



Radon Reporter

2012 Review &
Symposium Preview

Fighting for Lives

In Washington
In State Capitols
In the Media

**NEXT STOP:
Las Vegas**

*"We are literally dying.
We need your help to save lives."
- Elizabeth Hoffmann*



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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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REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Peter Hendrick
AARST Executive Director

The Radon Ides of March

Elizabeth Hoffmann Testifies Before House Subcommittee

The work of AARST members and CanSAR volunteers culminated on March 21, 2012 when Elizabeth Hoffmann began her testimony before a House Appropriation's Interior Subcommittee to protest EPA's radon budget cuts. "My name is Elizabeth Hoffmann. I have never smoked, [was] not around second-hand smoke, and I have lung cancer."

With those beginning words, Elizabeth, who has both lung and brain cancer, captured the attention of Acting Chair Steven LaTourette of Ohio and Ranking Member Jim Moran of Virginia.

"My home of over 22 years tested at twice the action level for radon (8.6 Pico-curies). I first tested our home at age 37, after half my left lung was removed along with a 5cm malignant mass. I had never heard of radon. After my diagnosis, my cousin who is a registered nurse asked if we ever tested our home for radon. The answer at that time was no. The question was, 'What's Radon?'"

The House Interior subcommittee had just heard from eight different witnesses, all pleading good causes, all having only five minutes to speak, all being told basically the same thing: "Our nation is out of money, you may not get your request. These are tough times."

But even the toughest hearts heard the CanSAR President's message.

CanSAR Members Introduced

"With me today are four members of CanSAR: Marlene MacEwan from Oregon who lost her husband in 2004 at age 49; Gloria Linnertz from Illinois lost her husband in 2006; Barb Sorgatz from Illinois is another radon induced lung cancer survivor; Kyle Hoylman, who couldn't be here today, lost his dad to lung cancer and is a cancer survivor himself."

Even the nine Congressional staff members sitting behind the committee members were now listening as Ms. Hoffmann, sitting tall with her bare head gleaming in the light, spoke with Gloria Linnertz, who had an array of photos of many individuals.

"CanSAR," Liz told them, "has a total of 24 members, 13 of which can no longer personally share their story. They lost their fight."

EPA Record Cited

She blasted the EPA. "From my perspective, cutting our nation's radon program is the exact opposite of what is needed."

Then she went on to quote the EPA's own Inspector General's 2008 report that said, *"The radon problem in our country is getting worse, not better. We have more buildings with toxic radon levels today than in 1988, which is when your colleagues passed the Indoor Radon Abatement Act – a law with the main goal of indoor and outdoor radon levels being the same."*

"According to a TODAY SHOW report, an estimated 70,000 classrooms contain toxic radon levels," Liz said. "One of every 15 homes in our country contains toxic levels of radioactive radon gas. Does this sound like a successful voluntary program to you? Does this sound like a program that should be cut or eliminated?"

AARST Statement Quoted

She quoted AARST. "According to the American Association of Radon Scientists (AARST), the Fiscal Year 2012 radon budget saw \$3.8 Million in cuts to regional, school and technical support programs.

"In addition, 2012 saw EPA's first draft budget eliminate the only existing asset the nation possesses for a NIST reference point for radon, the chamber at the EPA Indoor Radiation and Toxins Laboratory. The chamber's budget was eventually reduced by over 50% for 2012."

"In analyzing the FY 2013 budget, AARST notes that proposed cuts will zero-line EPA's State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program and eliminate EPA regional office support. At the end of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget process, we've gone from nearly \$24 million in funding just a few short years ago to less than \$10 million in funding today."

"Does this make sense to you?" she asked LaTourette and Moran.

Continued on p. 5.



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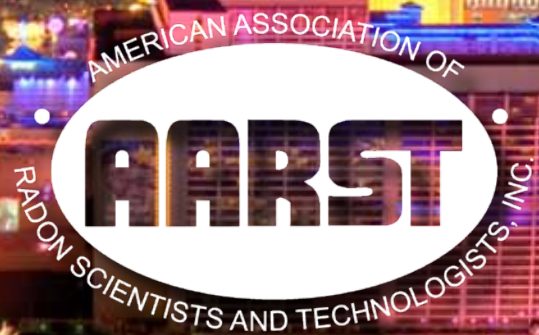
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2012

International Radon Symposium



The Radon Ides of March

Continued from p. 5.

"We are literally dying. We need your help to save lives." - Elizabeth Hoffmann

Impact of Budget Cuts

"The overall impact," Liz Hoffmann told the Congressmen, "will be the systematic elimination of our country's outreach and education efforts as they pertain to radon. A majority of our 45 state and tribal radon programs will be forced to close or eliminate their public outreach programs. Basic data collection on radon risk reduction will no longer occur. Less of our buildings will be tested, and when a problem is found, it will not be fixed."

Lack of Warning Criticized

"EPA gave no warning of its proposed elimination of the SIRG program to its state and tribal partners. A common sense timeline was not discussed among the stakeholders to allow state and tribal programs to plan for the elimination of funding."

"As someone who is reminded each day of the importance of radon risk reduction, I don't want others to experience the emotional and financial burden I've gone through. To date, the cost of my treatment has exceeded \$800 thousand dollars, and those that I love continue to bear witness to my battle with this horrible disease."

Liz Hoffman concluded by asking the committee to properly fund the EPA radon budget to FY2011 levels for a minimum period of 5 years and to require EPA to regulate radon under the authority provided by Congress in 1988 under section 2670 of the Indoor Radon Abatement Act clearly outlines this authority.

"If EPA isn't the right agency to get the job done, then require the right agency to take over the Program. We can't do it alone. We are literally dying. We need your help to save lives."

Closing Words

"I'd like to close with some very powerful words: Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I can not change, Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference."

LaTourette's and Moran's Comments

With her testimony complete, Acting Chair LaTourette did an unusual and gracious thing. With a required House Floor vote in progress, he continued the hearing by asking questions, including asking Gloria Linnertz, who was not scheduled to testify, to explain and testify who the people in the photos on the testimony table were.

Gloria went through about 12 photos, identifying CanSAR members living, who were still fighting the disease, and those dead, who had failed in their fight. Most had one thing in common, they had never heard of radon until they were diagnosed. Listening to Gloria's words, some of the subcommittee staff began to tear up.

Chair LaTourette followed by commenting on the problem: "I am not a rules guy, but what I think this nation needs is a rule to require testing at the time of home sale. I had to test my home. It should be required, voluntary does not work."

Moran added: "We also need to send every child home from school with a radon test kit."

"I am not a rules guy, but what I think this nation needs is a rule to require testing at the time of home sale."

- Acting Subcommittee
Chair Steven LaTourette

Thanks to the great work of the AARST and CanSAR volunteers who went to Capitol Hill on March 21, 2012, radon policy may be seeing wise hearts on Capitol Hill consider not only restoration of radon funding but also consideration of new policies that would require testing.

It was an exciting moment to watch these strong women of CanSAR tackle Congress and win a round. It's been exciting to watch AARST members travel in March on their own nickel to fight for a national radon program. EPA is abandoning radon and the program will die a slow death otherwise.

This is a radon marathon, not a sprint. We don't expect to know how Congress will decide this until late November or December of this year.

We must keep up this work.

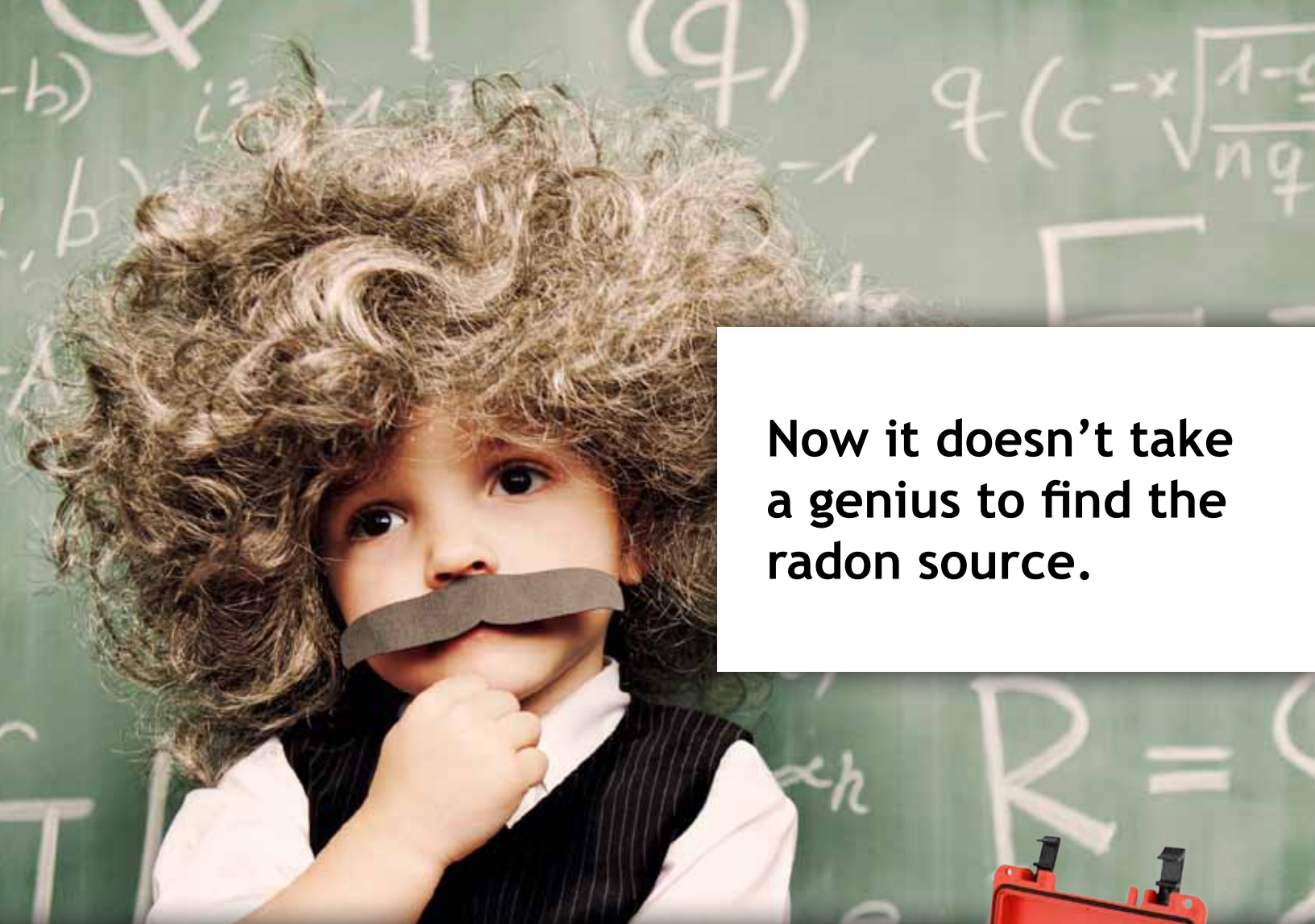
Peter Hendrick

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW BUDGET CUTS CAN AFFECT THE RADON INDUSTRY.

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See page 9 for a Symposium preview.



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FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

Gloria Linnertz
CanSAR Secretary

Speaking Out Against Radon

From Capital Steps to Capitol Hill and throughout the Country, CanSAR members and supporters have been stepping forward and speaking out to raise radon awareness and save lives.

This year, CanSAR became a participating member in a lung cancer consortium, LungCan, comprised of other lung cancer 501 C3 organizations whose mission is to raise awareness in the general population of the realities of lung cancer with the intention of increasing funding for detecting, treating and curing the disease.

Among the other lung cancer organizations are Cancer Support Community, John Atkinson Lung Cancer Foundation, Cancer Care, American Lung Association, Lung Cancer Alliance, Dusty Joy Foundation, Gianni Ferrarotti Lung Cancer Foundation, Lungevity, Bonnie Adario Lung Cancer Foundation, Patient Advocate, Upstaging Lung Cancer, Caring Ambassadors Lung Cancer Program, Lung Cancer Circle of Hope, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Lung Cancer Foundation of American, The Beverly Fund, Rexanna's Foundation, National Lung Cancer Partnership, and Uniting Against Lung Cancer.

Recently, CanSAR relayed a plea for support in efforts for federal action against radon-induced lung cancer to the group.

Thanks to many of you for participating in the highlight of CanSAR's efforts in January - the second annual "Capital Steps to Radon Action," when members and supporters gathered on the capitol steps in Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, Colorado, and Utah giving out free test kits, radon and CanSAR information, and educating the public about the danger of radon gas.



In Colorado, Representative Sue Schafer stopped by to announce the introduction of HB 1165 which will require radon testing at the point of sale of real estate. Colorado's CanSAR member representative, Faye Dugan, gave personal witness testimony at the hearing in February.

CanSAR member Gail Orcutt spoke in Nebraska City at the Radon Stakeholders meeting in March and relay her story of radon-induced lung cancer.

In Salt Lake City in April, Gloria Linnertz, represented Cancer Survivors at the Radon at the Stakeholders meeting. CanSAR's president, Liz Hoffmann, was featured in an interview in Milwaukee on CBS 58 again telling of her long struggle with radon-induced lung cancer.

Many CanSAR members and other lung cancer advocates submitted requests to

testify at the Congressional hearing of the House Interior Environmental Subcommittee concerning the FY2013 EPA budget cuts in the radon program.

CanSAR members continue to take large and small steps in the war on radon-induced lung cancer; and with your support, we can continue to do so. Please consider becoming either a gold, silver, or bronze partner with CanSAR's efforts to keep this tragedy from happening to others.

Thanks to Gold Sponsors RadonAway/AccuStar, Radon Environmental Management Corp, RCI, New England Chapter of AARST and Kentucky Association of Radon Professionals, and Bronze Sponsor National Radon Defense.

Gloria

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SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW



Preliminary Program October 14-17, 2012 Flamingo Las Vegas



Last year's International Radon Symposium took place at Disney World Orlando. The 2012 Symposium will be held at what has been called "the Disney World of the Desert" – Las Vegas, Nevada.

During the days from Sunday through Wednesday, October 14 – 17, you will learn from national and international experts about the latest developments in radon science, politics, business and practical applications. Pre-symposium activities are also included in the lists below, taken from the August 14 preliminary draft schedule. At night, you will have the opportunity to enjoy all of the excitement and glitz that Las Vegas has to offer, starting the Symposium venue, the fabulous, newly renovated Flamingo Las Vegas, located right in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. The full preliminary program schedule is online at www.internationalradonsymposium.org and will be updated regularly.

Pre-Symposium Events

Saturday, October 13

Proctored Exam for Educators - NRPP
ANSI-AARST Standards Sub-Committee
AARST Staff & Volunteers Meeting

Sunday, October 14

Continuing Education Courses

8am-Noon - 4 Hrs Cat I CE (\$95/course)*
• Multi-Family Radon Mitigation
• Radon Calculations Workshop
• Code Provisions Relevant to Mitigation
10am - Symposium Registration Desk Open

1pm-5pm - 4 Hrs Cat I CE (\$95/course)*

• Advanced ASD Diagnostics and System Design
• How to Run a Professional Radon Business

** Not included in symposium fee; preregistration required.*

Meetings & Events

1pm AARST National Board Meeting
3pm NEHA-NRPP Policy Advisory Board
5:30pm AARST Election Supervisors
6:30-8:30 Welcome Reception (AARST/CRCPD)

AARST/CRCPD Joint Program

Monday, October 15 - Morning

8am - Joint Session Begins
Welcome: State, EPA, AARST
Keynote: William Field, PhD
A Physician's Perspective on Radon: Wallace Akerley, MD
Q & A
Joint Leadership Update: EPA, AARST, CRCPD
SIRG Funding: View From the Trenches
Joint Luncheon - Awards

Monday, October 15 - Afternoon

SIRG Funding Panel
Q & A
Radon Policy Report – Tobie Bernstein, Environmental Law Institute
Q & A
Break / Exhibits
Cooperative Agreement Partners – Support
Going Forward: EPA, NCSL, CRCPD, KSU – ALA, Coop Extension
Q & A
5pm - Joint Session Adjourns

AARST Program

Tuesday, October 16 - Morning

Track 1

8am - Session Begins
Welcome - Radon's Challenge: The Future of Our Profession
Radon Control in New Homes: A Meta-Analysis of 25 Years of Research
Update on Canada's National Radon Program
Radon Mitigation in Cold Climates at Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

Poster Session: Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Radon Testing and Mitigation Project

Poster Session: Observation of Time Dependence in Radon Emissions
Chemical Vapor Intrusion – A Nucleus for Cultural Change?

The Use of Barrier Bags with Radon Detectors

An Integrated Approach for the Identification of Radon: A House from the World Heritage Historic Centre (Oporto, Portugal) as a Case Study

A Pilot Study on the Air Quality in Passive Houses with Particular Attention to Radon
Luncheon & Annual Meeting

AARST Program

Tuesday, October 16 - Morning

Track 2

SCATS - Confined Space Entry Access: What you need to know to stay safe in operating in a confined space. It may save your Life!

Break-Out Session: Nevada Safety and Training Section (SCATS) and Nevada OSHA

Tuesday, October 16 - Afternoon

Track 1

CanSAR and Radon Professionals
The Assessment of the Radon Problem in Switzerland and the New National Radon Action Plan 2012-2020

Track 2

Extreme Mitigation – We're Going into a 6-Inch Crawl Space! Really?

AARST's Liability Insurance Program Designed For Radon Professionals

Poster Session: Radon Risk at Your Finger Tips - A Convenient APP

Poster Session: A Comparison of Short-Term and Long-Term Test Results Across the Tobique First Nation

Continued on p. 12

Spouse Event

Monday, October 15 • 8am
Presented by Heartland Chapter





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IN THE MEDIA

Local and National Attention Focuses on Radon

Fight for Air Climb Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In March, a Milwaukee TV station reported that “more than 1900 people stormed the U.S. Bank Building in downtown Milwaukee... For the ‘Fight for Air Climb’. The station, TODAY’S TMJ4, sponsored the event that raises money for the American Lung Association of Wisconsin.

Reporter Brian Gotter was the spokesman for the climb, and he spent some time with CanSAR President - and lung cancer patient - Elizabeth Hoffmann.



During his wrap-up, Gotter stated, “People like Elizabeth are the reason so many people turned out. She’s lived with cancer since 2003, caused not by smoking, but by elevated levels of radon in her home.”



“It makes me feel very warm inside that people care enough to come out and help the American Lung Association, and people like me, with their physical ability to climb those stairs. I think it’s fantastic,” Liz said when describing the event.

Radon in Schools NBC “Today Show”

A few weeks earlier, millions of Americans tuned in to watch a special investigative report on the Today Show, “Rossen Reports: Is your child breathing radon gas at school?”

“High levels of radioactive radon gas are invading classrooms across the country as more than 40 schools in radon ‘hot zones’ declined free testing [offered by the show],” Today’s national investigative correspondent Jeff Rossen reported.

Among the people interviewed by Rossen was radon expert and researcher Dr. Bill Field of the University of Iowa. “If a student’s exposed, even at the EPA’s action level, 4 picocuries per liter, that’s equivalent to smoking half a pack of cigarettes per day,” Field said.



Most schools don’t test. Experts say districts can’t afford it, even though the EPA estimates that more than 70,000 classrooms nationwide are at risk. Only five states require testing. And there’s no federal law mandating it.

Why not make all schools test? At one time, the government seemed focused on it, and Congress held a hearing in 1993.

“Congress was told 20 years ago there was a problem,” Dr. Bill Field said.

“And what have they done?” Rossen asked.

“Nothing,” Field responded.



In Washington, Rossen contacted EPA officials and the lead members of the environmental committees, requesting on-camera interviews. They all declined. One politician blamed the EPA. Another said it is a state issue. A Democrat blamed Republicans; a Republican blamed Democrats.

“Which means kids continue breathing radon’s noxious fumes, and parents can’t do a thing about it,” Rossen said.

As Jeff Rossen noted in his report, just five states - Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Rhode Island and Virginia - have mandatory school testing laws. Connecticut is an example of the success of those laws: 400 classrooms throughout the state tested high. They have all had radon mitigation systems installed.

Symposium Preview

Continued from page 9

Note: Following Symposium adjournment, AARST attendees are welcome to join the CRCPD National Radon Training Meeting.

AARST Program

Tuesday, October 16 - Afternoon

Poster Session: Efficiency of Radon Remediation in Swedish Houses

Track 1

Assessment of Radon Exposure Risk in Household Environments

The UK Ministry of Defence Radon Safety Programme

Estimating Radon-Related Deaths at the Township Level

Invisible Invaders

A Regional Scale Radon Monitoring Network in the Volcanic Island of Tenerife, Canary Islands (Spain)

Korea's Radon Program

Track 2

Basic First Aid and Hands-On CPR for Radon Professionals

AARST Program

Wednesday, October 17 - Morning

Track 1

U.S. State Radon Programs: Data Collection and Program Activities

Indoor Radon Survey in Workplaces Using Nuclear Tracks Methodology

Characterization and Use of an Accumulating Type Of Radon Test Chamber

A Geologic Mapping Approach to Identify Radon Hot-Spots in California and Ramifications for the State's Radon Risk Picture
Short-Term Vs. Long-Term Indoor Radon Measurements

Poster Session: Radon Measurement Protocol in Commercial Buildings Under the Portuguese Legislation

Poster Session: An Ecological Study of Radon and 13 Types of Cancer

Assessment of Occupational Exposure to Airborne Radon in Minnesota Water Treatment Plants - A Follow-Up Study

Radiological Site Assessments for the Radon Professional

American National Radon Standards Report Why Standards Create Opportunity

Track 2

Radon Cliff Notes: Hands On Marketing

Profit Costing and Pricing for Services: Running your Business at a Profit

Radon Cliff Notes: Hands On Accounting

Noon - Symposium Adjourns

3rd Annual Heartland Chapter Spouse Event

Walking Tour of the Strip and "Jubilee!" Backstage Tour
MONDAY, October 15, 2012
8:00 am



The AARST Heartland Chapter hosts this year's "Spouse Event" during the AARST Symposium. Join Chapter President Gary Boesker and his wife Cheryl for a morning walking tour of some of the many highlights on the Vegas strip; including Bally's "Jubilee!" Backstage Tour!

The tour will take place Monday, October 15th. It will begin at 8:00 a.m in the hotel lobby.

First stop is the Wildlife Habitat at the Flamingo where we get up close and personal with pink flamingos, exotic ducks, koi fish and so much more. Then, on to the The Bellagio to tour the Botanical Gardens.

And, finally, to Bally's for the Backstage tour of the most famous Las Vegas Stage Show – "Jubilee!". The fabulous "Jubilee!" dancers escort us into the theater and show us how the most famous Las Vegas stage spectacular functions on a nightly basis. This experience includes stepping out on one of the most technologically advanced stages in the world, visits to the scenery and costume areas where all the Bob Mackie and Pete Menafee costumes are kept, and the light booth which houses the most up-to-date effects. The tour culminates with a "Jubilee!" Showgirl make-up demonstration and costume change which transforms your guide into one of the world famous "Jubilee!" Showgirls. Tour participants are invited to take photographs with the showgirl at the end of the tour.

The event concludes with lunch at a location chosen by the group. The cost of the meal is not included in the tour price.

Advance reservations are required in order to secure tickets for the backstage tour. The cost for the event is \$35.00 (not including lunch).

Checks should be made out to the Heartland Chapter and can be mailed to:
Dick Hensley
2307 Victory Dr.
Cedar Falls IA 50613
(Phone 319-404-7960)

RSVP to Dick with payment no later than October 10, 2012.

If you have any questions about the tour, please contact tour guides Gary or Cheryl Boesker at 620-628-4735 (home) or 620-654-7390 (cell).

FOCUS ON RADON

Continuing Education Reigned at Chapter and EPA Region Meetings

Chapters

Reports on their meetings and CE classes are in from the Midwest, New England and still-organizing Erie Canal (NY) Chapters.

The new **Erie Canal Chapter**, organized by a group that included Tom Valosin, Joe Mahr, Joe Petrazola and others, made its debut March 2-3 in East Syracuse, NY.

Besides a dinner meeting and election, the group offered three Category I CE classes for a total of 12 credit hours. The courses were Radon in Water, Inspecting Radon Mitigation Systems, and Marketing to the Real Estate Agent.

On May 7-8, the **New England Chapter** held its annual meeting and CE conference at Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut. More than 50 members attended the conference and dinner meeting.

Speakers included: Chapter President Dave Hill, AARST President Carolyn Allen, CanSAR's Gloria Linnertz, Connecticut Association of Realtors' General Counsel Eugene Marconi, Eugene Benoit from EPA Region 1, and Steve Andras of the Basement Health Association.

CE courses (16 hours of Category I) included: Fighting the Radon Wars: New Marketing Tools, The New Reducing Radon in New Construction Standard: RRNC 2.0, Radon Fans: Fundamentals and Sizing, Proper Use and Handling of Radon Devices, Testing and Mitigating Large Buildings.



New England Chapter of AARST



The Midwest Chapter held its annual meeting and educational conference May 17-19 in Orland Park, Illinois.

Speakers included: Chapter President Preston Rea, Michael Murphy from EPA Region 5, AARST President Carolyn Allen, Angela Tin of ALA of Upper Midwest, Calvin Murphy, CanSAR's Gloria Linnertz, and Bill Angell.

The Chapter offered 12 hours of Category I CE courses: Radon Measurement in Multifamily Homes, Fighting the Radon Wars: New Marketing Tools, and Large Building QA/QC.

Midwest Chapter of AARST



EPA Meetings

The EPA Regional Offices, working with host states' Radon Programs and, in some instances, AARST Chapters, held radon meetings in most regions this past spring.



In March, the Region 7 EPA/State Radon Stakeholders' Meeting was held in Nebraska, in partnership with Iowa DPH, Kansas DPH and Environment, Missouri DPH and Senior Services, Nebraska DHHS, AARST and the Heartland Chapter.

In early April EPA Region 3 held its first two-day Radon Stakeholders Meeting, led by Robert Lewis of the PA Radon Program. The meeting was exceptionally successful, attracting nearly 100 attendees.

The Region 8 Stakeholders Meeting was held April 12-13 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



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