



American Restroom Association

America's Advocate for Clean, Safe, Well-Designed Public Restrooms

An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2004 - EIN # 20-3581202.

ARA "Comfort Press" eZine

The Urgency Edition

June/July 2021

Say It Out Loud: "Diarrhea" | Some "Salvation!"
Adding Thrones to the Queen City - CincyPHLUSH
#OpenUp_ARA - Show Us the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

How do you spell "Diarrhea"?

by Tim Pyle, Executive Director

There's nothing so refreshing as someone gently and supportively calling out your blind spots.

Alison Carpenter Davis, writer, editor, and disability advocate, did just that. "You know, I did a search of the ARA website for the word 'diarrhea,'" she told me, "and I came up empty."

"Hmm? Really? I'm surprised," I replied. While we do mention IBS, Crohn's disease, and Ulcerative Colitis, my own search of the site also turned up no mention of the word "diarrhea." So, I included the word "diarrhea" in the headline here to start making up for it!

Al and I had connected when she was researching her recent *Huffington Post* article, ["Here's What I Want You To Know About Having Diarrhea While Out In Public."](#) As Al's article addresses, the interest in "where to go" bubbled back to the social consciousness during the pandemic.

As we begin continue to re-integrate ourselves in-person back in the world, we again are reminded that no bodily need is as immediate and shocking as the message from gut to brain that says, "Um, yeah, it's urgent – where are we gonna go? NOW!" It's happened to all of us, right? Now imagine if you had to



carry that potential need in the back of your mind all the time. **Having access to clean, safe, and well-designed restrooms should be considered a basic human right, and access is especially essential for full equitable participation in public life of those with these types of needs.** 100% of us need to go several times a day. We should be prepared to accommodate everyone and to be mindful that an increasing percentage of people have conditions that require urgent access without the requirement of justifying their need. Read on for more on this topic!

Pardon the Interruption: Between June 29 and July 4, we'll be transitioning our website hosting for americanrestroom.org. Thank you for your patience during this period should we experience any interruptions in availability. We now return you to your regularly scheduled programming . . .



No Urgency from Salvation Army Store to Help Someone in Urgent Need

And then there was this baffling story from "[The Discrepancy Report](#)" about an elderly woman with an urgent need who was denied access to a restroom at the Hadley, Massachusetts Salvation Army Store: "[Salvation Army store tried to stop elderly woman from using bathroom, called police on man who helped her.](#)"

You'll need to read all the way to the bottom to see the discussion about the requirement of "documentation" for non-employees using employees only restrooms. How about this for documentation? If the person asking for access is human, act humanely. Here's to Benjamin Levy's humanity and for being her "salvation."

More Urgent News: Adding "thrones" to the Queen City

On Friday, June 18, 2021, the Board of Trustees of the American Restroom Association unanimously voted to endorse the efforts of [CincyPHLUSH](#). The American Restroom Association has had a long and collaborative relationship with [PHLUSH](#) and we are pleased to support the efforts of their Cincinnati chapter. Leaders Jason Haap, Justin Jeffre, and Jacob Haap have put forth a solid plan to expand starting from a foundation of one Portland Loo at Smale Riverfront Park. CincyPHLUSH asks, "Why did the city stop at just one?" Learn more about their efforts by clicking the logo above to [view their recent press conference](#) (5 min. video).



[CincyPHLUSH](#) joins several other active efforts across the US right now doing the heavy lifting of fighting red tape and bureaucracy with a refreshing level of urgency. [Contact us](#) to learn how to kickstart your town's efforts today!

GoogleMaps Update: You may recall, last month the ARA sent a letter to GoogleMaps encouraging their participation in improving public restroom data in their tool. We've heard back and we're hoping to continue our dialog with them in the future. Stay tuned!



#OpenUP_ARA: Have the Urge to Go Traveling? Show us the good, the bad, and the ugly on our social channels!

The CDC is advising Americans to delay travel until they are fully vaccinated, but one thing is for sure, expectations for summer travel are soaring. CNN reports ["Summer travel boom coming: travel vacations booking up."](#)

Here's what the American Restroom Association wants to know: As you hit the road this summer, send us your (*discreet!*) public restroom experiences - good, bad, and ugly. What's open? What's closed? [Tag us](#) on your favorite social media channels - scroll down for the full list of links at the bottom of this email. It's time to open up America with **#OpenUP_ARA**

DONATE NOW THROUGH



Now Trending:

Fresh stuff from the web and interesting items from the ARA Inbox.

2,000 shares say, "This is Funny," but what's the underlying message if so many women can relate in their moments of urgency? See the comments.



"When you have to visit a public bathroom, you usually find a line of women, so you smile politely and take your place. Once it's your turn, you check for feet under the stall doors. Every stall is occupied. Finally, a door opens and you dash in, nearly knocking down the woman leaving the stall. You get in to find the door

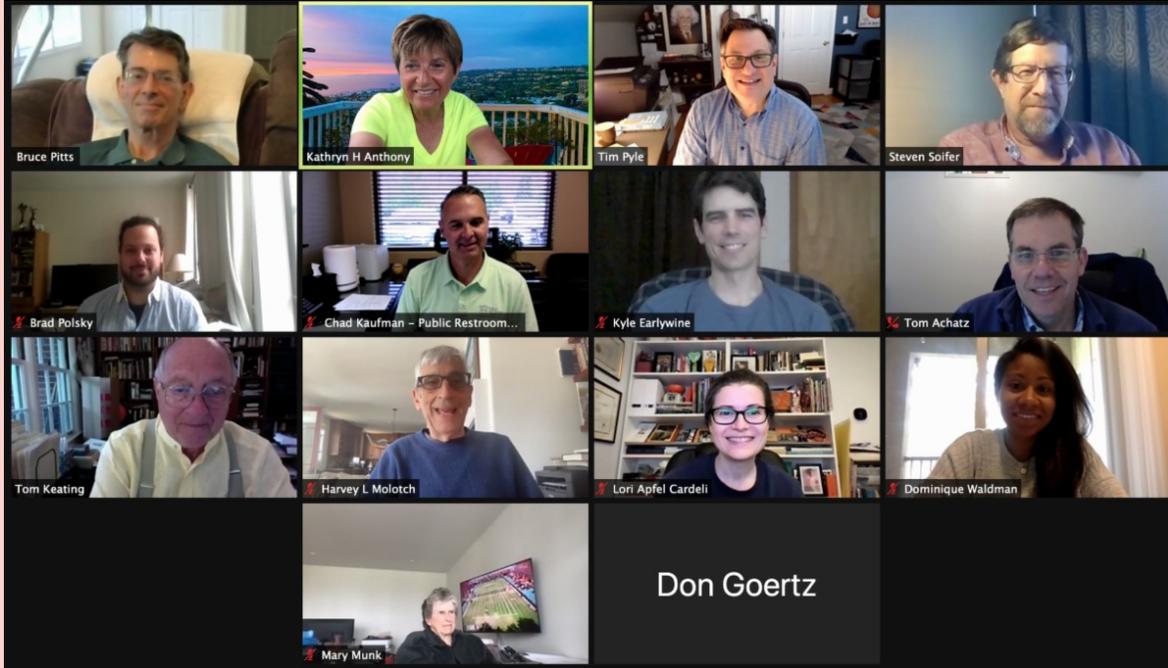
Boring, but Important: ARA Re-Elects Officers

By unanimous consent on June 18, 2021, the American Restroom Association Board of Trustees unanimously demonstrated its faith in its current officers by re-electing them for another year-long term. President Steve Soifer, VP Kathryn Anthony, Secretary Brad Polsky, and Treasurer Tom Achatz will steer the ship through June 30, 2022. The moment was immortalized below. Feel free to use it as your newest wallpaper.

The ARA is proud that it is an independent and multidisciplinary team from architecture, engineering,

won't latch. It doesn't matter, the wait has been so long you are about to wet your pants!" [Read more on Facebook...](#)

education, academia, business, and social work. If you are interested in volunteering, contact us [here](#).



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*Watch this space for more innovations for both consumer and commercial applications.
Have a new solution? [Contact us!](#)*

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About American Restroom Association (ARA): a nonprofit founded in 2004, ARA advocates for the availability of clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms. Accomplishments include successfully advocating for enforcement of and revisions to the International Plumbing Code, congressional testimony on gender equity in public restrooms in US Federal Buildings, and representing the USA in educating international audiences at Summits and Conferences of the World Toilet Organization (WTO). ARA brings together an independent and

multidisciplinary team from architecture, engineering, education, academia, business, and social work. Learn more at <https://americanrestroom.org/>.

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