Northern California/Hawaii NEBB Chapter’s Annual Meeting
April 16-18, 2015
Hawaii
Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa

Our 2015 Northern California/Hawaii Chapter’s Annual Meeting will be in Hawaii at the NEBB Annual Conference, April 16-18, 2015. This conference will be located at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa.

This is a unique opportunity for our Chapter members to experience a NEBB Annual Conference close to home, as well as the ability to acquire 12 CEU hours that will satisfy your 2015 and 2016 hours requirement.

Your Chapter Board of Directors look forward to seeing you in Hawaii to represent our Chapter at next year’s Annual NEBB Meeting. We hope you will be joining us. Mahalo.

Steve Smith
Northern California/Hawaii NEBB President
Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you as your President. There is a lot of activity this year starting with our new Marketing Chair, Daniel Wong. Daniel has been busy setting up new marketing opportunities with a perspective from a design build contractor and mechanical engineer. I look forward to his fresh approach and new events. I know that the Marketing Committee could use your presence at the events representing NEBB. Look for his announcements.

Amber is busy as our Education Chair getting ready for this next year’s annual meeting in our own backyard, Hawaii. I know that our National Board is really looking forward to seeing our local representation there. When I was in Florida, we informed the National Board that suits are not allowed in Hawaii. That did not go over very well with some “serious” members. The spouses though could not express their excitement enough to go to a National event at a family vacation location. Hawaii will be more like the Anaheim event 2 years ago that enabled all of us to enjoy a business trip and family vacation. Take this opportunity to experience Hawaiian Time where there are even minimum speed limits posted. Yes, minimum speed limits. Maybe you can experience the local food like a Manapua or Pork Hash from Libby’s, a Leonard’s Malasada or a true contractor’s breakfast – Spam Musabi. I hope you take the time to experience what is right in our own backyard. Look forward to seeing all of you there.

Our local Annual Meeting will be on Saturday morning during the National Meeting. We have a room for an hour to discuss our issues before jumping back into the Annual Meeting. You will be able to grab breakfast between our meetings.

I had hoped to bring you information on NEBB National update on the ANSI accreditation but waiting to get an update myself. We will share as soon as we know. The ANSI accreditation is a big issue in taking NEBB to the next step. We anticipate the ANSI changes to further impact the testing and certification requirements that we follow on a local and national level. We hope to transition through all the changes quickly. The Policy Committee has been a big help in applying the recent changes with our By-laws. The participating members have been a huge help spending countless hours discussing and working through the documented changes. Always remember that you are welcome to join the policy committee to help out but we need people that can attend regularly as many issues take time to work through.

Every chapter president has a key subject during their term. I would say that during my term, the Title 24 changes are a key subject. Vic Congi (Vice President), Curtis Worley (Past President) and Amber Ryman (Education Chair) have been instrumental in our NorCal involvement in the changes. As with most government regulation changes, the initial intent gets bogged down in reality. The Title 24 changes are no different. The impact of specifications to California will be interesting to say the least. Only time will clear up the true impact. (See the Education article)
An additional change to our chapter is a testing facility. We have been fortunate to use the SMW104 San Leandro Training Facility for many years but the time has come for a change. We have discussed investing in a local test facility for years but money and a place to house the lab has always been the stumbling block. As such, the closest approved testing facility is in the LA area (Orange) thru the Southern California NEBB Chapter. There is a fee to use their testing facility. The ANSI accreditation may impact that change further. Curtis and Art are working with National on a possible new site here in Northern California. If that goes thru, there will be a fee to use the facility. These changes are out of our (BOD) hands. We are trying to work out the best all inclusive option for our members. We will share when we know more.

Thanks for your time. Looking forward to seeing you in Hawaii.

*Steve Smith*
**Northern California/Hawaii Chapter President**

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**NEBB Achieves CEC Title 24 MATTC Interim Certification Provider Approval**

California Energy Commission (CEC) approved NEBB as an Interim Acceptance Testing Technician Certification Provider (ATTCP) under California Title 24, Part 6, Section 10-103-B Non-residential Mechanical Acceptance Test Training and Certification (MATTC). NEBB is very proud to be the first certification provider approved.

After almost two years of hearings, meetings, calls, and hard work, NEBB has achieved the first step in the process of achieving accreditation as an Acceptance Testing Technician Certification Provider. This initial success is due to the commitment of many people – NEBB leadership, NEBB staff, Chapter leadership, coordinators and members. After six months of rigorous application review by the CEC, NEBB is very proud to be the first certification provider approved. NEBB is committed to supporting the CEC and in particular, the MATTC program.

In 2013, the NEBB Board of Directors approved $50,000 and allocated Staff support to develop required training, examinations, applications and equipment for Title 24 MATTC. A Title 24 Committee was established, made up of members from both California Chapters.

**T24 Executive Committee**
- Vic Congi (Chair)
- Audrey Kearns
- Jim Rosier
- Curtis Worley

**T24 Curriculum Development Sub-Committee**
- Randy Silva (Chair)
- Amber Ryman
- Erik Dlugajczyk
- Dave Galli
- Dan Moore

**T24 Examination Development Sub-Committee**
- Jim Rosier (Chair)
- John Eddings
- Patrick Drayton
- Young Shin
- Roger Gedminas
- Mike Taylor

**NEBB Staff**
- John Schulte (EVP)
- Tom Meyer (Staff Liaison)
According to Section 10-103-B(e)3, the interim program does not apply to those who are not currently a certified professional or technician through NEBB, TABB or AABC.

“Technicians who have been certified by AABC, NEBB, or TABB prior to the inclusion of training on the Building Energy Efficiency Standards acceptance testing procedures and compliance documentation shall qualify as a Mechanical Acceptance Test Technicians upon successful completion of a class or webinar on the Building Energy Efficiency Standards acceptance testing procedures and compliance documentation.”

Interim training for qualified employers and professionals/technicians is expected to occur within the next two months. Registration will be available for interim training through NEBB at T24@nebb.org.

While the entire Mechanical Acceptance Testing program has 18 forms, the interim portion encompasses only eight of these forms:

- NA7.5.2 Outdoor Air Ventilation Systems
- NA7.5.2 Constant Volume, Single Zone Unitary Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps
- NA7.5.4 Air Economizer Controls
- NA7.5.5 Demand Control Ventilation Systems
- NA7.5.6 Supply Fan Variable Flow Controls
- NA7.5.7, NA7.5.9 Hydronic System Variable Flow Controls
- NA7.5.10 Automatic Demand Shed Controls

The interim program is the first step. Following that, candidates must complete the full accreditation program. NEBB and TABB are currently constructing programs for full accreditation by the CEC. It is unknown when those will be approved or available. Under the full accreditation program, NEBB, TABB or AABC membership is not required.

No CEC Title 24 MATTC certification provider has been approved for anything but interim training to certified NEBB, TABB or AABC firms and certified professionals/technicians. If you are not currently a certified professional or technician through NEBB, TABB or AABC, the interim program does not apply.

For more information, contact T24@NEBB.org.

Tom Meyer, NEBB
Director, Technical Programs
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“THE PROBLEM IS THE WAY WE (I) SEE THE PROBLEM”

What would you think if YOU were responsible for many of your problems and you were the most influential person in your problem resolution? Would you be willing to take the responsibility to make a change? **Bottom Line:** If we want improved problem resolution, WE need to make a change. There are several activities that contribute to better problem resolution.

First is to change Perspective. Often called a ‘paradigm’ shift, seeing the problem differently, you will ‘see’ things differently! A change of ‘attitude’ is often demonstrated in the language (words) we use. Identifying a challenging situation as an ‘Opportunity’ to learn and to improve has much value. A person’s attitude at the beginning of a task often determines the results. Negative Energy (in words and thoughts) do not contribute to positive outcomes. The concept of ‘Opportunity’ helps create opportunity! Seeing the glass as half-full is positive and conveys positive Energy.

Second is to release a need to be ‘right’. When people insist that they are right, they are declaring a few things. One is that other people are wrong. Also, they (Mr/Ms Right) are declaring that they are unwilling to learn or listen…because they are right. By eliminating ‘finger pointing’ and entertaining new and creative points of view, new opportunities are created! New and creative solutions may be sought and found. Stephen Covey said, “Two people can see the same thing, disagree, and yet both be right. It’s not logical; it's psychological.” Putting ‘right’ aside and having our Goal to learn and find solutions has many benefits.

Third is to not only seek solutions, but to DO something new and different. Important to remember is that not every new idea/act will yield positive results, but seeking solutions keeps us in the game of finding solutions. Not every new idea will work, nor does a basketball player make every shot. One needs to be in the game. Often is the case, when one is on a quest to find a solution, they often do find a solution.

In summary, viewing and calling problems ‘Opportunities’ is a positive beginning. Putting ‘right’ aside allows for new and creative solutions. Being committed to finding solutions will yield solutions. Albert Einstein said, “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.”

**Quote – Stephen Covey**  **Article by Loren D. Lasher**

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**THE PROBLEM**

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HTBC Services (Hawaii Test & Balance Company) was founded in 1998 by Tahir Ali Khan, providing TAB services specializing in systems analysis and air and water balancing of mechanical systems. HVAC Services ensures that HVAC Systems operate at the highest standards and with the greatest efficiency and effectiveness at every stage of an indoor environmental retrofit or to a new building specification. We offer our services to architects, engineers, contractors and owners on both new and existing projects.

HTBC Services currently has five (5) employees. Tahir Khan, founder of the firm, has over thirty (30) years of testing and balancing experience. Before starting HTBC Services, Tahir Ali Khan worked in the TAB Department for Johnson Controls for fifteen (15) years. When Tahir first opened HTBC Services he worked in the field as well as handling office responsibilities. He was a one man firm for many of the years that HTBC Services was in business until his son, Tabish joined the firm. Currently Tahir focuses on estimating, office administration, and job scheduling.

Tabish Khan, handles project management and works on TAB reports. During the summer months while in high school, Tabish would often help his father out at the job sites. His main jobs were holding the ladder, and “hooding up” ceiling diffusers. He learned very early the art of maneuvering a flow hood through tight spaces without bumping into freshly painted walls. Constantly being around the HVAC industry, he naturally developed an interest in it, and a curiosity for figuring out how things worked. In 2003 Tabish started as a field technician with HTBC Services, a year after finishing high school. All of his work experience has been on the job training. In 2009 Tabish took over as field supervisor. Tabish spends 60% of his time in the field and 40% of the time in the office.

His interest in the industry and looking to grow the firm, helped propel him toward achieving his NEBB TAB Certified Professional certification. Testing and balancing is what HTBC Services have specialized in since the doors were opened, but in the future, they are looking to expand their services. With more jobs in Hawaii being commissioned, Tabish is looking to achieve a NEBB BSC (Building Systems Commissioning) certification.

Calen Wong, Leif Kennedy and Jayr Visconde are HTBC Services’ field technicians. Calen has been with the firm for 2 years. Leif and Jayr are new, with less than 2 months. This growth in personnel is due to the upswing in construction going on in Hawaii.

Tabish decided to become a NEBB Certified Professional because he wanted to be a part of an organization that is one of the leading authorities in the TAB industry. In this constantly evolving technology based field, it is
essential to stay current and trained with all the new methods, procedures, and technologies involved in the HVAC industry. Being part of NEBB provides our firm with the essential tools needed to stay ahead of the curve, through continuing education, training, technical support, and procedural standards.

When asked why HTBC Services decided to pursue their NEBB certification, they felt the biggest benefit of their NEBB certification is credibility. Being a NEBB Certified Professional assures their customers that the firm performs quality TAB work, and that after they balance a HVAC system, it will perform as it was designed. Another benefit is the continuing education, and training which helps keep the firm informed and current on anything new and important pertaining to the TAB and HVAC industry.

They believe their customers understand the importance and value of their NEBB certification. More and more engineers are specifying the use of a NEBB TAB Contractor; this shows their trust and confidence in NEBB for ensuring conformance to its procedures and stringent standards. By maintaining high standards, they know that the end result will be a HVAC system that works properly and efficiently.

A NEBB Certified Professional ensures competent, quality TAB work has been performed, and that the HVAC system will be properly balanced, and provide a high level of comfort and efficiency.

Some of the more prominent projects that HTBC Services has worked on are a brand new building with 4 zones at Kaiser Permanente Koolau, a GI services wing at Kaiser Permanente Mapunapuna, outside Honolulu which was 75% new construction and 25% retro-fit.

They replaced exhaust fans at Kamehameha School Kekuhaupio Gym.

and worked on new construction of the Willow Stream Spa at the Fairmont Kea Lani Resort in Wailea, Maui.
First and foremost, thank you for confirming my position as the NEBB Marketing Chair for the 2014-2015 term. I am excited to serve on the board and help get the NEBB name more recognizable to the construction and engineering community. Before I share with you the main goals of the Marketing Committee, I would like to take a quick minute to share with you a little bit about my background in the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) industry.

In 2004 I graduated from San Jose State University (SJSU) with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering with an emphasis in thermal fluids. Throughout my college years, I was fortunate to intern at various HVAC companies as well as partake in student and professional associations such as the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). This past August 2nd marked ten years at Western Allied Mechanical, a medium sized mechanical contracting company that specializes mostly in the design build of HVAC systems. The group I work in focuses on energy efficiency retrofits often performing the project full turnkey. Most of the time, the project involves direct interaction with the owners representatives, chief engineers and their consultants. When I asked a local panel of facility professionals if they ever heard of NEBB, most of them shook their heads no. And then it dawned on me...why not try to spread the word and introduce NEBB to the people that know their building the best?

So, for the next two years, the focus of the Marketing Committee will be to:

- Provide presentations educating various organizations, associations and property management firms on the services NEBB provides. This will be done by outreaching to groups like the Association for Facilities Engineering and the International Facility Management Association (just to name a few).

- Update the NEBB marketing material by standardizing on a format and updating “personnel biographies” of both NEBB CP’s and our Certified Technicians. The intent of the bios is to highlight your NEBB certifications, projects you have worked on, as well as the companies you work for. Once complete, the bios will be part of a slideshow presentation we will use at future marketing events.

- Partake in the planning and implementation of NEBB NorCal Hawaii’s first charity fundraising event. This may seem like an ambitious task but with your help, I am sure that we can all help make NEBB more visible to the local construction and consulting community. And remember, volunteers are always welcome!
The Northern California/ Hawaii Chapter By-Laws/Policy Committee [BPC] meets via teleconference about once a month for about ninety minutes to deliberate and recommend changes to our By-Laws and Policies. The Chapter Board of Directors [BOD] formed the BPC as an ad hoc, volunteer committee in response to criticism from the Membership that broadly asked three main questions: Were our Chapter By-Laws and Policies in line with the requirements from NEBB National? Was the Chapter actually following our existing By-Laws and Policies? Was the Chapter doing things that were not covered by any documents at all?

In answer to the questions posed, the BPC found significant areas for improvement and suggested changes to the Chapter By-Laws and Policies, some of which have been voted on and approved by the Membership; this was extremely gratifying because a Membership vote of approval is the only real sign that the BPC is doing its job properly. Areas of improvement included: resolution of who can vote at meetings; anonymity of voting; annual renewal of ethics statements for staff and volunteers; establishment of electronic voting; clarification of the succession and responsibilities for officers on the BOD; rotation of the location of the Chapter Annual Meeting (Hawaii next year, everyone); and many others.

The BPC started with a long list of issues to deliberate, and we anticipated needing at least eighteen months to resolve them. However, after only a year, our list of outstanding action-items is nearly empty of issues that may pose a significant conflict-of-interest for the BOD. In short, the BOD is likely to dissolve the BPC soon. The ad hoc BPC has been a model of success and in the event that similar questions arise for the Chapter again, a new committee will be formed by the sitting BOD.

I have had the pleasure of working swiftly through our issues with the other members of the BPC. Some of the names and faces of the BPC have changed, but everyone that attended brought important ideas forward: everyone, really. Members bold enough to share challenging opinions and contrarian viewpoints have been some of the most important and articulate voices that the BCP heard, and their constructive criticism helped guide many of the revisions to our By-Laws and Policy documents. These are always available online at: www.nocalhawaiinebb.org.

Martin Burke ~ 26 July 2014

By-laws/Policy Committee Chair
Upcoming Events

NEBB TAB CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL REVIEW SEMINAR
October 1-3, 2014,
Arlington, VA

NEBB BUILDING ENCLOSURE TESTING SEMINAR
October 13-14, 2014
October 15, 2014 - NEBB BET Certified Professional Exam (optional)
Hyatt Regency Long Beach

NEBB CLEANROOM PERFORMANCE TESTING CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL
October 20-22, 2014,
Hyatt Place Orlando Airport - Northwest
Orlando, Florida

Contact the NEBB Office to sign up or to receive more information at www.nebb.org

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