



SAABE TIMES

A publication of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers

December 2011

Mark Your Calendar—

JOIN US FOR OUR DECEMBER MEETING!

The next General Membership Meeting of the San Antonio Association of Building Engineers is set for 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 21, at the Embassy Suites Hotel (7750 Briaridge Drive; northeast corner of IH-10 and Loop 410).

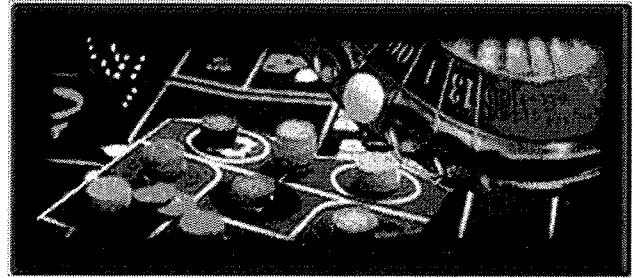
This will be the annual business meeting and board elections. Awards for perfect attendance for 2011 will also be presented.

Please RSVP no later than Monday, December 19, at noon.

If you must cancel your attendance, please call Melodie Goff at (210) 408-8135 **BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, AT NOON** 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! ♦



SAABE “Holiday in Vegas”!!!

Friday, December 9, 2011

6pm – 10pm

This year’s SAABE holiday party is a change from the same old, same old. We have organized a traditional holiday dinner, as well as Vegas style gaming - all in a place that you are familiar with...The Embassy Suites NW.

There will be gaming for all tastes! Blackjack tables, a Roulette wheel, a Craps table, and Texas Hold ‘Em Poker...plus a full service bar in the lobby.

The grand prize this year will be awarded to the player who has the most chips at the end of the evening. Drawings for door prizes will be held throughout the evening as well, and everyone who has been to one of our parties knows that we have a lot of those. (If you would like to donate a door prize, please contact Robert Steele at (210) 421-0113 or rsteale@southprorestoration.com.)

Bring a guest, and let’s see who comes out as the top dog! The gauntlet has been thrown down - who will race to - the top of the or pack?

If you are coming, please e-mail Melodie Goff at mg.assoc.mgmt@gmail.com. PLEASE NOTE: The event is free for SAABE members and one guest. The charge for additional guests is \$25 each. If you RSVP and do not attend, you will be invoiced \$25 for the event. If you must cancel your attendance, please call Melodie Goff at 210-408-8135 prior to the event so we can adjust the amount of food to order.

We hope to see you there! ♦



Many thanks to our Vendor Sponsors!

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A Message from the 1st Vice President by Michael Halvorsen, SMA, CBE-M

It's that time of year again! Time to wrap up our end-of-year projects, make sure our budgets are balanced and try to schedule those "USE THEM OR LOSE THEM" vacation days!

For me, it's always tough to schedule time off, because I don't want to bother someone else with needing to "cover me" in my absence. That's a lot to ask. Alas, I have the good fortune of having some terrific co-workers. There is always a willing person to step up and "cover me." For that, I am grateful!

It's easy at this time of the year to get so distracted with all the festivities of the season that we forget about those around us who may not be "enjoying" the season for one reason or another. Please remember those who cannot really enjoy all the season has to offer. Maybe they have an illness or have had a recent passing in the family. Maybe a loved one can't be home because they are somewhere on the other side of the planet serving in the military. Maybe they have fallen victim to this harsh economy and just can't afford to have a Christmas for their own family.

If you know of them, ask them to join your family for some of the festivities you will be enjoying. It might just be all they have for this season! If you can squeeze it out of your budget, donate a toy or some food, or whatever is needed, to your favorite charitable organization or church.

All that aside, also remember that this is the time of year when a lot of folks get a little carried away with the "festivities." They will be going to holiday parties and such and may have a little too much "cheer." Be very careful when you are out and about this holiday season. Watch out for the "over-indulged" as well as for those who prey on the unsuspecting masses during the holidays.

I would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Let's all go into 2012 in good health and spirits! And try to help those dear to you to do the same! ❖

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SAABE Annual Toy Drive



Left to right: John Leifester, Mike Halvorsen, Kendal Langenberg, and Melodie Goff

Thank you to each of you that participated in SAABE's annual toy drive for the Construct a Kids Christmas program - the construction industry's toy drive and fundraiser for abused and neglected children in Bexar County. Above are your SAABE board members and Association Manager dropping off the toys.

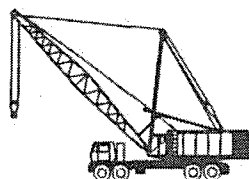
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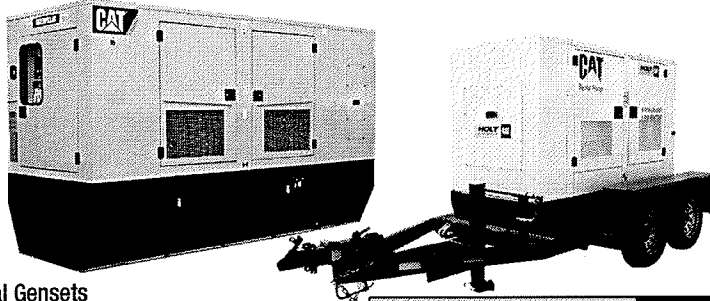
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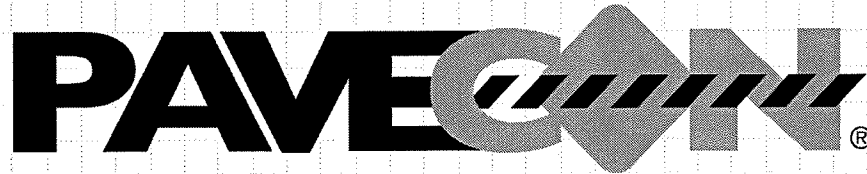
Vendor Rep Report by Randy Cummings

Now that the Christmas holidays are here, I hope everyone has the opportunity to slow down their work schedule and spend some quality time with the family. It's easy to get tied down with work and forget about the more important things in life.

Going into 2012, we have several great presentations on the plate, but there are still opportunities available to sponsor a monthly luncheon. If you are interested, please contact me at (210) 394-6233 or rcummings@gerloffinc.com.

Don't forget about the annual Christmas party. If you have not done so already, please RSVP. You will not want to miss this great time of food, fun, drinks, games and great door prizes. Speaking of door prizes, we need all vendors to step up and help us out. Your company will be recognized for the prizes you donate. Please contact Robert Steele at (210) 421-0113.

Thanks, and I hope everyone has a joyful and merry Christmas as well as a fun and safe New Years Eve/Day. ❖



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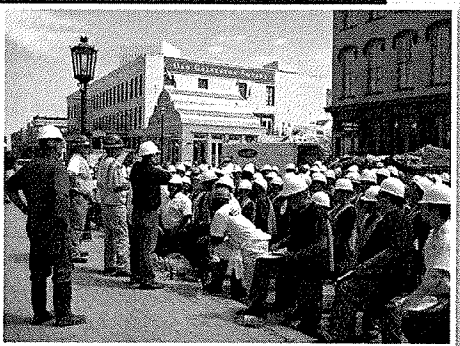
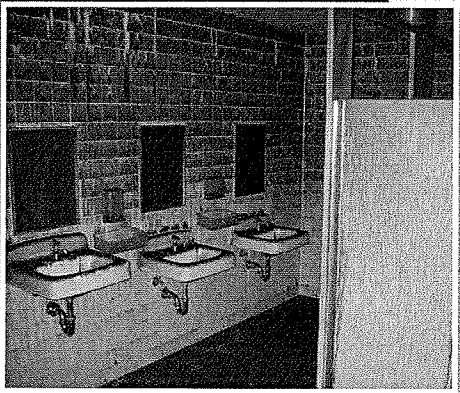
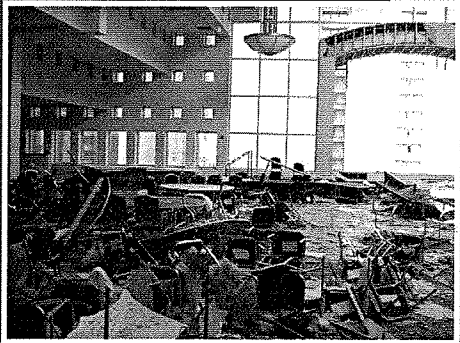
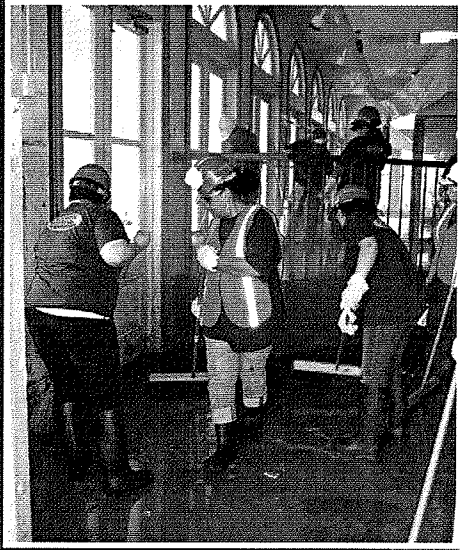
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Engineer Spotlight

by Jeff Turov



Louis Vega

Transwestern
Chief Engineer
Fountainhead Office Building
8200 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78230
louis.vega@transwestern.net
(210) 525-8228

• **How long have you been in the building engineer trade?**

I have been involved in the engineering trade for 20 years. I began my career at the Baptist Hospital System, then moved to the Federal Building, and also worked at the Adams Mark Hotel. I have worked for Transwestern for the last six years, and that is also when I joined SAABE.

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

In 2009, I was awarded the Building Engineer of the Year award for Transwestern. As an E4 Boiler Technician 3rd Class in the Navy, I received the Engineer of the Quarter, Good Conduct Medal, Emeritus Unit Award, Sea Service Medal, and Southwest Asian Medal. I also received my Associate of Applied Science degree from St. Phillips College.

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

Stay in constant communication with your contractors. This way, you can keep tabs on the job progress and be aware of problems that might be occurring. Also, perform weekly walk-throughs to personally see the job progress and make sure that housecleaning is being performed. This will also help you maintain a safer jobsite.

(Continued on page 8)

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Please note that there won't be a Last Thursday Training Seminar in November or December. They will resume in January.

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Gerloff's Emergency Preparedness Plan is designed to provide the highest quality and the best catastrophe management service possible. With your assistance, Gerloff Co Inc. will create a proactive format to facilitate a positive outcome from any unfortunate event of any size or magnitude. The more prepared for any event, the better the results.

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- § Minimizing of business down time while reducing size of loss.
- § Providing turn-key restoration and reconstruction services
- § Eliminating lengthy bidding process by pre-approval with our partner and the insurance carrier.

TIP: Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Pack a Flashlight with back up batteries
- Pack a Transistor Radio with back up batteries
- Pack bottled water
- Pack Cell Phone
- Pack personal hygiene supplies
- Pack a manual can opener
- Pack a first aid kit

**For Any Questions or to Set Up Your Inspection Contact Drew VanWyck at Our Main Office
14955 Bulverde Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78247
(210) 490-2777**

Engineer Spotlight (continued)

- **Family/children?**

I have been married for 25 years and have three children – two girls and one boy.

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

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

- **What is the hardest thing that you have ever done?**

I used to teach a HVAC class at St. Phillips College. Putting the lesson plan together and then presenting the lesson to the class was one of the most challenging things I have ever done. Challenging, yet very rewarding!

- **What is your favorite holiday memory?**

That would have to be when I took my family to Disney World last year for Christmas. We all had such a great time - it was a wonderful way to cap off the year.

- **What is your New Year's resolution?**

To begin working out and getting back in shape. ♦

November Lunch Summary

by Curtis Thompson

The November, 2011 SAABE luncheon had a great presentation on "Preventive Roof Maintenance" provided by Jon Pett and Lucas Villarreal from Cram Roofing. Below are some important items for your preventive roof maintenance "to do" list:

- Inspect twice a year and after every major storm
- Inspect underside of deck prior to rooftop
- Inspect perimeter flashings and unit flashings first
- Inspect membrane after flashings inspection
- Clean all drains, gutters, and downspouts of debris
- Clean all miscellaneous debris off of roof
- Repair all small holes and open laps as soon as found with similar materials (i.e., asphalt – asphalt)
- Provide redundancy in flashings
- Install or re-install coatings to surfaces for reflectivity
- Inspect copings and walls
- Install extra drains to make sure roofs are free of water within 48 hours

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Pett or Lucas Villarreal at (210) 694-5584. ♦



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SAABE 2012 Building Tours

By Tom Lasater

Be ready in January as we begin touring buildings with and without Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certification. So, stay on the lookout for electronic notices regarding this.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Lasater at (210) 501-3434 or lasater.tom@att.net. ❖

Welcome New Member!

Welcome to the following new SAABE member! Please make sure to add his information to your 2010 SAABE Membership Directory.

Sid Hebert

H&H Ventures

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Fundamentals of Project Management

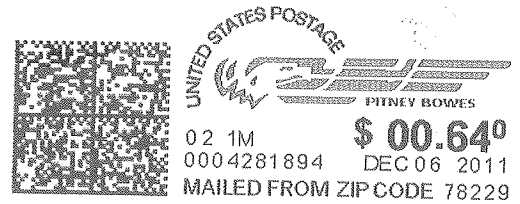
- Sponsored by Career Track/Fred Pryor Seminars
- January 19-20, Norris Conference Center, San Antonio
- Cost: \$299
- For more information, visit http://www.pryor.com/mkt_info/seminars/desc/P2.asp

Microsoft Excel 2007/2010 Basics

- Sponsored by Career Track/Fred Pryor Seminars
- January 26, Norris Conference Center, San Antonio
- Cost: \$79
- For more information, visit http://www.pryor.com/mkt_info/seminars/desc/x7.asp ❖



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SAABE Holiday Social

Get ready to roll the dice at this year's SAABE "Holiday in Vegas!" We will be holding a Casino Party on Friday, December 9 at Embassy Suites Hotel. See page 1 for more details!

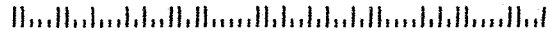
Charles Mikolajczyk Jr
 Intercontinental Management Corporation
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**SAABE TIMES
 December Issue**

Final Thought:

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other." - Burton Hillis

050



2011 Board of Directors

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Melodie Goff 408-8135
 Association Manager
 (mg.assoc.mgmt@gmail.com)

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 21
Business/Board elections
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Upcoming Program:

Wednesday, January 18
"Oh Heck, What Now!"
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