



2008-09  
Winter

# Radon Reporter

American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists

## Radon News from



Washington, DC



Las Vegas, NV



St. Louis, MO

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AARST, the American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, mitigation and transfer of information for the benefit of members, consumers, and the public at large. AARST's leadership is democratically elected by the members.

AARST represents your voice as we meet the wide range of challenges facing radon professionals and the community. Your membership and participation provides you a voice in the changes to come, and allows you to gain updated information, discover new techniques, learn about new problems before they occur, and hone your professional skills.

AARST has several local chapters where you can meet other radon professionals and state and federal officials who work with the radon industry.

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# From the President

## Radon Economic Challenges, Opportunities and Responsibilities

By William J. Angell  
President, AARST

**T**he economic challenges facing our shared business of indoor radon risk reduction in 2009 are significant and they require our utmost dedication and attention. The question is where do we wish to most productively focus efforts? The answers have common elements whether you are in the private or public sector.

First, we must focus on the fact that all challenges in life present opportunities. One of the opportunities is to do what we must do. We must be relentless in our continued commitment to advance excellence, quality, and value in what we deliver to the public and private marketplaces. In this way we set ourselves apart as true professionals and make ourselves more valued in the marketplace.

Another opportunity is to innovate new ways to be the most effective in what we do. This may involve taking additional continuing education to learn what it takes to be the best you can be or it may involve focusing on those areas of our business that provide the best long-range return or results.

We must also be relentless as we continue our commitment to professional excellence and to the essential work required by our respective public and private sector missions. We must continue to advance our vital work of improving public health through radon risk reduction. We can, and will, strive to lead and to be innovative during these difficult financial times.

The end of January was a productive week for AARST members and the larger professional radon community.

On January 28th, radon leaders and radon heroes were recognized at the National Press Club in Washington and the next day a new phase of AARST's radon public policy initiative was launched by the Association in collaboration with Cancer Survivors against Radon (CanSAR, [www.cansar.org](http://www.cansar.org)).

### Courage and Grace in Radon Leadership

In Washington, CanSAR President Elizabeth Hoffman gave a motivating speech to the attendees. Hoffman recognized the important work of her fellow CanSAR members in attendance,

and called on everyone in the U.S. radon community to increase their efforts to reduce radon risk through mandatory testing in home sales and more aggressive radon policies both locally and nationally.

Her short presentation was very inspiring because Elizabeth announced that her lung cancer had returned for the third time and her prognosis is not good. As she announced that she was losing her personal battle against lung cancer, Elizabeth had the grace and courage to inspire us all to work harder. But it did not end there. The next morning Elizabeth led the effort on Capitol Hill, her head in a beautiful scarf, as she talked to Senatorial staff on the need for stronger radon protection laws. She and the other Cancer Survivors Against Radon are making a definite impact on our nation's policy makers.

### AARST President's Award

After Elizabeth spoke on Wednesday night, it was my pleasure, as the AARST President, to present our association's award to Dr. James Burkhart for his leadership in science and technology as well as his service as our Symposium Proceedings Editor.

Many of you have had the pleasure of participating in one of his radon classes. His award stands as recognition of not only his contribution but those who serve with him on the AARST Technical and Science Committee and the AARST Symposium Planning Committee.

As we plan the 2009 AARST International Radon Symposium, I encourage you to continue stating your opinions and suggestions of priorities how we shape the Symposium to strengthen your business of radon risk reduction.

*(See page 13 for a Washington report from Gloria Linnertz.)*

### The Importance of AARST Membership

If you are not a current member, it is very important that you join AARST to have your voice heard. If you are an AARST member, please consider donating what you can to AARST and CanSAR to strengthen your voice in Congress and state legislatures.

Also, join your nearest AARST chapter to support initiatives on the state and regional levels.

CONCORD, NH -- David S. Chase, Ph.D., 60, died Nov. 24, 2008, at home after a sudden illness.

- *legacy.com/UnionLeader*

Dave Chase was the Director of the New Hampshire State Radon Program and he was also an important, ongoing contributor to the science and technology of radon risk prevention. The program reflects a partnership resulting from the 1988 passage of the Indoor Radon Abatement Act and established a voluntary program with the USEPA to address the dangers of indoor radon.

In addition to his state duties, Dave previously served on the Radon Committee of the Conference of Radiation Program Control Directors (CRCPD) and was a member of the Policy Advisory Board of the National Environmental Health Association's National Radon Proficiency Program.

Dave was well respected by his radon peers throughout the world.

He was invited to serve on to the World Health Organization's International Radon Project (WHO IRP) and he was invited by



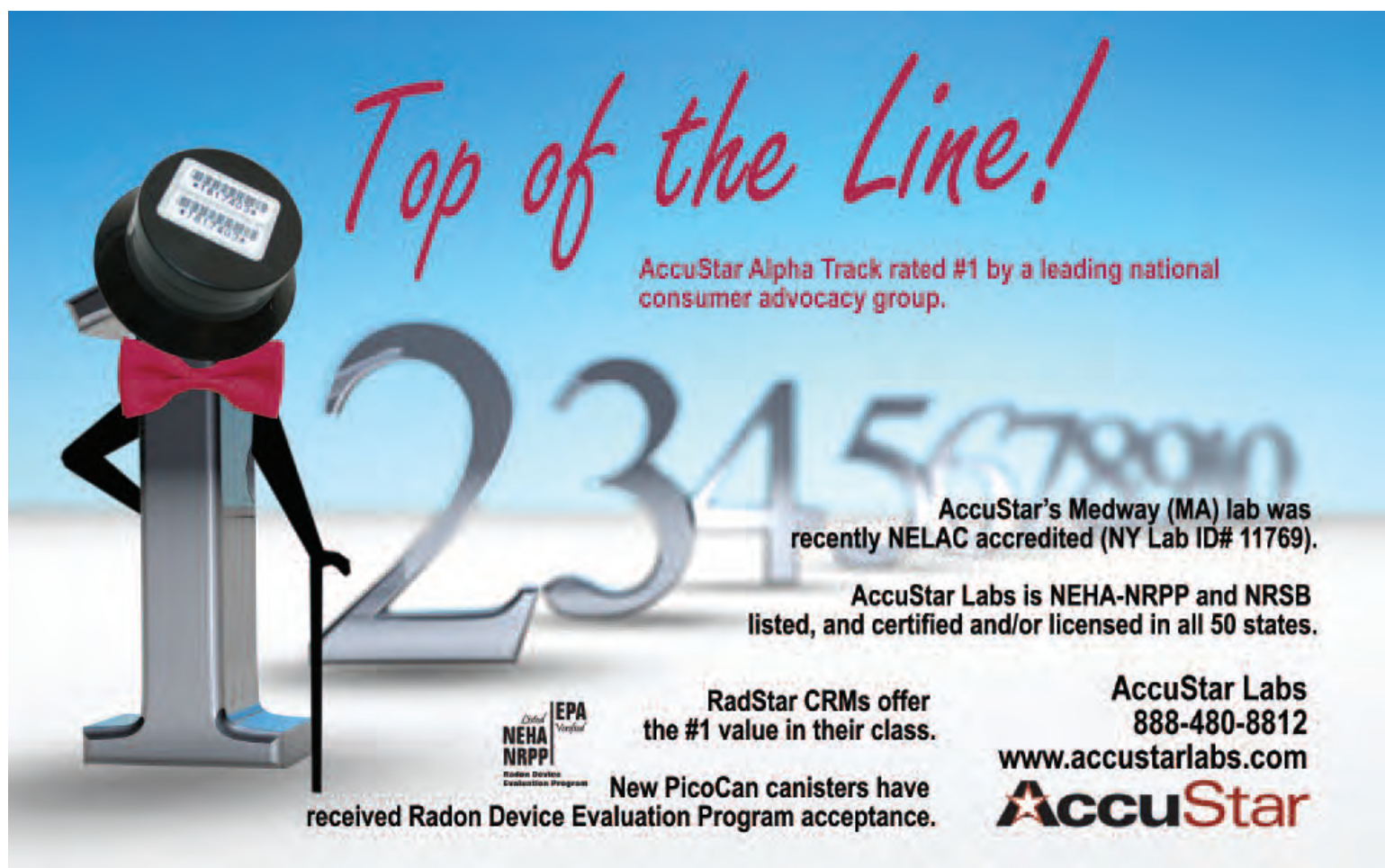
## In Memoriam David Chase

Health Canada to advise federal and provincial radiation experts on development of the country's radon program.

Dave's recent specific area of focus was establishing a New Hampshire database that he hoped to take nationally. The database would actually measure the significance of risk reduction per home mitigated. AARST was in the process of working with him to take this model nationally. This would have been an important research area providing data for policy makers to consider when establishing more effective radon policies. Over the years, through Dave's efforts, tens of thousands New Hampshire residents tested their homes for radon.

Dave was a tremendous credit to the state of New Hampshire and the nation.

- Peter Hendrick  
Executive Director, AARST



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# When They Know, Radon Victims Have a Powerful Message

By Dallas Jones  
Chairman, American Radon Policy Coalition

When Gloria Linnertz, Elizabeth Hoffman and Barbara Sorgatz share their personal experiences with radon-induced lung cancer, people listen. As soon as Liz Hoffman told her story on WCCO Television in Minneapolis, over 30,000 viewers called to order a radon test kit from the health department. Soon thereafter, the Minnesota legislature passed a law to require all new homes to be constructed with radon-resistant building features.



Liz Hoffman

After Gloria Linnertz shared the loss of her husband Joe to every state senator and representative in Illinois, a bill to require all homebuyers to be warned about the danger of radon exposure was introduced to the Illinois legislature. Once Barbara Sorgatz teamed up with Gloria to make a public appeal for the bill's passage on Chicago's WGN Television, it helped convince the Illinois State House to pass the Illinois Radon Awareness Act. (To read their stories and more, go to the Cancer Survivors Against Radon website at [www.cansar.org](http://www.cansar.org) )



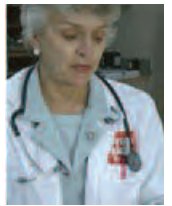
Barb Sorgatz

Perhaps the most important lesson we can learn from the past 22 years of mostly futile efforts to convince the public and law makers to actually do something about deadly radon exposure is this: when government agencies provide radon-risk data, people yawn; when home inspectors recommend a radon test, they are met with skepticism; but when radon's victims and family members deliver the message, people are inspired to take preventative action.

So the solution sounds simple enough – rally radon victims to take to the streets, warn the populace and demand action from our policy makers.

Unfortunately, only a few of the 21,000 Americans who contract radon-induced lung cancer every year ever discover the likely cause. If they were smokers, they and their doctors reasonably assume the cause was cigarette smoking. Yet nearly one in six new lung cancer cases occur in patients who never smoked.

Dr. Lane Mathis Price, Director and Radiation Oncologist at Decatur General Oncology Center, is one of the few oncologists who insist on patients having their home tested for radon.



Dr. Lane Price

"People come into my office and say, 'Doc Price, I just don't understand it. How can this happen to me? I don't smoke. Nobody ever smokes around me. How can I have lung cancer?'"

The U.S. EPA ranks radon as the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. According to Dr. Price, if a lung cancer patient with no history of smoking determines she's been exposed to elevated radon in her home for a number of years, it is reasonable to conclude that radon was the likely cause.

Dr. Price readily acknowledges that many oncologists are so focused on lung cancer treatment they give little thought to a cause other than smoking. For most non-smoking victims, the likely explanation remains a mystery.

The day Dennie Edwards, a real estate agent from Elyria, Ohio was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2004, he could not believe it. A former Marine who always kept himself in prime physical condition, he went out of his way to avoid cigarette smoke. Although his doctor did not offer any explanations, as a Realtor, Dennie was aware that EPA recommends all homebuyers have a radon test performed prior to purchase.



Dennie Edwards

"Even though I've been a real estate agent for 31 years, I had never bothered to test my house for radon. I always informed my clients that radon testing prior to purchase was an option (to protect my liability), but truthfully, I really didn't care if they tested or not," said Dennie when interviewed for Healthline, a program hosted by Kevin Soden on Retirement Living TV.

"Now I had to wonder whether my lung cancer was caused by radon exposure. While the doctor scheduled my surgery, I scheduled a radon test. The result was 10 pCi/L, two and a half times the EPA's recommended action level. I had lived in the home for 12 years. Needless to say, I called a contractor to have a mitigation system installed."

*Continued on p. 8*

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# Is the Term RRNC Contributing to Risk?

Peter Hendrick  
AARST Executive Director

*Does the term Radon-Resistant New Construction confuse and mislead the public?*

Former AARST President Dave Hill thinks so.

Perhaps we all need to take another look at what words mean and what they do.

In 2008, 152 West Virginia residents sued Richmond American and its parent company, Denver-based MDC Holdings Inc., stating that the companies failed to install functioning radon-removal systems in their homes. In a statement of concern to EPA officials, David Hill said "I have read the court documents and even though it sounds like they did not put in the passive piping properly, the heart of the suit accuses them for not providing 'functioning' radon systems in an area known to have radon."

"It is my belief," Hill said, "that the term Radon Resistant New Construction may have added to the new home buyers' confusion. We all know gravel and a pipe does not make a home 'resistant' to radon.

"My personal opinion is that as this program continues its success, the general public that is misled to believe they have a radon 'system' will grow and so will the lawsuits."

Hill concluded by saying that he believes that responsible professionals in the industry must act for the sake of public safety and change this name at any cost.

The lawsuit has attracted national attention and MDC and Richmond American claim they hired subcontractors to perform certain work and that those companies by contract were responsible for complying with all construction, health and safety and other laws.

"Where applicable, Richmond American Homes of West Virginia Inc. contracted with its subcontractors for the installation of passive radon reduction systems," Richmond's dismissal motion said. "Plaintiffs' homes passed inspection by the Jefferson County Department of Planning, Zoning and Engineering. However, the installation of a passive radon system is not a guarantee that there will never be radon in the home."

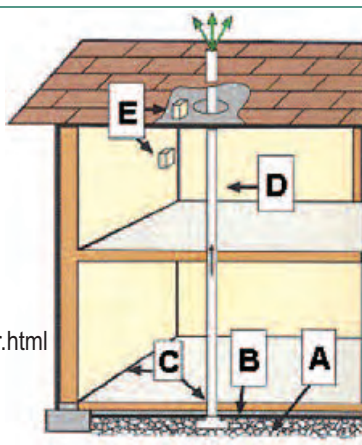
*AARST questions:* How are we going to enact RRNC when untrained, uncertified builders are allowed to get away with installing unapproved systems? Is voluntary the way to go with our radon public policy?

What's the solution? Perhaps it's time to change the terminology? Or perhaps it's time to change the policy and move toward active systems and certified professionals installing them.

EPA RRNC illustration\*

- A. Gas Permeable Layer
- B. Plastic Sheetting
- C. Sealing and Caulking
- D. Vent Pipe
- E. Junction Box

\*[www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/builder.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/builder.html)



## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RRNC?

Watch for information on websites such as:  
[www.aarst.org](http://www.aarst.org)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
[www.radonleaders.org](http://www.radonleaders.org)

Most importantly, hear about it from EPA officials themselves along with other experts at the 2009 Symposium in St. Louis September 20-23.  
(See more about the Symposium on p. 15.)

# Radon Victims

*Continued from page 5*

Before he passed away last June, Dennie took every opportunity his health would allow to speak out about the importance of radon testing.

But the voices are still too few. We must do a better job of informing patients that radon exposure could be the reason they have lung cancer. Once they realize a radon test of their home may identify the likely cause, they want to know. They want to protect their loved ones; they want to warn others.

To assist newly diagnosed lung cancer patients in determining if radon exposure played a likely role, AARST has joined with CanSAR to sponsor a special program.

AARST members can help this program to grow by passing along the CanSAR message:

*If you or a family member has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer, AARST will send you a free radon test kit. Go to [www.cansar.org](http://www.cansar.org) and click on CanSAR Registry. Fill out the form and submit. A free test kit will be mailed in 3-4 weeks.*

*If the test reveals an average radon concentration at or above EPA's 4.0 pCi/L Action Level, have it mitigated. Then contact CanSAR VP Gloria Linnertz at [seascape@htc.net](mailto:seascape@htc.net). Posting your story on the CanSAR website may be the first of many opportunities for you to convince others how important it is to reduce their radon exposure. Perhaps your appeal will inspire legislators in your state to pass a Radon Awareness Act.*

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# When Industries Collide

By Stephen Andras, CWS, CSRS

I want to relate a recent situation that a Connecticut couple experienced. It all started about ten years ago when this couple purchased their new home. The home had a water problem in one half of their basement so they called a local basement waterproofing contractor who gave them an estimate to install a partial drainage system. They agreed and had the work performed.

Several weeks later they had their home tested for radon and the levels came back at 7 pCi/L. They call the waterproofing contractor, who referred them to a radon mitigation company. The homeowners called this radon professional; he looked at the basement and recommended that their open backed drainage system should be sealed up and also proposed that a radon mitigation system be installed.

The homeowners agreed. After the job the radon levels were brought down below 1 pCi/L. Fortunately the basement walls did not have any leaks so everything was fine for many years. Then about eight years later, during a major April rain storm, their basement leaked heavily in the other side where they didn't have a drainage system installed. The homeowners, not having confidence in their first basement waterproofing contractor, decided to call in another company.

This company gave an estimate to install their pipe and stone drainage system in that finished part of the customer's basement. After this system was installed the homeowners performed another radon test. They were especially concerned because the area was their children's playroom.

You guessed it! The radon test came back at 7 pCi/L. Imagine the frustration of these homeowners, who did everything in their power to ensure a healthy basement for their family.

Throughout the world thousands of conscientious homeowners are subjected to the same runaround as these Connecticut homeowners experienced. Isn't it time for the basement waterproofing industry to be more professional and accountable for their customers health? Why are many basement waterproofing contractors installing open backed systems while claiming ignorance as to the effects that their drainage systems have on homeowners and their families?

In fact, over and over again, I hear basement waterproofing contractors downplay radon and other air quality issues in

buildings today. When customers complain that they have higher radon levels in their homes after the basement waterproofing contractors have installed open backed drainage systems, most of these contractors respond "We don't deal with radon – it isn't our problem."

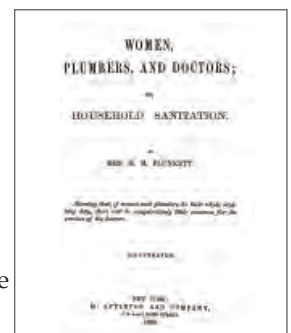
Radon and ground humidity entering a living environment should be everyone's concern. How can basement waterproofing contractors ignore the facts and continue to install open backed drainage systems knowing full well of the dangers they create for homeowners?

I must go on record that for over 20 years, I as a responsible waterproofing contractor did install these types of systems. I must even admit that radon was not the main reason I stopped the practice. See, I would install a drainage system with an opening along the foundation wall in order to catch any water coming down the walls and allow it to get into my sub floor drainage system. What I would hear time and time again was, "Steve, you solved my basement water problem but now I have a moisture problem." My answer to them was to run a dehumidifier.

Several months ago while doing research on the internet I stumbled across a book entitled "Woman, Plumbers and Doctors" written in 1885 by a woman named H. Plunkett. It was a real eye opener to read how in 1885 people in the United States were very concerned with indoor air quality. In fact men like Henry F. French (from whom the French drain got its name) believed that installing closed drainage

systems in cellars would improve the air the homeowners breathed on the upper levels of the home. Reading this book convinced me that indoor air quality stemming from an unhealthy cellar was more of a concern for people in the late 1800s than it is for our basement drainage industry today.

Back before radon was discovered as a health risk, informed men and women knew the importance of a healthy cellar (basement). In fact Henry F. French said that if conditions in a cellar (he called them black holes) were not corrected, nothing one did on the upper levels of the house would negate its evil effects.



*Continued on p. 18*



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# State Legislation Initiatives, New AARST Chapters

## AARST and the American Radon Policy Coalition – State Legislation 2009

In order to double or triple the number of lives saved, radon public policy in the United States is going to have to change significantly. We must have our legislatures require stronger notification laws and, in some cases, we are going to have to require testing at the time of home sale and home occupancy. Voluntary initiatives are just not keeping pace with new home construction.

Several years ago, AARST initiated the American Radon Policy Coalition. Chaired by AARST Board Member Dallas Jones, ARPC has been working with home inspectors, the real estate community, builders and grassroots, non-profit organizations, such as CANSAR and the American Lung Association, to improve public policy and initiate changes in radon public policy. The first success came two years ago when Illinois passed the Radon Awareness, which is a bill requiring home buyers be informed of the specific radon risk in their states. This initiative has only just begun.

State legislative initiatives in the 2009 AARST Legislation package include legislative models such as :

1. Required Radon Testing at the time of home sale or new home occupancy
2. Stronger notification laws (referred to as the Radon Awareness Act)
3. RRNC Legislation for building codes
4. Rental and low-income housing requirements
5. Certification laws at the state level that would require certification by either NRSB or NEHA-NRPP for radon professionals involved in the testing or mitigation during real estate transactions or school testing.

States that have been highlighted for this initiative include: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

During 2009, the Association seeks to have all AARST Chapters involved in the legislative process, even if it is just in the form of sponsoring radon education for their state legislature. Additionally, AARST is planning to reinvigorate its national presence in Washington, D.C. and hope that by the end of the year we will have an ongoing presence in the nation's capital. The goal will be to work with the financial

community to ensure that homes are tested during the home inspection process as a means to reduce both health risk for the consumer and liability for both builders and the financial community.

These initiatives are part and parcel of any national professional association. If we really want to increase risk reduction in radon, we need to change and adopt the policy tools that every successful environmental process in this country has used. In short, we need stronger laws that actually work. If you are interested in getting involved in legislative initiatives at either the local, state or national level, contact ARPC Chair Dallas Jones at [djones@radalink.com](mailto:djones@radalink.com) or AARST's Executive Director, Peter Hendrick, at [director@aarst.org](mailto:director@aarst.org).

## New AARST Chapters

New AARST Chapter activity is in high gear with chapters forming in New York, the South East and the great heartland of America.

Earlier this year, the Kentucky Association of Radon Professionals formed and this chapter, headed by Kyle Holyman has been engaged in both public outreach and advocacy on both the local and state level. The chapter is interested in assisting other near-by states in chapter development and formation.

On November 13, 2008, the Blue Ridge Chapter officially organized in a chapter meeting. Officers elected were Shawn Price, President; Bill Van Nuys, Vice President; Angel Price, Secretary; and Peggy Liner, Treasurer.

The Kentucky and Blue Ridge Chapters are off to a fast start and other chapters are being formed in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and the re-established Rocky Mountain Chapter. AARST is also in discussions with two groups about the formation of international AARST chapters.

AARST Chapters work because they are local and they address the needs of their local membership. That all happens because of the dedication of the local members and officers who seize the day and take action to promote risk reduction at the local, county and state level, forming partnerships with radon offices and health organizations and getting going when the going gets tough!

- Peter Hendrick, AARST Executive Director

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Liz Hoffman, Gloria Linnertz, Barbara Sorgatz

The National Radon Award Ceremony held January 28 in D.C. was a wonderful event honoring two dedicated individuals who have spent their life's work with radon risk reduction: Mike Pyles from Pennsylvania and Dr. Jim Burkhart of Colorado Springs. Mike, who developed the Pennsylvania Radon Program, was recognized by CRCPC and Jim, whose leadership in science and technology has inspired many, by AARST for devoting themselves to saving lives by educating others on the silent killer—radon.

Liz Hoffmann, president of CanSAR, bravely and courageously shared with the audience her struggle for life as she has battled lung cancer that has spread to her brain. After being diagnosed with lung cancer, Liz found out that she had been living with high levels of radon. She revealed that she wants to take the time that she has to help prevent others from encountering the wrath of radon gas as she has. Another lung cancer survivor, Barb Sorgatz, of Glen Ellyn, IL and a widow, Marlene MacEwan of Lake Oswego, Oregon, whose husband, Bob, was taken from her by lung cancer, joined Liz at the podium. Both of these ladies had been living with high levels of radon and discovered the fact after lung cancer had entered their lives.

It was my pleasure to present my representative, Dan Reitz, the National Conference of State Legislators' Award for his action, care and concern for the Illinois citizens by sponsoring numerous radon-related bills including the Radon Awareness Action—the strongest radon notification law in the nation. EPA Assistant Administrator, Beth Craig, recognized another lung cancer survivor, Eddie Metcalfe, for his winning You Tube video, which was very moving. President Janet Froetscher, National Safety Council, recognized the three top radon poster contest winners.



# Report from Washington

by Gloria Linnertz

The evening event was enjoyable and inspiring and the National Safety Council did an outstanding job on making it successful, but our work was just beginning. During the next two days, Liz, Marlene, Barb, Peter Hendrick, Bill Angell, Jim Burkhart, Julie Somis and I visited numerous Congressional offices seeking support for radon risk reduction legislation from our federal government. These brave and courageous ladies, with the support of our dedicated AARST representatives, walked the steps of the U.S. Senate and Representative buildings seeking answers and asking for action by our federal government to protect its citizens from this silent killer—radon. Again soon, this group will return to D.C. asking for the support of U.S. legislators to take action against radon in saving the lives of possibly more than 22,000 people each year due to radon-induced lung cancer by sponsoring and voting for the Radon Hazard Reduction Act. We wish that action had been taken much sooner, but we are here to make it happen now and appreciate your support!

- Gloria Linnertz  
seascape@htc.net



In the photos

Left: Janet P. Froetscher, President of National Safety Council; CanSAR member Marlene MacEwan (Oregon), Liz Hoffman, CanSAR President; Gloria Linnertz, CanSAR, VP, and Barbara Sorgatz, CanSAR member (Illinois)

Above: Bill Angell, AARST President; Liz Hoffman, C Gloria Linnertz, Barbara Sorgatz) and Dr. James, Burkhart, AARST President's Award winner

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# 2009 Symposium

*Meet Us in St. Louis*

September 20 - 23, 2009

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**M**eeet us in St. Louis at the beautiful Union Station Marriott, a National Historic Landmark, for AARST's 2009 International Radon Symposium, September 20-23, 2009. Enjoy the panache of 19th century elegance and hear speakers from around the world sharing their radon insights, research and practical tips plus suggestions from colleagues in the industry, EPA, state, tribal and other agencies.

## Symposium Highlights

Sunday, September 20 - Registration, Pre-Conference CE Classes, Welcome Reception

Monday, September 21 - Joint Day with CRCPD

Tuesday, September 22 - Separate AARST and CRCPD Presentations, CE Classes, AARST Annual Luncheon, Joint Night Out (Attendees are welcome to sit in on CRCPD presentations as well as AARST's program.)

Wednesday, September 23 - Separate AARST and CRCPD Presentations, CE Classes (Attendees are welcome to sit in on CRCPD presentations as well as AARST's program.)

## About the Venue

Centrally located, St. Louis is easily accessible from anywhere in the U.S., and getting from the airport to the Union Station Marriott is a simple Metrolink ride. The Metrolink also can take you from the hotel downtown to many of the enjoyable and historic venues in St. Louis.

St. Louis has something for everyone: art, history, botanical gardens, thrill rides, animal encounters, great music and theater, a trip to the moon and more..and, of course, the Anheuser Busch Brewery. Not only are there plenty of attractions and activities geared toward kids of all ages, but many of those attractions are free, which makes St. Louis a budget-friendly destination.

**Union Station:** From its magnificent 65-foot, barrel-vaulted ceiling in the Grand Hall to its Victorian-engineered train shed totaling more than 11 acres, St. Louis Union Station is one of our nation's true architectural "gems."

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Top: Historic Union Station

Above: Inside the Union Station Marriott's Grand Hall

Below: St. Louis' world-famous Botanical Gardens



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# 2008 Photo Album

## Las Vegas Revisited



Good times



Good food



CE Classes

Award and  
election winners



International  
speakers



Night out

# When Industries Collide

Continued from page 9

Back when I was a boy, I can remember sitting at my kitchen table and watching the curtains blow back and forth. We did not have double paned windows and our houses were not as tight. Then the 1970s energy crisis occurred, causing most homeowners to over insulate and to close their fireplaces, replacing them with wood stove inserts. In fact, when homeowners did this they actually eliminated the best air exchanger in the home.

With everyone concerned about heat loss they unknowingly created many health problems in their homes. All the while, basement waterproofing contractors (like me) continued to install drainage systems with an opening along the wall allowing an abundant amount of moisture into the home. What has happened is a major housing epidemic that I believe is affecting millions of people.

With a little help from other industries such as radon or indoor air quality, something needs to be done. I have been on a mission to change my industry. Here is what I believe happens when a basement waterproofing contractor installs an open drainage system: 1) this type of system promotes radon entering the home environment; 2) ground humidity (moisture) enters the home environment; 3) iron bacteria colonies are encouraged to flourish and clog the drainage system; 4) this added moisture in the basement promotes mold and mildew growth; 5) heating and air conditioning costs increase.

During the last 4 years of my research it has become evident that there are basement drainage contractors (some considered to be the leaders in the industry) who refuse to stop installing these open drainage systems, even though they know the bad effects on their homeowner/ customer. These contractors are simply ignoring their customer's needs and refuse to change because they feel they will lose profits.

Several basement waterproofing contractors have said to me, "Steve, be quiet, don't shake the tree. We are all making good money, why do you want to ruin everything?"


Looking around the industry, I realized that no one had a closed drainage system I could use. So I started to design a closed basement drainage system that would handle all these problems.

This article is not about promoting my drainage system but rather it is about doing the right thing for the customer. I decided that losing some profits was better than losing some customers. I wrote this article to bring awareness to this problem and encourage the EPA and others to test and promote "closed drainage systems" versus open backed systems and the effects on the house and its inhabitants.

I have a vision that someday radon, waterproofing and indoor air quality industries will work together for the benefit of all homeowners. Imagine what we can all do when our industries truly work side by side for the benefit of all.

I live for the day when our industries work together without colliding. Please help to spread the message that we need to demand that basement waterproofing contractors install closed drainage systems - a standard homeowners deserve.

Steve Andras has been helping people utilize their basement space for nearly 30 years. He is well known for pioneering new ideas in the basement industry. Steve advocates properly preparing every basement space in America in order to promote healthier homes. For more information on open backed systems versus closed drainage systems visit his blog at [www.basementwaterproofingboston.com](http://www.basementwaterproofingboston.com).



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The monthly e-newsletter, *Briefly Speaking*, which updates members on breaking developments in the world of radon and consumer protection

Access to the assistance of Public Policy Key Leaders, key technologists and renowned scientists who are AARST members

Local Chapters, which provide a vital forum for education and the exchange of information

Online access to the Members Only section of the AARST website, [www.aarst.org](http://www.aarst.org), for insider reports on the latest radon-related research and information, including the ability to download selected articles and presentations from the International Radon Symposium, discounted consumer literature and reprints of EPA publications.

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