

Summer 2012

# NEWS

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This newsletter is published by the Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Members:

We are busy planning for our annual conference, and are excited about the educational sessions, and the entire program that our conference committee has assembled. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Cloud again this year. Based on your feedback from last year, we have expanded our schedule to allow much more time for networking, and have also added a new scholarship event on Wednesday evening, to allow more after-hours time for connecting with our peers.

The summer is going by quickly, and before we know it, it will be September. So I encourage you to register today, enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Best Regards,

Ken Schmitz  
President

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

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### MnCEG Conference and Trade Show

**September 5-6, 2012**

### Annual Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament

**June 12, 2013** (Majestic Oaks Country Club, Ham Lake, MN)

Save the Date!

# Create Tomorrow Together



Change · Grow · Lead

MnCEG 2012 Conference & Trade Show

The 2012 Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild Annual Conference and Trade Show will be held on September 5-6, 2012. Last year our location moved to St. Cloud, and our agenda was condensed down to provide continued strong professional development, but over just two days. Response to these changes was good, and we will be staying with a similar format this year.

**ATTENDEES:** Standard registration includes all sessions, materials, breaks and meals for the two days of the conference, September 5 & 6. Attendees also have an option of single day registration, if time is tight. Or, come for the full conference, and register your staff to attend on September 5, to hear our inspiring keynote speaker, attend some breakouts, and see our trade show. A great deal! Lodging is reserved separately, to allow you complete flexibility in your planning.

**EXHIBITORS:** This is your chance to connect with key facility managers from the state and other public entities! Your exhibitor registration includes all conference sessions, and lunch on Wednesday, so be sure to come for the full day to maximize your networking. You are also invited to stay for our banquet and entertainment, as well.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** In past years, our scholarship fund raiser at the conference has been Texas Hold'em. This year, we've expanded that event to our new "Games4Grads".....Join us for a time to network, raise money for our scholarship fund, and have a little fun! Admission includes one round of poker, and access to play three other games, such as a bean bag toss, or putting green. Admission also includes one ticket for a drawing for a flat screen TV! Play whatever you like.....show off your skill.....have some fun.....win great prizes.....all while supporting the MnCEG Scholarship Fund. Registration is at the door, so we hope you will join us following the evening banquet on September 5. Sponsors are needed—please contact the MnCEG office for more information.

Registration for the conference is now open, so please register today.

- Architecture and Structural Design
- Building Mechanical/  
Electrical Design
- Campus Utility Master Planning
- Central Heating/Cooling Plants
- Commissioning
- Energy and Facility Audits
- Environmental Compliance  
and Permitting
- LEED/Sustainable Design
- Street/Parking Lot/  
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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**David Horsager**

**The Trust Edge**

### *How much do others actually trust you?*

Trust is a fundamental, bottom line issue. Without it, leaders lose teams, salespeople lose sales, and organizations lose reputation, productivity and purpose. But with trust, business moves faster, success grows, and careers take off.

David Horsager, M.A., C.S.P, is an author, entrepreneur, professor, and award-winning keynote speaker who researches and speaks on the bottom-line impact of trust. His signature speech and book, *The Trust Edge*, have inspired leaders and motivated teams toward greater results on four continents and across the U.S.

Through academic research and firsthand experience, Dave has learned what it takes to gain – and keep – *The Trust Edge*. Through a captivating presentation, he combines humor and illustrations with business insight and analysis. He will show you how the little things, done consistently, add up to huge results. Attendees will walk away with concrete steps they can immediately use to improve their lives and careers.



*Note: Dave will also be providing a special breakout session for our attendees—a great opportunity from a fantastic presenter!*

# Conference Agenda

## Wednesday, September 5

- 8:00-9:30am **Arrival, Networking and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00am-2:00pm **Trade Show Set Up**
- 9:30-10:30am **Keynote Speaker – The Trust Edge, David Horsager**
- 10:40-11:30am **David Horsager – Breakout**
- 11:30am **Lunch**
- 12:30pm **Breakouts:**

Creating a Culture of Energy Efficiency, *Joe Hallberg, Hallberg Engineering*. Self-implementing a comprehensive energy improvement process is the most cost-effective way to quickly reduce operating costs and generate long-term recurring savings.

Roof Maintenance, *Joshua Donald, Inspec*. Maximizing your Roof Assets: Usually that which is out of sight is out of mind and many times your roof falls victim to this way of thinking. That is however, until it begins to fail and you start to have a difficult and expensive time trying to keep the outside weather,.... well, outside. Your roof is the first line of defense in keeping you warm, dry and energy costs as low as possible. This session will help you understand the steps you can take to maximize the life of your roofs. Learn when you should walk your roofs over, what kind of in-house repairs your personnel can perform and when you should bring in the experts to help you plan and give you guidance as to when and where your budget dollars should go to best serve you.

Energy Rebate Programs, *Brian Hammarsten, Xcel Energy*. Brian will explain the current energy conservation rebates offered to Xcel Energy electric and gas customers in MN.

- 1:30pm **Breakouts:** Creating a Culture of Energy Efficiency, Roof Maintenance, Energy Rebate Programs
- 2:00pm **Vendor Meeting**
- 2:30-5:00pm **Trade Show**
- 5:00-6:30pm **Reception and Networking**
- 6:30pm **Banquet followed by Entertainment: Home Free**
- 8:30-11:00pm **Dollars for Scholars Event: Games4Grads**

## Thursday, September 6

- 7:00-8:00am **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00am **Department Breakouts: DHS - Corrections - MnSCU**
- 9:30am **MnSCU Breakout**

### **Additional Breakouts:**

Energy Reduction and Production Strategies, Don Horkey, PE and Julianne Laue, PE BEMP of DLR Group Identifying energy reduction strategies, combined with energy production implementation, will reduce your operating expenses at your facility.

COPE Review, Don Beckering, MNSCU Director of Public & Occupational Safety and Emergency Management. MNSCU has implemented this process to access risk factors at their facilities as well to insure regulatory compliance goals are being met.

Writing a Better RFP, American Council of Engineering Companies, Minnesota. A clear, concise document will result in a better project.....learn how to write one!

- 10:30am **Additional Breakouts:** Energy Reduction and Production Strategies, COPE Review, Writing a Better RFP
- 11:30am **Lunch**
- 12:30pm **Business Meeting**
- 1:00pm-3:30pm **Roundtable Discussions**



## Effective Strategies for Improving Morale

By Brian Johnson CPS, Sootmo

Supervising employees has always been challenging especially in today's economic times. Working in the public school setting these challenges are not diminished. Across the country public building are becoming community owned. Expectations and a sense of entitlement pushes facilities to the extreme. We are asked to stay open longer, provide more spaces for events that educational facilities weren't designed for, and to do so at no cost to the public.

As facilities become community centers, evening event locations for students, young children, and senior citizens taxes our budgets and staff. Maintaining positive morale becomes a near impossible task.

Union contracts seem to take longer to settle, building usage causes a sense that we are no longer in control of our facilities, and saying no to people is no longer appropriate. This control issue more than any other seems to bring down morale. This wholesale change in how facilities are operated appears to be a cultural change here to stay. Unfortunately most institutions hadn't planned for the fallout or consequences it causes.


One strategy I've found can bring some relief in maintaining or raising morale; modernizing equipment and keeping up with the newest technology that impact cleaning and maintenance. Battery operated tools, safer cleaning chemicals, lighter smaller equipment, and multifunctional equipment are just a few examples. Be sure to ask you peers how they tackle these problems, remember it is easier to steal good ideas than to think of them yourselves.

Though this process seems simple asking staff to change procedures or replace tools and equipment requires buy-in or the process can be stopped before ever getting started. Finding staff who embrace change and trust your decisions are key! Sometimes staff will believe that the current equipment is already working just fine and they aren't interested in changing. Vacuuming is an area that can be a real challenge when considering switching to new equipment. This is where depending on your vendor can help. Try performing a time trial in a side by side comparison using a stop watch. Invite staff to participate cleaning spaces that are dirty and have them perform at their usual pace.

These strategies can be time consuming so lean on your vendors, ask questions, and listen to your staff before making changes and you will find that both morale and efficiency will improve.

***It's Time to Renew Your Membership!***

*Our Membership year is July thru June, so please be sure to renew your membership!*



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## Quarterly Meeting Held June 11

The spring quarterly meeting was held in June 11, in the morning prior to the annual scholarship golf tournament. Members gathered for a business meeting, followed by two educational sessions:

**Electrical Preventive Maintenance and Testing Guidelines – Joe Schommer, Dymax Engineering**

*The Distinction Between Testing Guidelines: Visual, Mechanical & Electrical, Recommended Maintenance Frequency, Electrical Equipment That Needs To Be Tested, Implementing Your Maintenance Plan, Where To Get Started In Your Facility, Integrating Your Electrical Maintenance Program with Your Electrical Safety Program*

**Department of Commerce; Guaranteed Energy Savings Program– Pete Berger, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources**

*Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources – Who we are and what we do, How to use Energy Savings Performance Contracting as a strategy to save energy, address facility issues, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and renew facility infrastructure, How the State's GESP has changed from when it was first introduced in 2003, Project development process overview, How to get started.*

Our thanks to Joe and Pete for sharing their information with us! Quarterly meetings are held three times a year—in June, December, and March (a quarterly meeting isn't held in the fall due to our annual conference). If you, or someone from your organization, has a topic to present at our next quarterly meeting, please contact the MnCEG office.



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## Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild Scholarship Tournament

The Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild Scholarship Tournament was held on Monday, June 11, at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake. This event is the primary fund raiser for our scholarship fund--through participation in this event, hole sponsorships, and cash donations, revenue is generated to help support this effort.

Thanks to our Sponsors:

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Thanks also to the members of our golf committee: Frank Sahlin, Rick Lucio , Lori Bauer, Mike Remington. Without the hard work of this committee, and the support of our generous sponsors, this event wouldn't be as successful as it has become, and have been able to provide scholarships for the children of our members. Mark your calendars for the 2013 tournament, to be held on Wednesday, June 13!



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### **Scholarship Deadline Approaching!**

*The last day that scholarship applications will be accepted is July 31. An application can be found on our web site at [www.mnceg.org](http://www.mnceg.org). Scholarship recipients will be notified later in August, with the official announcement made at the annual conference.*

