



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

September 2008

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

The next General Membership Meeting of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers is set for 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 17, at our **NEW LOCATION** - Embassy Suites Hotel (7750 Briaridge Drive—northeast corner of IH-10 and Loop 410). The meeting will be sponsored by Voss Lighting, and the topic is “Current Regulations and How They Influence Lighting.”

Please RSVP no later than **Monday, September 15, at noon**. Late RSVPs and walk-ins will be placed on a standby list, and we will ask you to wait in the lobby until we determine the number of no-shows.

PLEASE NOTE: If you RSVP and do not attend, you will be invoiced. If you must cancel your attendance, please call Laura Bray at 408-1699 prior to the meeting so we can cancel your meal.

Please make sure to check in at the front desk when you arrive.

RSVPs are REQUIRED, so we can be sure to have enough meals on hand! ❖

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Engineer Spotlight

by Jeff Turov



Louis Vega
Chief Engineer
Transwestern
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San Antonio, TX 78212
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louis.vega@transwestern.net

- **How long in the building engineer trade?**

I have been involved in the building engineer trade for 17 years. I began my career with the Baptist Hospital System and later worked at the Federal Building and the Adams Mark Hotel. I began working for Transwestern three years ago, and this is also when I joined SAABE.

- **Any awards, recognition, or special training?**

I have been a member of the Transwestern “Team of the Year” for the past two years. As an E4 Boiler Technician 3rd Class for the Navy, I received the Engineer of the Quarter and Emeritus Unit awards and the Good Conduct, Sea Service and Southwest Asian Medals. I also attended Universal Technical Institute in Phoenix and received my Associate of Applied Science degree from St. Philip’s College.

- **What is one of your most significant, life-changing events?**

Obtaining my Associates Degree from St. Philip’s College was one of the best career decisions I ever made. It really opened a lot of doors and helped me to advance my career quickly.

- **Advice you would share with those just entering or considering the trade?**

Never underestimate the importance of education.

- **Hobbies/what do you enjoy doing during off hours?**

I enjoy fishing and softball and officiating at high school baseball and volleyball games. I also enjoy barbequing and watching Dallas Cowboy football games.

- **Family/children?**

I have been married for 21 years and have three children – two girls and one boy.

(Continued on page 10)

A Message from the President

by Charles Mikolajczyk, Jr., CBE-M

Thank the heavens, or whoever was responsible, for the rain in the later part of August. San Antonio had more rain in one day than we've had all year (1.84" on 08/18/08). Each year, rain like this is typical right before the start of dove season. It adds another degree of difficulty to the hunt, but the rain is always welcomed.

One thing South Central Texas has that grows on you is its influence on the crude oil prices and the stock market. They both are going up and down as fast as the mercury in a Texas thermometer. Or, like a white wing dove with a 30 mph tail wind. Did I mention dove season is here?

As we all make the final turn into the remaining part of 2008, things tend to slow down somewhat. Yeah right, when do things slow down in this industry? Budgets for 2009 are due, or are already turned in, and right about now is when you really know how bad, or how good, your 2008 budget was compared to your actual expenses. Everyone must have nailed their electrical budget in '08 for there were not any complaints fielded. Who would, or could, have guessed this year would have turned out the way it did. Better luck next year!

A few exciting upcoming items to mention...did I mention dove season? The SABOMA Open at Hyatt Hill Country Resort on October 10 is always a fun event and presents lots of networking. And, to take things a step further (down memory lane, that is), don't forget about the Pink Floyd concert at the Municipal Auditorium on October 11 and the Neil Diamond concert at the AT&T Center on October 12. With a jam packed, fun filled weekend like this, I can see there will be personnel shortages come Monday, October 13!

In case you have not had the chance to get your rod wet, time is running out for great fishing weather as we transition into the hunting aspect of the year. Be sure and go out and get some (fishing type) MRT before the weather makes up your mind for you.

We sincerely hope everyone is enjoying the new digs at the Embassy Suites. We've had two wonderful events and are working out the kinks as they develop. But one thing is for sure...we need to have your RSVP in by noon on the Monday before the scheduled luncheon in order to confirm seating and meals for everyone. Much

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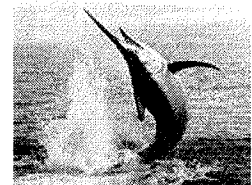
to my surprise, there is not an endless supply of tenderloin in the kitchen (I really didn't know that...this is Texas isn't it?). Therefore, please bear with us as we really do need to have confirmed attendance beforehand. Thank you for helping us serve you.

In closing, and taking a break from dove season, I hope to see all of you at the next meeting upon my return from a convention in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. The two-day program is based upon the Annual Non-Resident Speed Goat extravaganza (aka, Pronghorn Antelope season)!

Finally, thanks to everyone who has been attending and sending RSVP's to the luncheons. The attendance this year has been phenomenal (100+ in July and 107 in August). Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Keep up the RSVP's, and thank you very much.

In parting, please be sure and RSVP to the SAABE luncheons....

Till then, FISH ON! ❖



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SAABE Going Green Forum/Group

For those engineers who are involved with or interested in the Energy Star Rating Program or have moved onto the LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings), this is the group for you. This forum/group has engineers and vendors that have experience with these programs and are available to assist you in getting started, answering questions or explaining different aspects of these programs. They are also familiar with energy saving ideas for power, HVAC, landscaping and recycling. We are working with the SABOMA Green Committee to make San Antonio a city known for both its Riverwalk and energy conservation.

The group is new, and we welcome other engineers and vendors that can contribute to our understanding and application of these programs and ideas. At present, we have Rondo Jauer from Transwestern involved with LEED-EB, Doug Graves with Chase Center Oak Park for Hines with an Energy Star Rating, Paul Dockery with Chemsearch's Green Building Initiative, and Scott Johnson with Enviregy, an environmental building and energy solutions company.

Monthly meetings will begin soon. If you have any questions, please call Tom Lasater at 771-5824. For additional information visit www.energystar.gov or www.usgbc.org.

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Ronnie Shaner: rshanner@brandteng.com

David Felts: dfelts@brandteng.com

Matthew Dunn: mdunn@brandteng.com

SAABE 2009 Dues Increase

On behalf of the SAABE Board of Directors, we would like to address an economic issue with each of you in regards to a SAABE dues increase, effective November 2008 (for 2009 dues). This increase is due to rising costs and our new meeting venue (larger and nicer space, but more expensive). SAABE's last dues increase was in November 2003.

Please review and make note of the following changes in anticipation of your 2009 budgets (dues invoices will be issued in November):

One Member (Regular or Associate)	\$220
Two Members (each)	\$175
Three or more (each)	\$155

These increases reflect an average of 4% per year since the last change, and these rates should remain for some time into the future as we continue to expand our knowledge base and continued growth.

Thank each of you for your support and understanding. Please contact me or anyone on the Board of Directors if you have questions.

Charles H. Mikolajczyk Jr. CBE-M

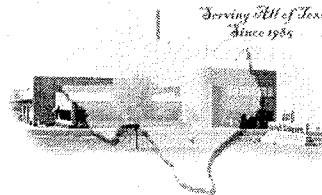
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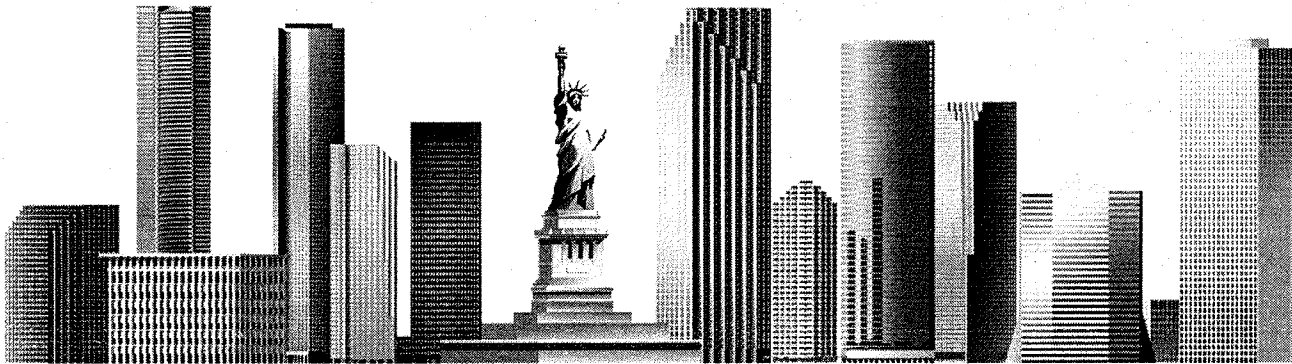
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July Lunch Summary

by Robert Andrews, Jr.

One hundred and seven people attended the August SAABE meeting sponsored by TDIndustries! Charlie started off the meeting with an update on the City of San Antonio's Electrical Board and all the changes that are going on with the Electrical Maintenance Registration. Starting in January, you must take a two hour class to renew an EMT card. If you have not obtained your EMT card, do it now before the new rules take over and an eight hour mandatory class starts.

Rob Crisler, the Building Systems Integration Manager for TDIndustries, showed us a slide show of the many different ways that technology and being green has, and will, effect our industry. In the early 1970s, OPEC's oil embargo started the wheels in motion. By the 1980s, pneumatics were already being phased out into the newer Direct Digital Control. Green intelligent buildings are now the future.

We were reminded that a Green building is not just one that conserves energy, but is also one that works well with all of its systems, the occupants and the environment. Having a shared network of building systems is one of the key steps for an intelligent building. Access control, cameras, lighting, elevator control and HVAC all help to make the building environment a much better place to work in. However, there are a few newer items that will take the office experience to a new level.

Digital signage helps with company or building announcements, as well as emergency management. In the event of a fire or other evacuation process, the signs can automatically be changed to show the best route of escape from the building. Intelligent restrooms can help in monitoring water usage throughout the day, notifying you when there is a dripping faucet or stuck toilet diaphragm. Advanced systems will even let you know when it is time to order more paper products or soap.

One example of a successful Intelligent Building is in San Jose, California. An investment of \$650,000 was made and has already returned \$728,000 in savings. We also saw the upcoming designs on bigger, better and even moving buildings.

For more information on Intelligent Buildings, contact Rob Crisler with TDIndustries at (972) 888-9344 or e-mail him at rob.crisler@tdindustries.com. TD also provides other services, such as electrical, plumbing, and HVAC. ❖



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Upcoming Programs

by Allen Mangrum

As promised, below is the proposed luncheon schedule:

Date	Topic	Sponsor
10/15/08	"SAWS Water Conservation"	TBD
11/19/08	"Future of Road Construction"	TBD
12/17/08	Board Elections/Year End Awards	Board

Well, the kids are back in school, traffic is back to its normal pain in the butt and the weather is changing daily - raining and flooding one moment, drought the next. These daily South Texas traditions make living and working in San Antonio an opportunity that many will never get to experience.

I recently took a trip to Seattle, Washington for a visit with the grandkids and, even with the tall trees and the mountain settings and (again) the rain, it's hard to beat South Texas. The weather up there was unusually hot (records of 94+). Doesn't sound hot, but when you realize their average is around 75 and most homes are not equipped with air conditioning, it's downright hot! If you ever have a chance to see that part of the country, do not hesitate, as it was one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen.

I would like to send out another invitation to our vendors to set your sponsorship month in 2009. I know it's a little far out, but I already have quite a few commitments, and spaces are filling up fast. Please contact me at allen.mangrum@tdindustries.com or call

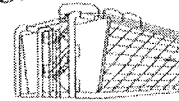
210-414-6529 to set your sponsorship in stone.

The board would like to thank all the vendors that have stepped up to the plate thus far. I am confident we can continue this roll into the next year. Remember that the sponsorship only costs \$200 and affords you an opportunity to show your wares as well as have the undivided attention of over 100 smiling faces in our industry. At approximately two dollars per person that's a great investment - wouldn't you agree?

In closing, please remember to RSVP, RSVP, and RSVP.

See ya'll at the luncheon!❖

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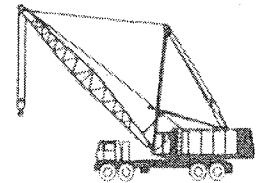
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Reminder: SAABE Meeting Location

Just a reminder that the SAABE meetings are now being held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 7750 Briaridge (northeast corner of IH-10 and Loop 410). Please call them at 340-5421 if you need directions or information on navigating the current construction.

In addition to more spacious quarters, the new location features a three-course meal with a salad, an entrée and a dessert. Because the meal is much better than those we have had in the past, the plate cost has increased about 35% per person.

This makes your RSVPs much more important than ever before. **RSVPs need to be received no later than noon on the Monday prior to the event.** Late RSVPs and walk-ins will be placed on a standby list, and we will ask you to wait in the lobby until we determine the number of no-shows.

Remember to arrive early for the best seating. Effective with the July meeting, associate members are now being charged \$20 for lunch (lunches already prepaid are not affected). Also effective with the July meeting, **all no-shows** (both regular members and associate members) are being billed \$20. ♦

Engineer Spotlight (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

- **Having gone through a major building renovation at Cypress Towers, what advice would you share with other engineers?**

Always stay in constant communication with your contractors. This will help you keep tabs on the progress of the job and stay informed about problems that might be occurring. Also, perform weekly walk throughs to personally witness job progress and make sure that housecleaning is being performed. This will also help you maintain a safer jobsite. ❖



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New Members

Welcome to the following new SAABE members! Please make sure to add their information to your 2008 SAABE Membership Directory.

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<p>Sid Hebert Gillette Air Conditioning Co., Inc. 1215 San Francisco SATX 78201 • (210)-735-9235 sh@gillette-ac.com</p>	<p>Richard Shipp Computrols 4718 Bending Grove SATX 78259 Richards@computrols.com</p>
<p>Mike Madzy Honeywell 486 Mystic Pkwy Spring Branch, TX 78070 (210) 267-7657 Michael.madzy@honeywell.com</p>	<p>Jesse Rodriguez Total Maintenance Solutions 401 Hollow Dr, #1 SATX 78209 • (210) 300-8263 jesse@tmssouth.com</p>
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SAABE TIMES
September Issue

Final Thought:

"Be wiser than other people, if you can, but do not tell them so." - Lord Chesterfield (1694—1773)



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**September Membership Meeting:
 Wednesday, September 17**

**"Current Regulations and How They Influence
 Lighting"**

Sponsored by Voss Lighting

**NEW LOCATION: Embassy Suites Hotel
 (7750 Briaridge)**

11:30 am

**Upcoming Program:
 Wednesday, October 15**

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



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