to the chilled water dispenser in the refrigerator, and to the ice maker which covers 90% of all water consumption for drinking and cooking.

Water softeners discharge into a septic system. The dilution rate is so high that sodium really doesn't affect a septic system, however the water softener regeneration discharge puts additional load on the septic system every time it regenerates by sheer volume of water.

Modern studies generally show that sodium from water softeners does not harm properly functioning septic systems, and may actually benefit them by improving bacterial growth and increasing soil permeability. While older concerns focused on high salt levels disrupting bacteria, recent findings from the National Sanitation Foundation and other groups indicate that, when properly installed, the backwash volume is manageable.

Almost all homes that have a private septic system and a water softener, discharge that water softener drain effluent into the septic system. Very few put in a separate drain field just for the water softener.

In summary the **Sodium risks are very low** for those that have water softeners installed.

Have questions? Flier's can answer them.

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2025-2026 ASPE Western Michigan Meetings

September 10th & 11th
 Jerry Thompson
 Spears Manufacturing
 SCH 80 PVC/CPVC Systems

December 9th & 10th
 Kevin M. Coyne
 Concoa
 Lab Gases

March 11th & 12th
 Tyler Oatmen
 Associated Heating Sales Inc.
 Weil Plumps

October 8th & 9th
 John Hernandez
 Bradley Company
 Emergency Eyewash & Shower
 Equipment

January 14th & 15th
 Rich Lussier
 Toto
 ADA Bathroom Design

April 15th & 16th
 Kyle T. Emmons
 JJM Alkaline Technologies
 "A Burning Question"

November 12th & 13th
 Josh Manion
 Progressive Companies
 Municipal/Civil Engineering Interaction
 with Plumbing Engineers

February 11th & 12th
 Lauren Berenato
 Bradford White Corp.
 DOE 2026: Commercial Water
 Heater Requirements

May 13th & 14th
 Jeremy Martin
 Highland Tank
 TBD

Date: May 18th
 ASPE Annual Golf Outing

2025-2026 ASPE Western Michigan Chapter Board

PRESIDENT
 Nick Von Myhr
 MVH Engineering
 (616) 322-4713
 nick@mvheng.com

VP—MEMBERSHIP
 John Cassidy
 AirTech Equipment
 (616) 648 7703
 Jcassady30@gmail.com

EVENT COORDINATOR
 Breanna Kooiman
 Progressive Companies
 (616) 988-4854
 bkooiman@weareprogressive.com

TREASURER
 Chuck Shoudel, CPD, GGP
 Abonmarche Byce
 (269) 488-7195
 cshoudel@abonmarche.com

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
 Travis Smith, CPD
 Progressive Companies
 (616) 988-4862
 tsmith@weareprogressive.com

AYP LIASON
 Ryan Groves
 RL Deppmann
 (616) 330-9747
 RGroves@Deppmann.com

VP—TECHNICAL
 Tom Kingshott, CPD, GPD
 Progressive Companies
 (616) 361-2664
 kingshottt@weareprogressiveae.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
 Jonathan Burke
 Burke Agency
 (616) 217-1399
 jmburke@burkeagency.com

BOARD ADDRESS:
 ASPE Western Michigan
 P.O. Box 150047
 Grand Rapids, MI 49515
 aspewestmichigan@gmail.com

VP—EDUCATION
 Brian Peceny
 Progressive AE
 (616) 365-6541
 bpeceny@weareprogressiveae.com

VP—LEGISLATIVE
 Ryan Groves
 RL Deppmann
 (616) 330-9747
 RGroves@Deppmann.com

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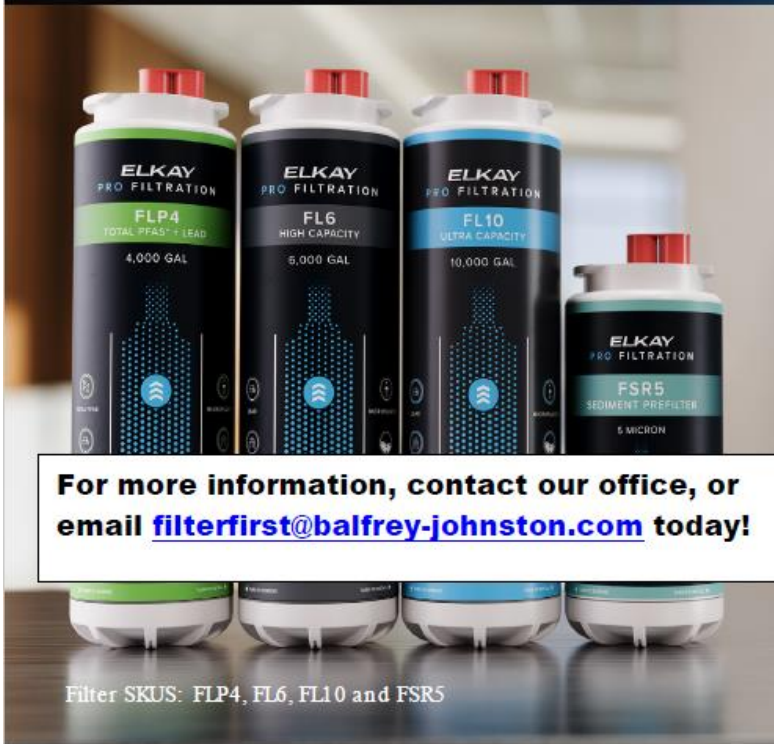
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1. Professional Development & Education

- **Technical resources:** Access to design guides, handbooks, and standards like the Plumbing Engineering Design Handbook Series, which are industry staples.
 - **Training & webinars:** Regular seminars, technical webinars, and certification courses to help you grow your skills (e.g., CPD – Certified in Plumbing Design).
 - **Continuing education credits:** Easily earn CEUs and PDHs to maintain professional licensure.
-

2. Networking & Mentorship

- **Local chapters:** ASPE has local chapters nationwide that host technical meetings, site tours, and social events—perfect for meeting experienced engineers, designers, and manufacturers.
 - **Mentorship:** Many chapters pair younger engineers with senior professionals who can guide you through design challenges and career development.
 - **Peer community:** You'll gain a professional network of engineers who share your challenges and can help with practical design advice.
-

3. Career Growth Opportunities

- **Recognition:** ASPE membership adds credibility to your résumé and signals commitment to professional excellence.
- **Job board & career center:** Exclusive access to plumbing and mechanical design positions.
- **Leadership opportunities:** Joining committees or serving as a chapter officer develops management and communication skills early in your career.

[Join ASPE Here!](#)



New Century Sales, Inc.
 Manufacturer's Representatives
 550 36th St. SE
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Michael Zago
 Principal
 D (616) 600-9660 x 107
 C (616) 293-2121
 E mikez@newcenturysales.com

Trevor Montag
 Hydronic Resource Specialist
 D (616) 600-9660 x 117
 C (734) 673-2119
 E trevorm@newcenturysales.com



NICK VON MYHR
 DESIGN DIRECTOR
 (616) 322-4713
 nick@mvheng.com
 www.mvhengineering.com
 4475 8th Ave Grandville, MI 49418



Connor Cleary
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13050 Northend Ave. Oak Park
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Western Michigan Chapter

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Please send a copy of your ads and/or business cards to Jonathan Burke:

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Thank you for supporting your local ASPE chapter.