National Annual Meeting to be Held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

This year’s NEBB Annual Meeting will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from October 30 to November 1, 2009. Registration is now open and new this year is registration on-line. Please log onto nebb.org/annualmeeting.php to find registration information. Registration deadline is September 22, 2009.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel, located in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City, adjacent to the revitalized Bricktown Canal and Entertainment District, the cultural heart of the city and home to great shopping and nightlife, as well as the Bricktown Ballpark, the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and Ford Center Arena. Numerous other captivating attractions are all just a short distance away.

The room rate for a single/double is $164. You must register through NEBB to receive this group discount rate.

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning, October 28, 2009. Official events start with the Vendor Showcase starting at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, October 30th. The Opening Session follows at 10:00 a.m. followed by Open Committee meetings and vendor displays from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. The General Session will be held at 5:30 p.m. featuring Lewis Timberlake "America’s Apostle of Optimism." Mr. Timberlake will provide insight on goal setting and modern management philosophies.

On Saturday, October 31st, the program includes technical sessions, vendor displays and a luncheon. The meeting will conclude with a special Closing Session and Vendors Drawing.

Optional activities planned for the meeting include a golf tournament and exciting adventures around the Oklahoma City area. In addition, a spouse/guest breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, October 31st.

Be sure to sign-up today to secure your spot at this year’s Annual Meeting. See you in Oklahoma!
Why Become NEBB Certified?

There are a number of reasons to become NEBB Certified such as increasing your qualifications and providing NEBB quality assurance on your projects. But the number one reason to become NEBB Certified is to increase your potential work load.

Innovation, high standards and a proven track record have made NEBB the leader in its field. For more information on how to become NEBB certified, contact the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter.

Did you know?

- that building owners are demanding that their buildings be worked on by certified personnel?
- work completed in Federal Office buildings need to be completed by certified personnel?
- that LEED certification involves NEBB commissioning?
- being NEBB certified allows a firm to compete on projects where NEBB certification is required, like hospitals and schools.
Greetings balancers, certifiers, and commissioners. Hope you are all doing well. I have to start out by reiterating some old business. NEBB is a volunteer organization nearly in its entirety. We need help on a local and National level. On the National level we are now working partnering with other organizations (ASHRAE, ISPE and others) that are creating a larger demand for help. Please consider giving back to the organization if even in a small way.

I know that the economy has made all of our lives challenging, but I think we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. One important thing to continue to keep in mind is quality. Reputation and quality is after all the thing that will contribute most to your continued success. Cutting corners may get you a job today, and lose you a customer tomorrow. Remember that what you do reflects on NEBB as a whole. We on the board today are dealing with some issues from the past few years that have had ramifications for all of the NEBB firms in the Bay Area. I am sure you have all seen those specs that specify AABC only. There are several engineers in the valley that are still in that camp, and we are still fighting that uphill battle to win their confidence back. You don’t need to look any further than the American automobile industry for a better example of poor quality possibly destroying a whole industry.

Ok, off the soap box. I think we have made headway in these issues and we are all satisfied with the progress so far. We on the Board do not want to lose that momentum so that is why we keep it in the forefront.

Going forward, one thing to keep your attention on is Title 24. That is a business opportunity for all of you. The requirement for acceptance testing is starting to show up in a real way. It would behoove all to make themselves aware of the requirements and to get the necessary certifications. There are requirements, so check it out. We have been seeing a number of jobs in the past months where the inspectors are requiring this testing. When the inspectors are on board, the work will be there. Go do the research and find out what you need to do.

Keeping in that vein, LEED® is still on the minds of many. In my humble opinion, it may have less significance as we move forward. We are already seeing some of the elements that qualify for points being required in the new local (state) energy codes, not just in California. Global warming, real or not, will make us better stewards of our planet.

I think I have ranted enough for now. I sign off now wishing you all the best and continued success in the coming years.
Balancing the whole world... one building at a time.
Our NEBB Northern California/Hawaii Semi-Annual Re-Certification Meeting was held on June 17, 2009 at the Air Systems, Inc. offices in San Jose. We want to thank Air Systems, Inc. for hosting our Re-Certification Meeting and providing their facility for our use.

New this year at the Chapter’s re-certification meeting was the attendance of table top vendors presenting their products and services. Associates were able to meet with the vendors and view their products and services before the start of the business meeting. Vendors present were ASHRAE- San Jose Chapter, California Hydronics, Inc., Air Systems “ALC Controls” & Instruments Direct, Inc.

President Randy Silva started our business meeting by introducing our guest, Bill Neudorfer, National NEBB Treasurer. Bill gave an update on new business with NEBB National. He reviewed the NEBB structure, which is made up of volunteers who participate on the Board and committees. NEBB has a 5 year strategic plan made up of 3 parts: Training and Education, Organization and Administration (how should we be run?) and Peer Collaboration – ASHRAE, ISPE, MCA and any other organization that NEBB can work with and collaborate with. If anyone is interested in participating on a National committee, contact the local Chapter. Bill reviewed annual updates for TAB, Building System Commissioning (BSC), Sound & Vibration, Cleanroom, Retro-Commissioning (RCx) and Fume Hood. The Chapter Affairs Committee has been working on making it easier to de-certify a firm, the Accredidated Associates Program, standards for branch offices, quality assurance for report prep and utilization of the Quality Assurance Program (QAP).

Steve Smith, Technical Chairman, reviewed how to properly complete NEBB Form C-1 documentation and the correct instruments needed to fulfill the re-certification requirements. Proper completion will avoid delays in receiving firm and certified professional’s re-certification stamps and certificates. New this year, as part of the re-certification process, is the inclusion of 2 TAB reports to be submitted with the Form C-1. Steve reviewed what the expectations are for a properly completed report.


Craig Farnell, Automated Logic Controls System, Air Systems, discussed the latest technology that is happening in Building Automation Controls and how they should be properly applied and utilized. Craig mentioned that Web based BAS Controls systems are easier to operate and more energy efficient when applied correctly.

If you should have any suggestions on new training subjects or suggestions, please forward them to Audrey.

If you should have any suggestions on new training subjects or suggestions, please forward them to Audrey.
Re-certification Due This Year? Remember Your Reports!

If your firm is due for re-certification this year, the following policies and procedures related to recertification have been established and endorsed by the Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact the Chapter at akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org or at 510/386-1270.

**Attendance at Chapter Recertification Seminars:** Each certified professional must attend the Chapter recertification seminar and accrue 12 CEU hours during a specified two-year period. In the event that a certified professional is unable to attend the Chapter recertification seminar, the Chapter Technical Committee, after reviewing that the reason for absence is valid, must approve equivalent CEU hours missed for recertification training.

**Instrument Inventory and Calibration Check:** Recertification requirements include examination and inventory verification of all instruments by a member of the Chapter Technical Committee. The NEBB firm shall prepare and submit digital color photographs via email to akearns@nocalhawaiinebb.org for each instrument listed on NEBB Form C-1 as follows: A full frame photo of the overall instrument along with accessories. Pitot tubes (placed next to a tape measure or ruler), glass thermometers and Bourdon tube pressure gauges may be photographed in groups provided that their size and range along with any required ID or serial # stickers are clearly depicted. A close-up photo of the instrument nameplate showing model and serial numbers. In the event the instrument does not have a serial number, the NEBB firm shall assign an identifying number on the instrument, show the number in the photo and reference that number to the Form C-1. A Copy of the current Certificate of Calibration should accompany the photos. The intent of this procedure is to provide the NEBB firm with a practical method of demonstrating their ownership and maintenance of instrumentation in compliance with current NEBB standards.

**TAB Report Review:** All firms re-certifying must submit two final project issued TAB Reports prepared by the firm during the prior year (2008) via email. They will be reviewed by the Technical Committee in conjunction with Form C-1, with written results provided back to the firm. All efforts will be made to ensure that the reviewer will be from a non-competitive firm. NEBB Certified firms also issuing non-NEBB reports must submit 2 reports of each type (non-NEBB and NEBB) or written confirmation that no non-certified reports were issued over that 2 year period. Clarification of a non-NEBB report: “If the spec does not call for a NEBB certified balance, then a NEBB firm/professional can produce a report with no logo, stamp or signature. The NEBB firm/professional is still required to follow NEBB minimum standards unless a specific request for work to be performed to a lesser standard is made. If this is the case, it should be documented in the write up, noting what was requested as opposed to what the NEBB standards are.” Between the two reports, they need to reflect a wide sample of your forms such as VAV, Air Handler Unit, Air Conditioning Units, Economizer, Exhaust Fan, Ceiling Exhaust Fan, Differential Pressure, Pumps, Air Distribution, Water Distribution, etc. Reports need to be a minimum of 10 pages in a PDF format only. For firms with more than one location, each certified location will need to submit 2 reports for all locations. The firm must supply to whom this report was issued and their contact information. The owner of the report may be contacted to verify report authenticity and content at time of issue. If the firm states they have not issued any reports for that period then another time period will be selected by the Technical Committee until a report which qualifies is received. If the firm states that no reports have been generated during the periods requested then a written statement to that effect must be issued by the firm attesting to such. At that point the firm will be considered to be completed with this process. After the reports are reviewed by the Technical Committee, a review of the report with comments will be sent to the firm explaining where the deficiencies from the NEBB Procedural Standards exist with a request to resubmit the reports with corrections. If significant deviations from procedural standards are still present then the committee has the obligation to request another lent training. Approved equivalent training are as follows: Attending educational sessions at the NEBB Annual Meeting or NEBB TEC. Attend a recertification course presented by another NEBB Chapter or a combination of the previous alternatives that will assure the equivalent report
no sooner than 30 days and no later than 120 days from the date of the review results letter. The intent is to verify that the items noted in the review process have been corrected. If corrections are not implemented as recommended by the Technical Committee then a complaint may be issued by the Board of Directors to NEBB National as prescribed in the complaint resolution section of the by-laws. At this time, report review is for Air & Hydronics disciplines only. Other disciplines will be coming on line at a later date.

**NEBB Forms:** For each certified discipline held by the firm’s certified professional, a corresponding Form C must be completed and sent into the Chapter Office. All certified Technicians must complete a recertification form and submit it to the local Chapter. All forms can be found on the Chapter website at www.nocalhawaiinebb.org.

**Form C-1:** Chapter Recommendation For Firm TAB Recertification

**Form C-2:** Chapter Recommendation For Firm Building System Commissioning Recertification

**Form C-3:** Chapter Recommendation For Firm Sound & Vibration Recertification

**Form TR:** TAB Technician Re-qualification (one form for each Technician)

**PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT:** Proof of ownership of the current edition of the NEBB Procedure Manual.

**Suspension for Failure to Meet All Recertification Requirements:**

Forms are due in the local Chapter by November 1st. Any firm failing to submit their forms by November 30, will be assessed a late fee. A firm that does not meet all requirements for recertification by the close of its two-year certification/recertification period has until March 31st to comply with all requirements before being formally suspended. A certified firm that has failed to meet NEBB recertification requirements by June 30th, will be automatically decertified. A firm in suspension is not considered qualified to perform or manage TAB work under the auspices of NEBB. Firms having been suspended must pay a reinstatement fee. A firm that has not qualified for recertification by June 30th, must go through procedures established by the NEBB Board of Directors in order to be reinstated as a NEBB certified firm.

All completed forms are to be transmitted to the Chapter Coordinator by November 1, 2009.

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**Commissioning Agent Listed as Top 5 Desirable Jobs**

If you have thought about getting Building Systems Commissioning certified, but haven’t, now is the time to get your certification. The following excerpt from CBS Money Watch.com gives you the reason why you should get your certification now.

“The unemployment rate hit 8.5 percent in March, the highest in 25 years, and the misery shows no signs of abating. But it’s not doom and gloom across every sector of the economy. Some industries are actually ripe with openings: . . . One of the top five jobs is the commissioning agent.

Even in the blasted wasteland of the building industry, one small pocket of jobs is growing, thanks to high energy costs and a huge boost from President Obama’s fiscal stimulus package. That pocket includes anything related to green construction. One of the most desirable jobs in the field: commissioning agent, the person responsible for checking systems in both new and old buildings to make them energy efficient, says Peter Templeton, president of the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). A typical commissioning agent is an engineer with extra certification from an organization like the National Environmental Balancing Bureau (NEBB), the Building Commissioning Association, or the Association of Energy Engineers. He or she works with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems as a designer, contractor, and facilities engineer, according to NEBB. Considering that some 5 million commercial buildings in the U.S. could use a green update, there is a lot of work to be had. Factor in the federal government’s support for the adoption of energy-saving technology, including new tax credits for businesses, and there will be many opportunities for commissioning work.”

By Lan Nguyen

CBS Money Watch.com
American Mechanical Services of Walnut Creek is a privately owned California Corporation. It was originally started in the 1950's under the name of Engineered Air Systems. One of the early owners, Al Scavino, was involved in the 1st year development of NEBB in the 1970's. Kyle Blocker became part owner of Engineered Air Systems in 1988 and Greg Thomas in 1995. In 1997 the company was sold and it became American Mechanical Services. Kyle and Greg stayed on with the company in management positions until 2006 when Kyle Blocker bought the company back and became owner and President.

American Mechanical Services (AMS) is a full service Design/Build mechanical contracting company, taking projects from start to finish. AMS designs, installs, and services heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems for the commercial, industrial and institutional marketplace. Their California Contractors Licenses are warm air heating, ventilating, air conditioning, boilers, Architectural Sheet Metal and low-temperature refrigeration. They are NEBB certified for Air and Hydronics system balancing. American Mechanical Services is experienced in system analysis, energy analysis and building automation Direct Digital Controls (DDC). For the past 3 years they have been using 3D modeling with integration to shop fabrication. They are a leader in green technology; members of the U.S. Green Building Council and have LEED experienced personnel on staff. The company has a core of 40 employees including three California registered mechanical engineers and 2 in training.

The company’s core competency is the “ability to implement Practical Engineered Solutions to complex commercial HVAC problems”. The solution oriented group is led by Professional Engineers who supervise the design/build/maintain process. The Operational Structure of the project group is designed to excel in both fast track design/build and traditional plan/spec projects. The controls and service groups have a “depth of knowledge” of HVAC systems to support a wide array of services to their customers.

American Mechanical Services’ client base is comprised of long-time repeat customers. AMS does not feel a need to market themselves as their reputation for work well-done has been their best marketing tool. Most of American Mechanical Services’ work is repeat business and referrals.

American Mechanical Services management team is made up of Kyle Blocker, President, Professional Engineer registered in the State of California. He is a graduate of Cal Poly State.
University at San Luis Obispo with a degree in environmental engineering, specializing in HVAC, refrigeration, and solar systems. Kyle is a NEBB certified Test and Balance Certified Professional and is a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Air Conditioning Trade Association (ACTA) and the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society (RSES). Kyle joined the company in 1986 and has served as project engineer, service manager, project manager, Vice President and General Manager. Kyle is the responsible managing officer and California State License Board license holder for the corporation.

Greg Thomas, Senior Project Manager, is a Professional Engineer registered in the State of California. He is a graduate of the University of California – Berkeley with a degree in mechanical engineering. Greg is a NEBB certified professional in Testing and Balancing and is a member of ASHRAE. Greg has 17 years with the company serving as project engineer, project manager and Vice President.

American Mechanical Services are proud of their portfolio of projects completed over the years, projects, such as the StopWaste.Org’s new office building in downtown Oakland. Originally, this 14,000 sq. ft. project was intended for LEED Silver, but as the project progressed, it became clear that the project had already surpassed the requirements for LEED Silver. In the end, the StopWaste.Org decided to go the extra mile and achieve LEED Platinum status. The project is the first LEED-NC 2.2 Platinum renovation project in the nation and one of only a handful of Platinum buildings in California.

Charles M. Salter Associates, Inc., San Francisco, a leader in acoustics, audio visual system design and telecommunications, called upon American Mechanical Services to provide Design Build HVAC services when they undertook building a new state of the art sound studios for demonstration, testing and educational purposes. This project is currently in the commissioning phase with intents to become LEED CI Gold certified.

AMS also worked on the new Orinda City Hall, a 14,000 square foot building that houses the City’s administration, planning, public works and policy departments and a satellite office for the County’s building department. The building achieved USGBC’s LEED-NC Silver rating.

What is the importance of their NEBB certification? American Mechanical Services uses balancing as one of its tools to provide full service to its customers and feels it is important to stay in front of current methods to balance and commission. They believe that NEBB, with whom they have had a long term professional association, helps them do this.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEMINARS

TAB Certified Professional Review Seminar
August 14-16, NEBB TEC

Sound Technician Seminar
September 18, NEBB TEC

National Written Exam for Certified Professional
September 19, San Leandro JATC

Advanced Building Systems Commissioning Seminar
September 28 - October 3, NEBB TEC

Cleanroom Technician Seminar (Re-Test)
October 5-7, NEBB TEC

Annual Meeting—Oklahoma City
October 30 - November 1, Oklahoma

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New Procedural Standards Now Available!

Fume Hood Procedural Standards

The first edition of NEBB Procedural Standards for Fume Hood Performance Testing, a uniform and systematic set of criteria for the performance testing of fume hoods, is now available.

RCx-EB Procedural Standards

The first edition of the NEBB Procedural Standards for Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings is now available. The purpose of the NEBB Procedural Standards for Retro-Commissioning of Existing Buildings is to establish a uniform and systematic set of criteria for the performance of the Retro-Commissioning (RCX-EB) process when applied to existing building systems such as a building’s mechanical, electrical and building envelop systems. The standards are divided into three parts. **Part 1, Standards**, covers definitions, requirements for quality control, quality compliance, instrumentation requirements, and report requirements. Requirements for instruments and test equipment are identified. **Part 2, Process**, is devoted to providing a detailed explanation of the retro-commissioning process. **Part 3, Procedures**, cover the technical procedures for retrofit-commissioning of existing buildings.

If interested in ordering a copy, please contact NEBB at [www.nebb.org](http://www.nebb.org)

Nominating Committee Assembled

At the June 17, 2009 Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter meeting, the following associates volunteered to participate on this year’s Nominating Committee:

1. **Mark Shaffer**, Ventec, *Chairman*
2. Joe Condon, Air-Con
3. Vic Congi, Carter Air Balance
4. Doug Buote,
5. Certified Testing
6. Chip Eskildsen, Legacy Mechanical

The Nominating Committee will work to put together the Chapter’s slate of officers for 2010 to be voted on at the next Chapter meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

Thank you to all volunteers for participating.
Over the past 2 years, National has made big strides in their marketing efforts, both for NEBB as an organization and in helping Chapters, firms and certified professionals market themselves. Because of this concerted effort, NEBB is now a presence in the HVAC balancing and commissioning industry. This past year, the main emphasis for National has been refining and perfecting the tools and plans put into place in 2008. But look for more future changes starting in 2010!

New this year at the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma will be a Marketing seminar, “Sharpening Your Marketing Focus”, conducted by Gary Polain of Ozmosis Leadership. Gary will guide attendees through a five-step process to sharpen their company’s marketing focus. Go on-line to www.nebb.org for more information and registration.

If you haven’t gone onto our local Chapter website lately, we have been making some changes. Be sure to catch our new videos in the News & Events page. If you have missed any of our past newsletters, they can be found on the same page. Speaking of a new look! Be sure to check out the National website and their complete revamping of the website. Procedural standards, all forms, past newsletters and the NEBB Magazine can be found on their website.

Congratulations to Vic Congi, Carter Air Balance, who has been asked to be on the NEBB National Marketing Committee. Vic will be a valuable resource in helping to direct the future of NEBB National’s marketing efforts!

Please welcome our newest TAB and Building Systems Commissioning firm and certified professional, located in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

New World Energy Systems
94-1221 KaUka Boulevard
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Waipahu, HI 96797
808/348-3441
214/602-9389 Fax
david@newworldenergysystems.com

Certified Professional:
David Horn