



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

July 2007

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR JULY MEETING!

The next General Membership Meeting of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers is set for 11:30 am on Wednesday, July 18 at the Alamo Cafe on 281 (just north of Bitters). The meeting topic will be announced soon. Visit www.saabe.org for updates, and watch for another meeting announcement soon.

The meeting will be held in the first floor Travis/Bowie rooms, to the right of the entrance. There is plenty of parking at the back of the restaurant. **Please make sure to check in at the front desk when you arrive.** Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, as members have reported attempted break-ins in the restaurant parking lot.

Please RSVP to (210) 408-1699 by Tuesday, July 17.

PLEASE RSVP so we can be sure to have enough meals on hand!

Thank You, SAABE Trade Show Food Sponsors!

Many thanks to the following vendors, who sponsored the wonderful buffet at the SAABE/SABOMA Trade Show in May. We appreciate your support!

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- MEI-McCrory, Inc.

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- Amcon Inc. ❖

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BUILDING ENGINEERING

A Message from the President

by Charles Mikolajczyk, CBE-M

Gosh, the first half of the year has already slipped by. The past few months have been wet ones too! All of the lake levels and reservoirs are in good shape for the remaining summer months, lots of outdoor activities currently underway or in the making, and we have all had some rather cool weeks for June. Can it really get any better than this? ☺

Last month, Laura Bray and I attended a soiree thrown by SABOMA for the departure of Lynn Forester who was the Executive Director of the local BOMA office for 17 years. Lynn was also the SAABE Association Coordinator from 1998 to 2002. In honor of this, and on behalf of SAABE, Laura and I presented Lynn with a plaque indicating her services and SAABE's appreciation. Lynn was also a great liaison between our two organizations and will be greatly missed. We wish Lynn the best in her new adventure!

Speaking of adventures, I have not seen any correspondence in regards to anyone's outdoor activities. I saw a few members last month at the ASA (American Sub-contractors Association) Annual fishing tournament at Port A... it rained on us for six hours while at the land cut. ☹ Hope to see more of you at the 72nd Annual Deep Sea Roundup this month.

In regards to business, the City of San Antonio Development Services has some new rules in effect in regards to the Annual Maintenance Electrical Permit and the Maintenance Technician Registrations. Basically, you will need to make sure you have all information when you go down to the permit office. This includes (but is not limited to): a copy of each Maintenance Technician's card, a completed Electrical Permit Application (including the names and card numbers of each maintenance technician or electrician), and a copy of the certificate of insurance in the stated amounts and insured. Also, be sure that each Maintenance Technician's card is current/valid when applying. Last but not least, do not forget to take a check!

Some additional helpful info: if you are going to renew a card, check in at the info desk and get a number. You will need to see a clerk. If you are going to renew your permit, bypass the front desk and go upstairs. See Mimi Camargo with all your paperwork completed and in hand.

For those of you who are taking classes, attending the Thursday training, attending seminars, etc, thank you for taking the time to further advance your knowledge and increasing your marketability! Trust me...this will pay off down the road.

PAVECON

BRIAN HARRISON
PROJECT MANAGER

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As we enter the second half of the year, it will be sooner than you think that next year's budgets will be coming due, making the down hill slide on this years remaining budgets, getting the kids back to school, getting ready for the entire month of winter, and don't forget your Christmas shopping should start early! LOL

In closing, I remember a newsletter from Austin that had a closing I've seen a lot lately (Peace-Out). In being one who goes against the grain, I'd rather prefer to close by stating "Dive-In"!

See you all at the next SAABE Luncheon! ❖

Apply for the SAABE Scholarship/Educational Assistance Program

SAABE now offers a program to provide scholarships and educational assistance to SAABE members for participation in courses related to property maintenance (especially SMT/SMA* programs offered by the BOMI Institute).

Applicants must be regular members of SAABE and hold a position in the field of building maintenance. The place of business must be within the San Antonio geographical area. Applicants must have long-term career plans in building engineering/maintenance and must have at least two years of experience in the field. Applicants are responsible for a portion of the cost of any course.

For full details, rules, and an application, visit the SAABE website at www.saabe.org. ❖

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SAABE Financial Reports Available Upon Request

The SAABE Association Manager and Treasurer present a summary annual financial report at the December meeting. However, SAABE members are entitled to review SAABE's financial statements at any time. Please contact Laura Bray, SAABE's Association Manager, for more information (210-408-1699). ❖

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! ❖

BOMI Discussion/Action Group

- Every first and second Thursday at Transwestern's Bank of America tower downtown, 11:30am–1:00pm.
- Led by Tom Lasater.
- Free to SAABE members. Bring a sack lunch.
- For additional information contact Doug Graves (828-7712) or Tom Lasater (771-5824).

Contact Laura Bray (408-1699) if you know of other courses or events. ❖

Do You Know Other Engineers?

Which engineers do you know that should be a member of SAABE? Have them visit the website, or send their contact info to Laura (laurabray@braycommunications.com) and she'll send them some materials! ❖

Job Openings

There are several job openings currently listed on the SAABE website (www.saabe.org). Visit the site for full details.

If you have job openings, please forward them to laurabray@braycommunications.com for posting. ❖

It Pays to Advertise in *SAABE TIMES*

<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>1 Issue</u>	<u>3 Issues</u>	<u>1 Year</u>
Full page	\$110	\$280	\$1,000
Half page	\$60	\$150	\$575
Quarter page	\$30	\$75	\$280
Business card	\$20	\$50	\$190

(call for ad dimensions, 210-408-1699)

Send ad copy (preferably in GIF or JPG formats) and payment to SAABE, PO Box 780785, San Antonio, TX 78278, or email (preferred) to laurabray@braycommunications.com.

Education Corner

Basic Electricity for the Non-Electrician

- July 30—31
- Specifically designed for maintenance technicians working in commercial buildings.
- Cost: \$890, use promotion code F29 2442 A

Understand Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Systems

- August 13—14
- Specifically designed for maintenance technicians working in commercial buildings.
- Cost: \$890, use promotion code F29 2442 A

Electrical Troubleshooting and Preventative Maintenance

- August 1—2
- Specifically designed for building electrical equipment maintenance.
- Cost: \$890, use promotion code F29 2442 A

All classes are offered by American Trainco. To register, visit their website (www.americantrainco.com). ❖

Communications Check-Up[®]

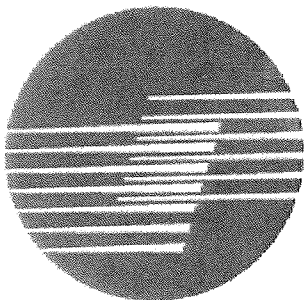
by Laura Bray

Stylebooks

Nearly all writers, journalists, and editors have a variety of stylebooks on their professional bookshelf. Stylebooks lend consistency to a publication by making sure that information is presented in the same manner from issue to issue and from writer to writer. One of the most popular stylebooks is *"The Association Press Stylebook."* Here are some of their more useful suggestions:

- **Acronyms:** It's usually best to omit periods in capitalized acronyms (which is why you always see "SAABE" and not "S.A.A.B.E"). Exceptions: when the no-period acronym ends up spelling an unrelated word, or two-letter acronyms (such as U.S. or D.C.).
- **Afterward:** Like that, not "afterwards."
- **Ages:** Use figures for people and animals, and spell out for inanimate objects ("my dog is 7 years old" and "the chiller is ten years old").
- **Building:** Not capitalized in general, except when part of a proper name ("Empire State Building").
- **Capital and Capitol:** The first (with an a) is a city where the seat of government is located; it also describes money or equipment when used in a financial sense. The second (with an o) are the buildings in Washington, Austin, etc.; it's usually capitalized ("the U.S. Capitol").
- **Company Names:** Visit the Standard and Poor's Register of Corporations online or company websites to determine the correct presentation of the name (for example, the beverage "Dr Pepper" doesn't use a period in that initial abbreviation). Don't use a comma before Inc. or Ltd. ❖

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News from the City of San Antonio

For full details on any of these programs, visit www.sanantonio.gov.

- Project Cool Seeks Fan Donations for the Elderly: The City of San Antonio again has joined forces with residents and several local corporate and human service organizations to collect and distribute electric box fans to help elderly citizens who may suffer most from high summer temperatures. Through the City's Project Cool Program, citizens are asked to donate new box fans by dropping them off at any local fire station. Fans will be distributed to eligible clients in San Antonio and Bexar County through Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent DePaul.
- Main Plaza Redevelopment Project Update: Dolorosa Street from Flores to Dwyer will partially close on Tuesday, July 10. Downtown drivers may wish to take alternate traffic routes next week as the block of Dolorosa from Flores to Dwyer streets will narrow to two lanes beginning Tuesday, July 10 until Monday, July 16. The partial closure will allow construction crews to continue infrastructure improvements as part of the Main Plaza Redevelopment Project. Visitors to the courthouse will be able to enter at the south entrance at Nueva Street. The north entrance will remain closed until the Main Plaza Redevelopment Project nears completion in the spring of 2008.
- Applications Sought for City Boards and Commissions: San Antonio residents are encouraged to get involved in their local government by serving on a City board or commission. Applications are being sought for several At-Large City boards or commissions, including the South Fort Sam Houston Development Advisory Board, the Air Transportation Advisory Commission, the Convention and Visitors Commission, and the Municipal Civil Service Commission. The deadline date to submit applications is July 20, 2007. See the website for application details. ♦

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Engineer Spotlight

Charles H. Mikolajczyk, Jr., CBE-M

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

Since June 1977 (30 years). At the Forum Office Complex for 17 years.

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

SAABE BEOTY 1999 and 2003
BOMA BOTY 1993 (100,000-500,000 sf)

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

Deep sea fishing, hunting, photography, outdoor cooking, any competitive skills games, a large amount of socializing. ☺

- **Family/Children?**

Wife and three children (13, 15 and 17); two daughters and the youngest, our son.

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

It's a long haul, stick with it. There are numerous trades to master. Never bite off more than you can chew. Keep yourself open to options. Constantly evaluate yourself. Make yourself marketable. Never ever burn any bridges.

- **What do you enjoy about the building engineer trade?**

The challenges, the camaraderie, being in a position to help other engineers and property managers.

- **Any interesting stories from your years in the business?**

I should have started a diary long ago because Peyton Place wouldn't have a thing on the stories I can tell. ❖



CBE and Scholarship Applications Online

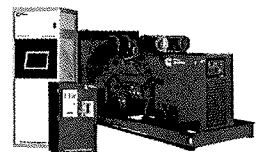
You can now download an application for the Certified Building Engineer and Scholarship programs on SAABE's web site at www.saabe.org

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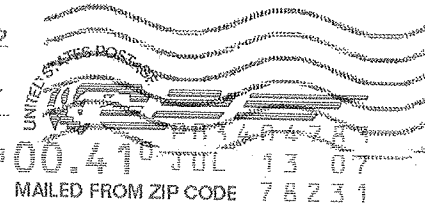


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**SAABE TIMES
 July Issue**

Final Thought:

"In skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed..." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

2007 Board of Directors

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

**July Membership Meeting:
 Wednesday, July 18
 See www.saabe.org for
 program details.**

**Upcoming Program:
 Wednesday, August 15**

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



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