

PSAI Announces Changes in World Portable Sanitation Day Observance

19 November 2016. New Orleans, LA. *The Portable Sanitation Association International will join with the United Nations and the World Toilet Organization to recognize the importance of all toilets on November 19 each year.*

The PSAI will host an Urgent Run in conjunction with the 2017 Nuts and Bolts Educational Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota scheduled for November 1-4.

Portable restrooms play an important role in providing sanitation options globally. Whether the units are used for a weekend festival in North America or as an interim option in regions lacking sewered services, the humble porta-potty is an essential resource when people urgently “gotta go.” To recognize this contribution, in 2013 the PSAI designated August 15 each year as **World Portable Sanitation Day (WPSD)**. Since then the Association and its Members have led the way in raising awareness about sanitation and the significant impact of portable units.

Similarly, **World Toilet Day (WTD)** is a campaign to motivate and mobilize millions around the world on issues relating to [sanitation](#). Originally established by the [World Toilet Organization \(WTO\)](#) in 2001, the day is intended to draw attention to global [sanitation](#) issues and is observed annually on November 19. Since 2001, World Toilet Day has grown in scope and recognition by global partners. In 2013, the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) passed a resolution recognizing WTD as an official UN international day (UN Resolution A/67/L.75)

At the 2016 Nuts and Bolts Educational Conference, the PSAI announced that WPSD will move to November 19 beginning in 2017. The purpose of the move is to unite the globe in its recognition of sanitation and to speak with one voice regarding its importance.

“Over the past two years, the PSAI has been in contact with many partners around the world. Beginning with our meeting with the German BDE in May 2015, the PSAI’s involvement with ANSI and ISO in the creation of global standards for nonsewered waste solutions in 2016, and through interactions with representatives from the World Toilet Organization the value of joining together became clear to us,” says Karleen Kos, PSAI Executive Director.

The November time frame for celebrating WPSD and WTD has several advantages.

- Synergies in messaging and outreach will be possible by working together with the WTO and other groups. This will make us all more effective in spreading the word about sanitation and the importance of dignified toilet options.
- November is a slower month for many portable sanitation companies – particularly those in the northern hemisphere. This may make it easier for them to participate locally.
- The PSAI’s annual Nuts and Bolts Educational Conference is typically held in early November each year. This timing will allow the PSAI to provide information and support to participating Members. It will also allow the association as a whole to undertake a charitable endeavor to raise both awareness and money for sanitation-related causes.

To that end, the PSAI also announced that it would host its first ever Urgent Run in conjunction with the 2017 Nuts and Bolts Conference scheduled for November 1-4 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Global Urgent Run is a call for urgent action to end the sanitation crisis. It aims to bring communities around the world together, to raise awareness for the global sanitation challenge and engage people with sanitation issues in their local communities. The PSAI's Committee on Education, Information and Advocacy (EI) will be taking the lead in organizing the event, and we expect it will add an element of fun to both the Nuts and Bolts Conference and the very serious business of solving the global sanitation crisis.

Want to help with WPSD/WTD? Contact Karen Holm (karenh@onsiteco.com) or Nita Bailey (nbailey@rsserviceinc.com), EI co-chairs to learn more. Interested in event organization or community runs/walks? Lindy Boehme (llb@cpacex.com) is taking the lead on the first Urgent Run and she'd love to have your assistance.

Stay tuned for more information on these activities as the planning process moves forward!

