The PSAI office staff and Flay Anthony were in full-blown event-planning mode to ensure that March’s Annual Convention and Trade Show was well-positioned for success! Meanwhile, Ron Crosier, Jeff Wigley and Karleen Kos were guests at ARA’s Rental Show – the beginning of talks which led to the alliance announced in November.

FEBRUARY

PSAI Board President Ron Crosier summed it up nicely:

“Karleen brought the right blend of knowledge and leadership experience that guided us in enhancing our value to members, our relevance to the industry, and our role as a catalyst for solutions that positively influence global sustainability.”

JANUARY

Karleen Kos was hired as the PSAI’s new executive director and relocated from sunny Florida to frosty Minnesota. Bringing over 25 years experience with nonprofit organizations and associations, she hit the ground running and put her strategic leadership and organizational growth skills to work – quickly solidifying a vision for creating a bright future for the PSAI and its members.

Karleen Kos was hired as the PSAI’s new executive director and relocated from sunny Florida to frosty Minnesota.
The PSAI Board of Directors approved the five-year strategic plan – “Our Bright Future” – at the 2014 Annual Convention and Trade Show board meeting. The vision of the organization was modified to be “A world in which clean and safe sanitation is accessible for all,” and the core purpose of the organization (why the PSAI exists) was clarified as, “To preserve lives and improve experiences by providing clean, safe portable sanitation through our Member Companies.”

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The Annual Convention and Trade Show was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Attendees were thrilled to be back in the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center where Music City is home to fond memories for many PSAI Members. Allan Baird (Baird Septic Tank Pumping, Ltd. and Go-Johns) was awarded the M.Z. “Andy” Gump Award for his work as an industry leader. Ron Seymour from Eco Waste Services won the grand prize drawing – an expense paid trip to the 2015 show!

APRIL

Using an updated, standardized online format, members and non-members provided crucial feedback in the PSAI’s annual survey. With 157 respondents from 18 countries, the survey data confirmed that the PSAI is headed in the right direction and is doing a good job at addressing many of the things stakeholders value. The results highlighted that information and education is important – and members want more and better information about their industry. Most importantly, the survey confirmed that the number one priority for the PSAI is to provide members with resources to help them save time and money in growing their businesses.
MAY

The Board of Directors convened in Barcelona, Spain for its spring meeting. Professionals from four European nations representing three European associations met with the Board to discuss collaborative approaches for advancing our industry and improving its image. The annual business plan, an employee handbook, and several modifications to the bylaws were adopted. There was Board consensus that the PSAI certification program should be updated to ensure it remains credible and can be recognized as an accredited program. Other meeting agenda items included discussion about our industry’s ANSI standards, the creation and adoption of a voluntary Code of Excellence, and a site visit to International Member Poly-Klyn, located in Terrassa, Spain. A special shout out went to Flay Anthony, Sebastian Ortiz and Lothar Vermillion, who helped with the planning and travel accommodations.

JUNE

The PSAI office moved to a new location six miles down the road from the existing office. The PSAI headquarters is now located only a block from the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. If you are visiting the area, please stop by – we’d love to meet you!

Eight students from PSAI Member Companies were each awarded $3,000 scholarships and the winners were highlighted in June’s issue of Association Insight.

June also marked the close of a successful fiscal year that was stronger than ever for the PSAI!
JULY

Members of the Board and other industry leaders met in Atlanta for a Certification Summit to discuss the PSAI certification program. During the meeting, they discussed the importance of differentiation between industry training and the credentialing program, and they outlined how creating separate PSAI committees to focus on the respective areas will benefit the long-term success and health of the Association and its members.

Also during July, the PSAI Education Initiative and dozens of PSAI Member Companies were actively engaged in planning company events to celebrate the first annual World Portable Sanitation Day. Promotion of the August 15 events began to take shape!

AUGUST

World Portable Sanitation Day on August 15 was a huge success! The PSAI issued a press release that gained international attention, and PSAI Member Companies hosted celebrations that included outreach to local news and social media outlets. WPSD events around the world were fun, festive, and filled with education opportunities for thousands of people that were previously unfamiliar with the water-saving aspects of our industry.
Jeff Wigley, Chair of the Board Nominating Committee and Past PSAI Board President, kicked off member outreach for recruiting new Board members. The nomination guidelines and process previously adopted by the Board were published for all members in the September 3 issue of Association Insight, along with a new nomination form that ensured an open and transparent election process.

PSAI Board President Ron Crosier announced the Board’s adoption of a Policy for Globalization. The policy encouraged groups of PSAI Members in countries outside the United States to form nation-specific or market-specific groups for the purpose of assisting the PSAI in understanding local needs, and supporting members’ efforts to extend the PSAI mission in those places.

Based on feedback from the annual survey in April, the PSAI announced that the hallmark publication of the Association – the PSAI Industry Catalog – would be refreshed to include more of the relevant industry information Members wanted at their fingertips. The publication would also adopt new name: PSAI Industry Resource Directory. It would be printed earlier in the year to make it available for reference at industry trade shows.

The month of October also brought new staff members to the PSAI. Jan Nelson joined as the PSAI’s Director of Business Development, and Seth Kellen was hired as the Membership and Data Services Coordinator.
The PSAI’s Nuts and Bolts Education Conference was a huge success in 2014. The event included a site tour of Moore Disposal and keynote speakers sharing their expertise about industry-relevant issues such as driver safety, OSHA-compliant safety programs, and new alternatives to waste water disposal. Panel discussions about deodorizers and promoting your business, as well as the PSAI’s highly popular roundtable discussions rounded out the event. The PSAI Certification Prep Course and Exam capped off a busy three days.

During Nuts and Bolts, the PSAI also announced its formal alliance with the American Rental Association (ARA). Leaders of the PSAI and ARA identified key areas where cooperative efforts could enhance member value that include: information exchange, education and training opportunities, risk management, and participation in annual conferences as appropriate for their respective members.

The PSAI launched a new database tool – Wild Apricot – a fully web-based system that provides an easier way for the office to accurately track and contact members. The Wild Apricot-based daughter site is located at http://psai.wildapricot.org.

Meanwhile, the office was busy during December – planning an eventful, educational and inspirational 2015 for PSAI Members!