



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

December 2003

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Please join us on Wednesday, December 17 at the Alamo Cafe (on 281) for our monthly luncheon. We will announce our three new CBE-Journeyman recipients and the 2003 Building Engineer of the Year nominees, and we will hold our annual board election, so please be sure to attend.

Please RSVP to (210) 408-1699 by Tuesday, December 16. PLEASE RSVP so we can be sure to have enough meals on hand!

We hope to see you there! ❖

2004 Board Election

At the December meeting, SAABE members will elect the following board members: Second Vice President, Vendor Representative, Secretary, and Education Director. Your vote is important, so please be sure to attend! ❖

Education Corner

CFC Refrigerant Recycling

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- December 12 or February 20, San Antonio
- Cost: \$108
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

Electrical Standards

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- January 5-9, Mesquite, TX
- Cost: \$795
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

HVAC Test Preparation Seminar

- Sponsored by Construction Seminars, endorsed by the Texas Air Conditioning Contractors Association
- January 9-10, Arlington, TX
- Cost: \$450
- Call 1-888-500-PASS or visit www.constructionseminars.com for more info.

OSHA Guide to Industrial Hygiene

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- January 19-23, Mesquite, TX
- Cost: \$795
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

Fall Arrest Systems

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- January 26-29, Houston, TX
- Cost: \$695
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

Hazardous Waste Update

- Sponsored by the Texas Engineering Extension Service
- February 13, Bryan, TX
- Cost: \$325
- Call 1-800-824-7303 or visit www.teex.com for more information.

Contact Education Director Jock Tilghman (681-2494) if you know of other courses. ❖

A Message from the President

by Bob Beal

Thanks, Guys

I just want to start by thanking the people who helped persuade us to make the move to Alamo Café. In the future, I don't think the noise will be as much of a problem. Also thanks to our first Vendor Showcase participants: GC Polymers, Indoor Environmental Consultants, Ed Flume Building Specialties, Rimkus Consulting Group, and Nathan Alterman Electric Company. Great job!

Holiday Happenings

December is here, and Christmas is upon us. This year, I have a little 3-year-old in my life, and I am really looking forward to playing Santa Claus on Christmas morning. Christmas is really about the kids (even if I am a 43-year-old kid). This month's luncheon is our annual Christmas Party, and we'll have some pretty good door prizes. And along with that, we have a little annual cheer to spread around. SAABE in 2003 has accomplished so much. The Board has managed to make some changes that I think will make SAABE a better organization long after the current President and board

members are gone. In January or February of 2004, we will provide a "Status of the Organization" report. It will include a financial statement, goals accomplished, charitable contributions, member accomplishments, and a comparison to last year's accomplishments. *Just a little inside info from the Pres: "We did pretty darn good in 2003."*

We have some new Certified Building Engineers at the Journeyman level (CBE-J) to add to our list of our current holders, and we will announce this year's candidates for our Building Engineer of the Year at our party.

Hard Work Pays Off

"Well, the jury is in." After a few months of reviewing the Certified Building Engineer (CBE) application and its intended purpose, the board members, all current CBE holders, and I made some needed changes to the application and the CBE program. Our updated mission statement will be presented to our members this month. There is one change that I was determined to bring to our members. I am asking the board and our members to amend our bylaws by stating that the board must meet semiannually to review and update any CBE issues. I feel this will keep the CBE program updated as long as SAABE exists. In my opinion I feel that the CBE program can make us a well-respected resource and go-to for us in the business that need an opinion or an engineer. In the near future I will ask our members to review the proposed changes and vote on them. I hope that in the future our CBE holders will enjoy some respect that they can directly credit to our CBE program. I hope to address any doubts you may have before casting your vote.

Rolling Along

The membership drive that we put into effect in the summer has been a great success. Our regular and associate members have come through by recruiting a bunch of new members. I hope everyone that helped recruit is enjoying the gift certificates and sponsorship credits. The bigger we get, the better the dollar amount for the incentives can be. So keep it up.

In closing I would like to thank God for looking over our little organization and allowing me to be in this beautiful life one more day. Thanks to all of my friends and associates for making my life a little better in 2003. On Christmas day please take a moment and think about our friends and fellow members that in 2002 and 2003 left us to care for God's Palace in heaven. ❖



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Tech Talk #78

by The Charlie

Tricks of the Trade

If you have ever marveled at a tradesman's workmanship or efficiency, whether it is an electrician, a plumber, an HVAC technician, or even a glazier, your amazement is due to two important factors—repetitive labor, and tricks of the trade!

Face it: if you do not perform tasks such as welding, pipefitting, bending conduit, etc., on a daily basis, you will not be very efficient until after you burn a few rods (and hopefully no fittings or holes) or waste a few sticks of EMT. Whether it is the right way, the other way, the wrong way, your way, or whatever way, we are not going to pursue which way, just how to make your way a little more efficient!

As an example, the next time you are working with PVC or CPVC pipe, take two cans of primer/cleaner and one can of glue/cement. Put the three cans together on a flat surface and wrap them with some duct tape. What do you have? Well, for one, now your cement and primer are together and you won't have to go looking for one or the other. Two, they are now easier to carry. Three, you can set them near your work area where they will be handy. And four, which we consider most beneficial, you will never turn over or spill another can while you are in a ditch making a repair or joining pipe! We have attempted to modify this procedure but for the quart cans, there is no easier alternative. However, with the 8-ounce cans, we substituted a six-pack beer carton for the tape, attempting to kill two birds with one stone by having the primer and the cement, as well as our other liquid refreshments nearby. If you have ever had to pick hardened cement out of your teeth because you picked up the wrong can, you'll trust me on this one—just use the tape! We have always been known to push the envelope in an effort to test a product or method with our own ingenuity and talent, but we have found that a large amount of time-proven methods are best left alone.

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Another handy trick is using the oil/sweat on the bridge your nose as a lubricant when dealing with pneumatic tubing and brass fittings! Expanding the tubing with a swage or using heat are not advantageous for long-term installations. An easy way to remove pneumatic tubing from a barb fitting is to pinch the tubing at the fitting with a pair of lineman's pliers. After the barb is removed from the tubing, you just snip off the damaged portion and re-use the tubing.

The subjects could go on and on, and we could probably write a book and still not cover all the different tricks of the trades. However, when you are working with a tradesman, pay close attention to the techniques and devices used. If you see something that you haven't seen before... just ask the tradesman! This is the best tip we can bestow on learning the tricks of the trade. I still learn things every day!

Next Month: If Building One Nest Egg is Bad Enough, Think Again!

CHARLIE'S LAW: If you can't fix the brakes...just make the horn louder!

JUSTA MAJNTENANCE MAN ❖



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NEW Vendor Showcase

SAABE meetings now feature a "Vendor Showcase," with tabletop displays from SAABE vendors that you can visit before and after the meeting. These tabletop displays will be available at every SAABE meeting that's not fully sponsored. For \$100, vendors can purchase a table that will be set up on the perimeter of the meeting area.

Vendors, if you'd like to fully sponsor a meeting, that option is still open to you. The cost is still \$500, and you can distribute printed material, have a tabletop display, and provide the speaker for that month's luncheon. For fully sponsored luncheons, there will be no other Vendor Showcase tables present.

To reserve your tabletop display, contact Tim Young, SAABE's Vendor Representative, at 210-651-5588. ❖

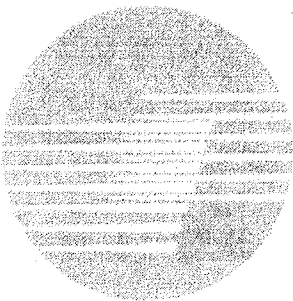
Member News

- Congratulations to **Victor Jendrzey of Comfort-Air Engineering**. Victor was recently awarded the "Top Tech 2003" recognition at the Certified Technician Competition, presented by North American Technician Excellence. NATE's competition demonstrates the skills and proficiency required to service and install HVAC equipment.
- Congratulations also to **Tony Norton of Weston Properties**. He just earned his FMA designation from the BOMI Institute.

Do you have good news about you or your staff? Send it to Laura Bray (fax 210-408-1799, email laurabray@braycommunications.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter. ❖

RSVPs are Important!

Please RSVP if you plan to attend the monthly luncheon. RSVPs are very important – they let us know how many meals to order! ❖



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Welcome New Members

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San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 737-9308
donnie@redifuel.com

Eleazor Hicks
Transwestern Commercial Services (Bank of
America Plaza)
300 Convent
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 225-1010

Andrew Zaragoza
Equity Office (Northwest Center/Colonnade I)
7550 IH-10 W, Ste 110
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 349-3324
andrew_zaragoza@equityoffice.com

John Kimball (recruited by Kyle Riggs)
Kennedy Wilson (KCI Towers)
8023 Vantage
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 341-0064

If you know someone who'd like to join SAABE, have them visit our web site at www.saabe.org to obtain a membership application. Or call Laura Bray (210-408-1699) and she will fax one to you. ❖

2004 Dues

SAABE dues have remained constant for three years. In order to fund the kinds of programs that you want to hear, the SAABE board voted to increase dues for 2004 to \$185 per person (\$145 each for two members, \$130 each for three or more). These dues will be in effect for all 2004 renewals. Please call Association Coordinator Laura Bray (210-408-1699) if you have questions. ❖

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Job Listings

Facility Coordinator, Caremark: Plan, schedule, and communicate events such as preventative maintenance, construction, building or furniture modification, equipment or systems repairs or outages. Contract outside vendors and suppliers when required as well as support groups within the organization. Create and maintain detailed records such as equipment descriptions and purchase detail; repair and maintenance histories, parts and supplies inventories, service and support contract detail and estimated life cycle in database form. (Further duties and job requirements are listed on the SAABE web site at www.saabe.org.) For information on how to apply, contact Amanda Matthews, 210-521-3000, Ext. 62224

Chief Engineer: Responsible for planning, implementation, coordination and supervision of all mechanical operations, maintenance, communications, energy management, manpower development programs for assigned properties. Fax resume and salary requirements to (210) 692-9304, Attention: Linda Sue Harper.

Lead Operating Engineer: Responsible for insuring the proper performance of all necessary maintenance and operational tasks developed to assure maximum life and reliability of all mechanical systems for assigned properties/facilities; supervision of maintenance staff; assign and monitor maintenance projects. Fax resume and salary requirements to (210) 692-9304, Attention: Linda Sue Harper.

Are you looking for someone to add to your staff? Post your open positions on SAABE's web site, www.saabe.org. This service is free of charge to SAABE members. Send your job listing to Laura Bray (fax 210-408-1799, email laurabray@braycommunications.com). ❖

Equipment Survey

SAABE is developing a database of installed equipment in the buildings of SAABE members. When completed, this database will provide an invaluable resource when troubleshooting problems or purchasing new equipment. You can look up specific equipment and equipment types in the database, then give that engineer a call to find out more.

But we can't do it without your input! Please visit the SAABE web site (www.saabe.org) and print out a copy of the survey, then fax it to Laura Bray at (210) 408-1799.

Please participate in this important new member benefit. If you have any questions, please call SAABE treasurer Doug Graves at (210) 828-7712. ❖

Email Addresses

Send your email address to laurabray@braycommunications.com to make sure you stay informed of the latest events! ❖

Membership Drive

Everyone knows engineers who should be part of SAABE, and we want them to join! SAABE's membership drive offers rewards for recruiting new members. Regular members will receive a \$25 Home Depot gift certificate for every associate member they recruit and a \$30 gift certificate for every regular member they recruit. Associate members: For every regular member that you recruit, you'll receive \$100 in sponsorships or advertising. You can find a membership application on the SAABE web site at www.saabe.org. Make sure they put your name on the "Recommended by" line, so we know who should get the gift certificate. ❖

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SAABE TIMES December Issue

Final Thought:

"There's right and there's wrong. You got to do one or the other. You do the one, and you're living. You do the other, and you may be walking around but you're dead as a beaver hat." — John Wayne

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2003 Board of Directors

Bob Beal President	377-2626
Tom Lasater 1st Vice President	521-4494
Mike Halvorsen 2nd Vice President	979-8002
Chris Evans Secretary	967-8766
Doug Graves Treasurer	828-7712
Jock Tilghman Education Director	681-2494
Tim Young Vendor Representative	651-5588
Elena Castillo Past President	822-8570

Laura Bray 408-1699
 Association Coordinator
 (laurabray@braycommunications.com)

Membership Luncheon December 17, 2003

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: ALAMO CAFE ON 281!!

Program:

SAABE's Holiday Luncheon

Upcoming Luncheon:
 January 21, 2004

Program to be Announced

The SAABE Times is edited by Laura Bray and printed monthly for the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers by:



210-340-5454
 email: inkspot@onr.com