The October 28th meeting of the Inland Empire Chapter of IAPMO was held in the illustrious training room at the world headquarters of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials in Ontario, California.

Chairman Nick Lopez called the meeting order at 8:12 am. There were seventy-three attendees at the meeting. Treasurer Chris Smith, of Lubrizol Inc., was the moderator at our forum for PEX piping.

We had six presenters at the meeting; all either manufacturers or sales representatives for the piping. Each provided a short insight into their systems as well as PEX systems as a whole. The speakers were:

Mainline Sales Inc. representing Zurn PEX
Speaker: Brad Owens

Rehau, on Rehau PEX
Speaker: Douglas A. Jones
Renco Sales representing Bow Super PES
Speaker: Brian Fitzpatrick

Keyline Sales representing Uponor PEX
Speaker: Phil Valles

Action Sales representing Viega PEX
Speaker: Tim Smith

Signature Sales representing Cash Acme Evo PEX
Speaker: Ira Schumer

The speakers did an excellent job of delineating the various pros and cons of the different PEX piping systems. They explained the difference between types A, B, and C PEX. While type A is cross-linked with hydrogen peroxide, type B is saline-based (creating better UV resistance), and type C is silica-based. Each product had its’ own advantages.

It was explained that in a location like California, with over 10,000 different water providers, there can be extreme differences between the ph and chlorine content between the providers. The plumber or plan checker must often decide which product will perform best with the local water the system it will be used for.
One of the most controversial questions about the PEX piping concerned new regulations that all underground PEX be sleeved with a product that is approved for usage within a building. There was no firm consensus on how to implement this requirement.

The chapter would like to thank the various representatives for their informative program, and for the various raffle prizes donated by the companies. The meeting was adjourned at 10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Fredericksen
Chapter Secretary