



# SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

Year End 2017

Mark Your Calendar

## JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING!

The next General Membership Meeting of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers is set for 11:30 am on THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018 at the Embassy Suites San Antonio Northwest, located at 7750 Briaridge, San Antonio, TX 78230.

[THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO](#)  
WILL BE PRESENTING ON  
SIGNIFICANT 2018 CHANGES

RSVPs are due no later than  
Monday, January 15, 2018. YOU  
MUST RSVP or you will have to wait  
until all attendees are seated.

If you must cancel your RSVP, please  
email our Association Manager at  
saabetx@gmail.com BY MONDAY  
JANUARY 15TH AT 5:00PM so we can  
cancel your meal. Cancellations received  
after this time will still be invoiced.

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

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BERS A VERY SAFE, PROSPEROUS AND  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



NEW YEAR, NEW WEBSITE!

CHECK OUT THE ALL NEW

[WWW.SAABE.ORG](http://WWW.SAABE.ORG).

WE HAVE UPGRADED OUR SITE TO BE MORE  
USER FRIENDLY and PROVIDE MORE UP TO  
DATE AND DETAILED INFORMATION.

CHECK IT OUT TODAY!

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## Above the Ceiling

Guest Written by Paul Thompson, Past President

### They Left Their Mark

I cannot let this year pass without mentioning two towering talents in our industry that no longer ply their trade; between them, they had close to 100 years total on the job. One finally retired decades past the time he could have while the other sadly passed away too early. Both were plain spoken, hardworking and respected by their friends and people they worked with as outstanding in their fields.

I met Bob Reid at the Wyndham Hotel back in '85; he hired in as the HVACR guy, I was the Electrician with no idea at all what all this mechanical equipment was. But Bob was a patient teacher, always willing to take the time to explain how things worked. He never was a speed demon but more of a long distance runner who always had a singular focus on keeping the equipment in tip top shape and getting the job done. But he was destined for bigger things; a stint at UTSA for a number of years and moving onto SAISD where he rose through the ranks becoming head of the HVAC Department and later Director. In line with that job, he also became the lead MEP guy overseeing new construction and remodels through a number of school bonds. He taught me a thing or two about punch list inspections I use to this day.

An early backer of SAABE, his name appeared in our very first Directory circa 1989-1990. But he had other interests and in his spare time liked to hunt and take care of that little 600 acre ranch that he lived on down the road. He also claimed that he had erected a giant dome over the property that kept out all beeper and later cell phone signals; good luck on that! Occasionally we'd trade sons allowing them to find trouble both on a ranch and lake. And dogs too: Arrowhead (aka Airhead or Arrow), Smokey and now Loki.

And this guy used to run a couple miles at lunch for no good reason!

Bob passed away earlier this year and is survived by his wife Linda and son Matt and is greatly missed.

**When I first happened upon Dan Rich in 1988 at St. Luke's Lutheran Hospital, he was already a spry 50 some with an entire career behind him and no plans to slow down. Several years later, I got to know him much better at the Pyramid Building where we had a very complex 100% pneumatic system with some big issues. Over a period of time, he turned that building completely around and made it one of the most efficient in San Antonio with day/night setback, enthalpy based economizer free cooling and floor by floor AC control, all with a system many would consider a dinosaur now. He was able to put that building on his finger and spin it like Curly Neal with a basketball! With his little Johnson Controls truck and blue pneumatics tackle box, he worked Magic. And he worked this magic on many, many buildings throughout San Antonio and south Texas over many decades. Don't hold me to these dates, but I believe Dan first entered the Trade in 1956 and later (early 60's?), got hired on at Johnson Controls, a company he would remain with until his final retirement earlier this year. When he left, he had the most seniority of the entire 120,000 person company, earning him a visit from it's President.**

That Dan retired as the undisputed king of pneumatic controls is without question; his fingerprints can still be found on buildings throughout all of south Texas even as the technology moves on. **Although I don't think he was ever a member of SAABE, there are any number of grey haired Building Engineers that know his name well. I always thought that when Dan retired, all the pneumatic compressors across our area should go silent as a tribute.**

So Dan, if you ever read this, I only got three things I want to say: **It's a Goo Goo! Cross your legs! Yakshi vishi!**

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## Luncheon Recap

By Joseph Nuncio

Thank You San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) for your time to come speak to us, and your dedication to keeping everyone safe. Lt. Trevino with SAFD reminded us about the importance of Fire System inspections and maintenance on our buildings and facilities.

Firefighters, EMS and Police are considered "First Responders" in emergency situations, however, it ALL starts with YOU! The Building Engineer. You are responsible for maintaining and inspecting the "Life Safety" systems in your buildings, which can prevent tragedies even before the First Responders come into play.

That is why the inspections of these systems is so important, in particular, the very commonly overlooked FDC (Fire Department Connection) that allows the Fire Department to connect into the building's sprinkler system to either add water pressure when more is needed and or to supply water to the sprinkler system in case of a water supply failure.

A new Fire Code has been adopted and is going to be implemented in 2018. A possible new requirement will be for the FDC to have caps on the end. This will help eliminate trash, debris and critters from entering the FDC pipe(s) and causing potential problems when and if it has to be used in an emergency.

Code or not, protecting these connections is a good safety practice. Remember, when you have your Fire Sprinkler system

inspected, your Fire Sprinkler contractor should also be inspecting the FDC, which is, again, very commonly overlooked with an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality. Equally as important as the inspection is identifying the FDC's Location. Some FDC's are not marked, some are hidden behind trees and bushes and others are easily blocked by parked vehicles. Lt. Trevino recommends that the FDC location be clearly marked with signage that is high up, so as not to be easily blocked by parked vehicles and clearly visible to firefighters entering the scene of an emergency. This will cut down on the precious time spent trying to locate the FDC, when seconds count.

Thank You SAFD and Building Engineers for all that you do, keep up the good work.



New member and need to get your name out there? [Put it here!](#)

CONTACT OUR ASSOCIATION MANAGER AT SAABETX@GMAIL.COM TO FIND OUT HOW!



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## ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

### Welcome to the 2018 SAABE Board of Directors

- President - Robert Andrews, Jr, CBE-M, SMA  
1st Vice President - Art Martinez, CBE-J  
2nd Vice President - Pete Munoz  
Treasurer - TO BE APPOINTED  
Secretary - Joseph Nuncio, Newly Elected  
Vendor Representative - Nate Simpson, Newly Elected  
Education Director - David Ellis, Newly Elected  
Membership Director - Steve Nanez, Newly Elected  
SAABE Serves Committee Chair - Stacey Mercer  
Social Committee Chair - Lauren Littlefield  
BESST Committee Chair - POSITION OPEN



### **DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!**

**ALL DUES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2018. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS THIS YEAR, IF DUES ARE NOT PAID, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS.**

**IF YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR INVOICE RESENT, PLEASE EMAIL SAABETX@GMAIL.COM AND REQUEST.**

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## SAABE SPOTLIGHT

by Justin Titus

Estevan Cortez  
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Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. When I was 17, my family moved to Grand Prairie, TX. I lived there up until 5 years ago, when my wife and I decided to relocate to San Antonio. We always had plans of retiring in San Antonio, so we just decided to come early. I am a proud Veteran, and served 6 years in the Marine Corps.

How long have you been a member of SAABE?

I have been a member of SAABE for 3 years. I love being able to network with other people in the industry and service companies that help us out when needed. It provides a good opportunity to pick the brain of others and see what has worked well for them, and what has not.

Family and Children?

I have been married to my wonderful wife for 26 years. Together we have 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. My oldest son served in the Army and my youngest son is currently serving in the Navy. I am also a proud Grandpa to 4 Grandkids.

What hobbies keep you busy?

Family is the most important thing to me, and in my free time I spend as much time as possible with my family. I also enjoy working around the house.

What Advice would you share with those thinking about joining SAABE?

Keep an open mind and learn things on a daily basis. Even if you have been in the industry for 20 years, you can still learn new things.

What is the best vacation or favorite place you have ever been to?

San Diego and Florida are my two favorites. My wife and I have a trip to Florida planned for next year to take the Grandkids to Universal Studios.

Favorite Quote/Saying/Song?

**"It is good to be a Leader, but sometimes you have to be a follower."** **"Get your head out of your ass."** – Something I have to tell the kids from time to time.

If you could do anything you wanted and money was not a factor, what would you do?

I would go to school and learn everything there possible is about computers, and stay in front of all the new technology.

**PLEASE READ:  
IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE**

### VERY IMPORTANT POLICY CHANGE

Due to rising costs in the industry, SAABE will be implementing a new policy. There has been a recurring theme of Regular members RSVPing to the luncheons and then not attending. When you RSVP, we have provide a headcount to the venue and when you don't show, SAABE still has to pay for your plate. On average, we spend \$300 or more on lunches each month for members that were not present. Due to this, beginning in January 2018, we will begin charging our Regular members for recurring no-shows to the luncheons. **If you RSVP and don't attend, you will get one free pass per year and if you miss a second time, you will be charged \$20.00, the cost of your lunch.** We hate to put this policy in place and have avoided it for many years, but this is a cost that SAABE can't continue to absorb and our options are to drastically raise annual dues, or implement a policy that charges per occurrence. We appreciate your understanding. Should you have any questions, please contact any SAABE Board member.

**Check it Out!**

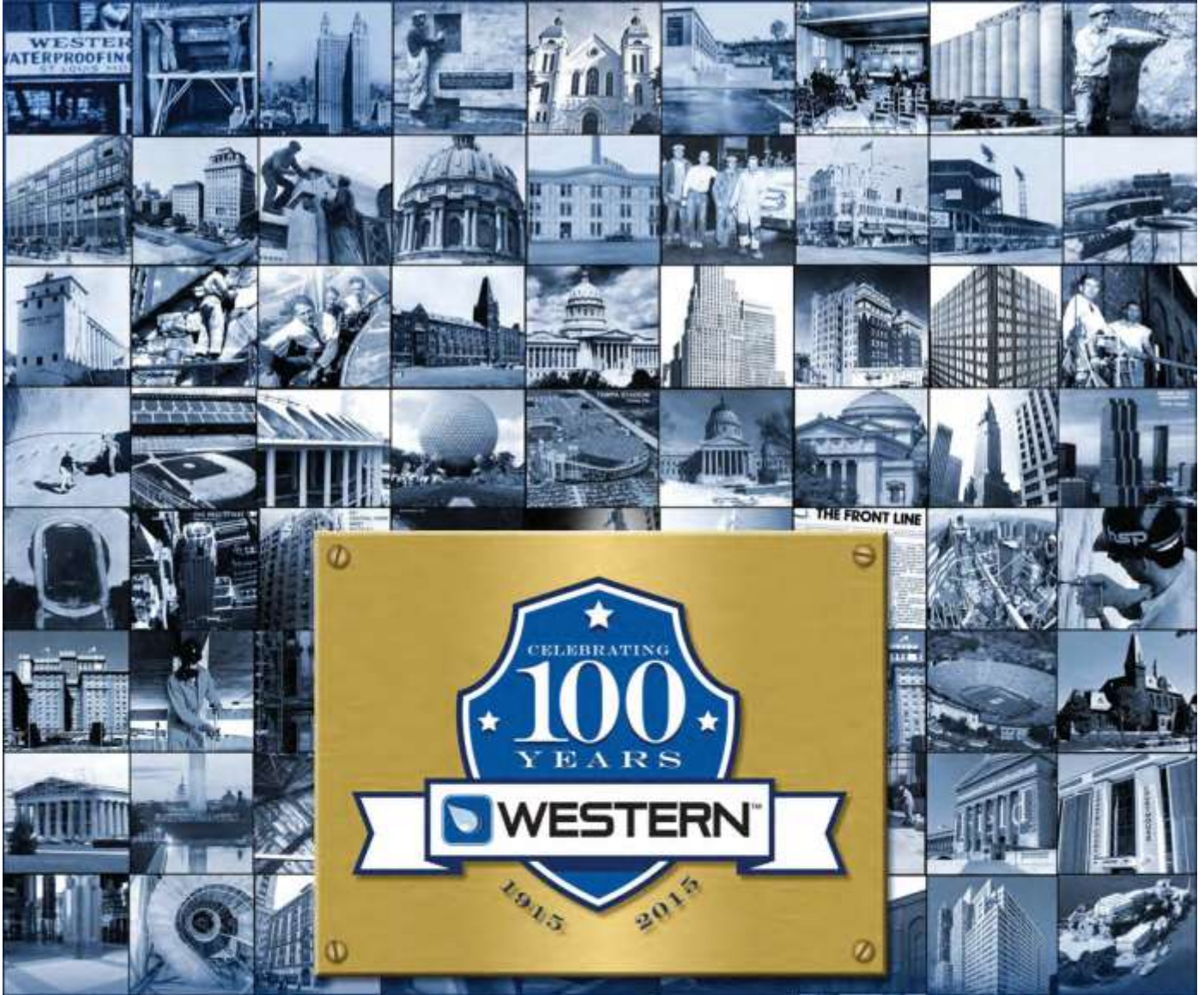
### CURIOUS ABOUT CBE?

Not sure what it is? Not sure if you would qualify?

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San Antonio



Association of Building Engineers

SAABE TIMES  
December 2017

PO Box 781261  
San Antonio TX 78278

*Final Thought:*

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors,  
and let every new year find you a better man.”

-Benjamin Franklin

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