



# THIN-AIR BULLETIN

ASHRAE

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

REGION IX

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING, AND AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS

April 2008

## The current buzzword in the HVAC industry Commissioning.

Have you ever asked the questions, "What is commissioning", "Who accomplishes commissioning", "What is the roll for the Owner", "What is the role of the A/E", "What is the role of the HVAC contractor", "What is the role of the Controls contractor", "How is the manufacturer's rep involved with commissioning", "What is the role of the Commissioning Authority", or "Who else is involved with this animal called commissioning"?

All of these are good questions, and there are other questions about this seemingly new term of "Commissioning". Each of these questions deserves an answer. This discussion will try to answer all your questions about commissioning, or at least give everyone a better understanding about which direction the industry is taking.

There are other terms like: "sustainability, LEED, etc." that are associated with commissioning as well, and these will also be discussed.

John Crafton has been involved in the HVAC business in Albuquerque since 1976 when he moved from a branch office of Bridgers and Paxton in El Paso to their home office here. He has been a manufacturer's rep with The Johnston Company, a project manager for Yearout Mechanical, and the director of the mechanical engineering department for the former BPLW Architects and Engineers. Currently, John is a Sr. Mechanical Engineer and Commissioning Authority with WH Pacific (formerly AASCG, Inc.).

**Meeting date: Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am**

**Place: Pappadeaux (Jefferson & I-25)**

**Cost: \$ 15.00**

**Please RSVP by Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> to Dan Beckley, 343-8190, or email to: danbeckley@tjc-nm.com**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At last month's meeting the dreaded "recession" word was mentioned by the speaker along with an idea of how to "recession proof" our business. As this was the first time I can remember this subject mentioned at an ASHRAE meeting, I thought I would do some research regarding the forecast for our industry.

While there seems to be considerable debate whether or not the entire economy is in recession the consensus appears to be that it is. Certainly the residential construction market has suffered as a result of the subprime lending mess and considerable shrinking of that market.

The AIA does provide some forecasting tools on this issue and as a lot of our work starts with architects it would seem a reasonable indication of our future. The AIA Consensus Construction Forecast 2008 for non residential construction indicates a flattening of activity. After strong growth in 2007 the market is forecast to grow only 0.7% in 2008. Within this number is a 1.3% decline in general commercial activity but a 4.2% gain in institutional facilities. Their forecast is also flat looking ahead to 2009. Also forecast was continues volatility in the construction materials markets with increases forecast greater than the general inflation rate.

Another interesting indicator is the ABI or Architectural Billings Index also reported by the AIA. This indicator is produced from a survey of architects and their projected billings. An Index of over 50% indicates increased billings and below reduced billings. This indicator (as of February) has fallen to 41.8 its lowest point since late 2008 and down from 50.7 in January. Regionally the Index for the West is at 46.3. As in the above forecast, institutional facilities have an ABI of 54.9 indicating increased billings.

*(Continued on page #2)*

Obviously these are just general forecasts and any negativity in general economic forecast are likely to be also indicated in these industry numbers. In New Mexico I'm encouraged that there is an increasing emphasis on engineering with the energy mandates at the state and local level which will tend to increase the amount of design required on any given project. Additionally there seems to be a continuing investment in institutional facilities in New Mexico a fact that is highlighted in the forecasts.

## **Last Month**

In March we had another great turnout to hear Jack McKeegan explain how to maximize the efficiency of hot water heating systems. Judging by the feedback, the presentation was very well received. There were a number of you who requested copies of his presentation. He has promised to get it to me, and I will forward it to those who have requested it as soon as I get my hands on it.

## **Student Activities**

March was a very exciting month for student activities. On March 21<sup>st</sup> UNM hosted the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Central NM Science and Engineering Research Challenge. This event is for K - 12 students who have expressed an interest in the fields of science and engineering. Patrick Watkins, Ryan Shaffer, and I judged projects relevant to our industry and selected 2 students who each will receive a \$100 award for their exceptional projects. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2008 NM Chapter of ASHRAE Award: Jordan Gateley of Hope Christian for his project *Color and Heat Absorption*, and Delaney Miller of Hope Christian for her project *Can Hair Measure Humidity?* At the conclusion of this regional challenge, Delaney has found herself qualifying for the state competition! Also, thank you for all the responses in regards to job/internship opportunities for the UNM HVAC students. I passed along all the information to the class and I hope to see some students beginning their careers with us.

Mike Ferguson

Student Activities Chairman

# NEW MEXICO CHAPTER of ASHRAE

## 2007-2008 PROGRAMS SCHEDULE

The following is what remains of the 2007/2008 schedule of programs. Additional speaker information will be provided in each monthly newsletter.

April 15, 2008            John Crafton – Current HVAC Buzzword is Commissioning

May 20, 2008            John Bucholz – City of Albuquerque Green Building Program

Note: Joint meeting with NMFMN

**Dinner Meeting – Sandia Casino**

All meetings will be Lunch meetings at Pappadeaux unless noted otherwise.

## FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS



April 1992

Chapter Offices Were:

President:	John Grapsas
President-Elect:	Steve Maggert
Secretary:	Mike Slaman
Treasurer:	Al Guera

On April 21, 1992, the monthly meeting speaker was Becky Kilbourne, Director of Market Planning & Program Development at PNM. Her topic was "Demand Side Management – A Utility's Perspective". She said that communication between the utility and the engineering community is necessary before any Demand Side Management program can be successful.

The New Mexico Chapter of ASHRAE presented 'Spring Seminars' on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. These seminars covered subjects from thermal storage to CFC recovery & reclamation.