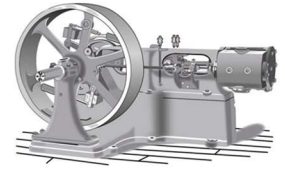


Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild **Update**

Established in 1943, the Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild (MNCEG) is an association for employees in Minnesota who are actively engaged in the planning, management, and maintenance of public facilities, grounds, equipment and systems.



Fall 2020

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This newsletter is published by the Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild.

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2020 MNCEG ONLINE CONFERENCE

September 15-17, 2020



Keynote message from Chris Heeter



Capstone Message from Jake Stahlman

COVID-19 & CONSTRUCTION

- What was the biggest challenge with construction and pandemic overlap?
- What were the best solutions identified to keep construction on-track?
- What will change for future construction due to 2020 challenges?

MNCEG VERSION 2020

COVID-19 Round Table with Amy Satterfield, IEA; Lori Bauer, Climate Makers; Jeremy Black, MCF-St. Cloud; Jim Lehn, MDVA Silver Bay; Terry Lewis, MSU-Mankato; and Britt Oliverius, City of Brooklyn Park

Taking Control of Your Controls session with Don Horkey and Jon Mesik from DLR Group

Harper Community College

Case Study

- 25 Buildings
- 1.7 Millions SF
- 9 Different existing control systems
- \$3.4 Million
- 5 Phases
- 5 Installing Contractors
- 1 Integration Contractor
- 1 Front End
- 4 Years (5 with planning)



As with just about everything in 2020, the MN Chief Engineers Guild Annual Conference was different from past years. While we were not able to meet in person for this year's Conference, we were able to provide 6 "live" education sessions online via Zoom along with offering 6 additional pre-recorded education sessions that were made available on our website. We are very grateful to all our presenters for their extra efforts to provide these education sessions for our members this year. And thank you to our Keynote and Capstone speakers for giving us a preview of their talks that are rescheduled for the 2021 Conference!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Season's Greetings fellow Guild members:

Well, 2020 has been an interesting year. Even with all the craziness of COVID and the media bantering, we still have a lot to be thankful for!! We as an organization have been through our own trials and tribulations as well. As Dave Rydeen mentioned in an earlier newsletter the Guild suffered an unthinkable loss when Fred King passed away this last year. I thought to myself who is going to carry on Fred's legacy by keeping the momentum going, well here comes the thankful part. Mike Remington graciously stepped up to the plate to help fill that void. Without our business partners, the Guild would fail to exist. Who better than another representative from Inspec to help lead the charge? Thank you, Mike!!

Even with the challenges we are facing today this great organization manages to keep moving forward. With COVID still looming a lot of creativity had to come into play for the Fall Conference. I think everyone knows the mastermind behind putting all of it together was Doreen. An online conference is not the most desirable venue, but I think it still shows this organization is not going to concede to anything! And guess who won an award this year for all her efforts?? Doreen Remington!! It goes without saying, our executive administrator keeps this guild together.

We are very hopeful that our members hang in there and tough it out until we are all able to meet in person again. I have heard from several members how much they missed the Fall Conference this last year and the networking with their colleagues. Hang in there everyone, we will be together again very soon once this pandemic is a part of history.

In closing, I just want to say that I am very honored to be the Guild's new president. I hope that I can fill the shoes of past presidents and be a part of moving this great organization forward.

Thank You & Happy Holidays to you and your families!!

Al

MNCEG LEADERSHIP UPDATE


Every two years, the MN Chief Engineers Guild transitions its leadership with the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents moving up a position, and the outgoing President moving over to chair the Board of Directors. Here is the current MNCEG leadership:

Executive Board

President:	Al Pfeilsticker
1 st Vice President:	Kurt Heideman
2 nd Vice President:	Charlie Judge
Treasurer:	Bill Olson
Program Director:	Jim Nieswaag
Vendor Representative:	Mike Remington

Board of Directors



Chair:	Dave Rydeen
Past President:	Steven Lawrence
Past President:	Kerry Bacon






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THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 CONFERENCE EDUCATION SESSION PRESENTERS

We very much appreciate our presenters who stepped up to provide their education sessions in an online format this year.

Both our live education session presenters:

- Konrad Abram and Lori Bauer, Climate Makers
- Don Horkey and Jon Mesik, DLR Group
- Barb Jerhoff, Xcel Energy
- Nick Johnson, ASSA ABLOY
- Michelle Redfield, MN State Retirement System
- Amy Satterfield, IEA, and roundtable participants Lori Bauer, Climate Makers; Jeremy Black, MCF St. Cloud; Jim Lehn, MDVA Silver Bay; Terry Lewis, MN State University - Mankato; Britt Oliverius, City of Brooklyn Park

And our pre-recorded education session presenters:

- Troy Androli and Craig Coil, TKDA
- Brian Brom and Mark Snodgrass, LVC Companies
- David Campbell, Inspec
- Scott Hanson, Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company
- Jessica Jacobson, Fortin Consulting
- Michael Retterath, Walker Consultants

If you missed any of these presentations, all sessions were recorded and are available on our website at www.mnceg.org in the Knowledge Base tab in the Members Only section.



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SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER – A VIRTUAL SUCCESS!

The MN Chief Engineers Guild hosted the 4th Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser during the Online Conference September 15 -17, 2020. Thanks to our many generous donors and bidders, we raised \$805.00 for our Scholarship Program!

We want to recognize Kerry Bacon who originated the idea of the Silent Auction Fundraiser 3 years ago for the 2017 Annual Conference. He created and donated 6 “industrial style” lamps to the MNCEG to auction off that year with all proceeds going to our scholarship program. Kerry has continued showing his creativity and generosity each year since 2017, building a number of terrific lamps and donating them to be auctioned off to benefit the scholarship program, including his fabulous beverage-dispensing “Firefighter Lamp” pictured here. Thank you Kerry!



Thank you to these generous donors for supporting the Silent Auction this year:

Nick Johnson from ASSA ABLOY
Lori Bauer from Climate Makers
Mike Remington from Inspec

Brett Stueland from RM Cotton
Cory Olson from Swedebro
Vicki Snowden from TKDA

And finally, thanks to everyone who bid on items and to the winning bidders for your generosity:

Doug Greene
Charlie Judge
Rick Lucio

Mike Remington
Nick Ruehl
Dave Rydeen

Amy Satterfield
Joel Seela
Carl Von Donop

TAKE AWAYS FROM COVID-19 ROUNDTABLE

The moderator for the COVID-19 Roundtable, Amy Satterfield from IEA, provided the following summary of the challenges and solutions discussed during the COVID-19 Roundtable session:

Construction Discussion Highlight Notes

Challenges:

- In healthcare –keeping contractors/employees/veteran's segregated
- Budget Impact: internal impact (additional costs/hiring staff for COVID) and external due to higher bids and equipment costs
- Delays: construction delays from equipment/materials delayed, contractors shut down, having to test/quarantine/Furlough of construction/staff teams

Solutions:

- Surveys/testing for COVID-19 for screening purposes
- Increased communication is critical (between staff/contractors/etc)
- Have plans B, C & D ready for alterations during construction



HVAC Discussion Notes

Priorities

- Maintain ongoing periodic cleaning of HVAC –keep consistent
- Upkeep of existing to ensure operating properly –remain consistent with maintenance. Keeping HVAC specialists on systems and not pulled for other duties.
- Focus budget and upgrades on filter systems; install highest MERV that unit can handle, ensure proper filter fit to minimize air bypass
- System evaluation and involvement of system professionals
- Increase air exchanges and outdoor air to system maximum capabilities

Operational Changes

- More budget for filters and system operation
- Operate systems 24/7 to flush system and provide air exchanges
- Challenge systems/areas (low airflow, radiant only) –focus on improvements



Cleaning & Disinfecting Highlight Notes

Challenges

- Availability of cleaning products and trying to find correct and sufficient products
- Budget constraints with having to hire additional staff, product, equipment
- Meeting the expectations of occupants with regards to the cleaning & disinfecting process

Solutions

- Learning on other inter-agency or peer facilities for information and guidance
- Provided opportunity to hire or reallocation of duties
- Remove furniture & minimize footprint provides less high-touch surfaces to clean
- Solidify ongoing cleaning/disinfecting program to carry into future & purchase equipment that allows for efficiency in process.



Cleaning & Disinfecting Highlight Notes

Solutions

- Work to communicate and have staff dedicated to the process
- Hire additional staff to fill gaps when/where possible (management of COVID cases, additional high touch surface cleaning, etc)
- Work the plan in place to minimize risks, plan for positive cases and quarantines, continue implementation of the plan with dedication throughout process
- Set up cleaning stations with PPE and product for individuals needing/wanting additional surface attention



2020 MNCEG ANNUAL AWARDS

Because of the curtailed activities of the organization this year, and given we were not able to meet in person at the Annual Conference, the MNCEG Awards Committee did not select an Engineer or Vendor of the Year for 2020. However, two other Annual Awards were presented at the 2020 Online Conference.

Congratulations to Dave Rydeen who was awarded the Service Award. Dave has served the MNCEG admirably, giving his time and knowledge to the organization with 2 years as President, 2 years as 1st Vice President, and 2 years as 2nd Vice President, and he will continue serving as Chair of the Board of Directors. His calm, caring manner and focus on education and training for members have been a tremendous asset to the group – thank you Dave!

And congratulations to Doreen Remington, Executive Administrator for the MNCEG, who received the Outstanding Service Award, for her work in putting on the Online Annual Conference this year.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL QUARTERLY MEETINGS

COVID-19 Roundtable – Part II

The MNCEG sent out a follow up member survey after the 2020 Online Annual Conference and we heard from respondents that the COVID-19 Roundtable session was well received and there is continuing interest and strong need for providing and sharing information related to indoor air quality, HVAC operation, and other challenges we are all facing with COVID-19. While we are not able to meet in person, we believe the peer panel/open discussion format gives us the best way to ask questions, share ideas, and learn from each other about how to best address the many challenges with managing facilities during this pandemic. The MNCEG Education Committee is planning a COVID-19 Roundtable session for early-mid January, please look for more details about this session in the next few weeks.

Virtual Presentation of University of Minnesota Pioneer Hall Renovation and Expansion

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 10:00 am

The MNCEG Education Committee had hoped to offer a tour of the University of Minnesota’s Pioneer Hall which had a major expansion and renovation project completed in August 2019. Unfortunately, an on-site tour of the University dormitory building is not possible at this time, but we are excited to provide a virtual “tour” of Pioneer Hall and learn about this award-winning project from long-time Associate Member firm TKDA who led the design of the project.

TKDA will present their recently-completed renovation and addition of the University of Minnesota Pioneer Hall Residence Housing and Dining project. As one of four large student residences on the campus “Superblock”, the 1930-era 4-story Georgian Revival structure no longer met student needs, lacked accessibility, and was severely deficient in its building structure and plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems. The project addressed the buildings many shortcomings, increased the bed count, and created a dining facility that serves the entire 2300 students living on Superblock.

TKDA’s Brian Morse, Sr. Architect and Brian Kelley, Project Engineering Manager, will present the project which included demolition of 91,000 sf of the concrete and brick structure, extensive renovation of 86,000 sf and 171,000 sf of expansion, to create a 275,000 sf five story residence hall for 750 students and a dining center that seats 850 people.



March Quarterly Meeting

The MN Chief Engineers Guild’s March Quarterly Meetings have been held in conjunction with Inspec’s Annual Half-Day Seminar for a number of years. Inspec has offered to host an online education session exclusively for the MNCEG in March and is working with the Education Committee to develop a training session based on the suggestions from the member survey. We’ll have more details about the March Quarterly Meeting available in early January.

We know our members value the networking and information sharing opportunities that come with our Quarterly Meetings and the Annual Conference. We are all eager to get back to in-person events as soon as we can safely do so. In the meantime, we want to provide these online education sessions and we encourage everyone to attend, participate, and share your questions, issues, and experiences.

VENDORS EXCHANGE

Doing the Right Thing

You often hear the phrase “Do the Right Thing”, but what does that really mean and how do you know what the “right thing” is? I heard a quote many years ago that had stuck with me since (I think it was actually from the Matrix movie): “Knowing what the ‘right thing’ to do is usually quite easy, it is the ‘doing it’ that is the hard part.” I had a personal experience last year that I thought I’d share:

My company responded to a Request for Proposals for a reroofing project for the Minnesota National Guard. I was delighted to see that my company had “won” the RFP – we scored the most points even though our fee wasn’t the lowest of the three firms that responded. However, at the bottom of the RFP results there was a note that said: “Inspec is a Targeted Group Vendor and receives a 6% preference.” I wondered what type of “targeted group” we would fit into, so I looked at the RFP and it was apparent that they had made a mistake – Inspec wasn’t a targeted group and did not deserve the 6% preference, and on top of that it likely meant that one of the other firms was a targeted group and they should have got this preference instead of us. My mind started racing with thoughts like: maybe it’s not a mistake, it isn’t my job to look for mistakes and get them corrected, I’ll just keep my mouth shut no need to rock the boat, etc. I reached out to my business partner to bounce the situation off him too, we really needed the work. It was late in the day, so I decided to sleep on it and figure it out in the morning.

The next morning, I woke up and immediately knew what I had to do, I had known what I had to do the entire time in hindsight. By the time I got to the office and checked my email my partner had chimed in too: We need to “do the right thing”. I contacted the person at the National Guard and as I had thought, they said there had been a mistake and one of the other firms was a targeted group and should have received the 6% preference instead of us. Even though I thought we had now lost the project, it sincerely felt good that we had done the right thing and handled the situation in an ethical way. Fortunately, as it turned out we still had enough points to get the project, but we didn’t expect that when we made the decision.

I can remember over the years a couple of my mentors at Inspec telling me “we need to step up and do the right thing, no matter how painful that is and it usually does cause some pain”. Keep that in mind when you face situations where you need to figure out “the right thing” to do and remember that knowing what the “right thing” is typically is the easy part – it’s the “doing” that is the hard part.

Have a Happy Holidays! Mike
*Mike Remington, Inspec
MNCEG Vendor Rep*



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SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

The MN Chief Engineers Guild has four primary means of raising funds for our scholarship program.

- Our Scholarship Golf Tournament, held annually in June, is the main fundraising event for the MNCEG and typically raises about half of the total scholarship awards given out each year.
- Our Dollars for Scholars Games4Grads Event at the Annual Conference raises a significant portion of our scholarship awards.
- Starting in 2017, we have held a Silent Auction at the Annual Conference and this has become a very successful fundraiser for the scholarship program.
- And finally, members and associate members can make direct donations to the Scholarship Program at any time, but typically are included with the annual membership renewal.

We are very grateful for the generosity of the many people and firms who have supported the Scholarship Program. While we were not able to hold our two primary fundraising activities this year due to the pandemic, we were still able to raise almost \$10,000 and awarded meaningful scholarships to 19 students in 2020!

Please watch for opportunities to contribute to the scholarship program either by participating in one of our fundraising events or by donating to the scholarship fund.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

The MN Chief Engineers Guild fundraising for our Scholarship Program have been greatly curtailed this year due to the pandemic, with the cancellation of our Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament and Dollars for Scholars Games4Grads Event at the Annual Conference. We are therefore especially thankful to the following Associate Member firms who stepped up to be a Conference Sponsor this year, raising \$2,300 which went directly into our Scholarship Program:

Platinum Level Sponsors

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Inspec
Larson Engineering
LVC Companies
RM Cotton
TKDA

Gold Level Sponsors

SwedeBro
Walker Consultants

Silver Level Sponsor

Master Electric

2021 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships are awarded each year to children of members and associate members who are attending post-secondary educational

institutions. Scholarships awards typically range from \$500 - \$1,000 depending on the number of applicants and how much we raised for the scholarship fund that year.

We will begin accepting Scholarship Applications in May of 2021. To be eligible, your child must be attending a post-secondary educational institution in the Fall of 2021, and you must be a current member or associate member in the MN Chief Engineers Guild for the July 2021-June 2022 term. Look for email announcements about this in early May.

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THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

STRONG SUPPORT IN A TOUGH YEAR

2020 has been a very difficult and challenging year for everyone, which makes us all the more appreciative of the MNCEG community. We want to recognize and thank the people and organizations who have provided their support to the MN Chief Engineers Guild in 2020.

Even though the Scholarship Golf Tournament was cancelled, these Associate Member firms donated all or a portion of their hole sponsorship fees to our Scholarship Fund:

ASSA ABLOY Ericksen Ellison & Associates Hallberg Engineering
IEA, Inc. Inspec, Inc. Mavo Systems Excel Energy

These individuals and firms donated generously to our Scholarship Fund (and many of them contribute year after year) – Thank you!

Howard Berny DLR Group Sally Grans-Korsh
Hiller Commercial Floors IEA, Inc. Inspec, Inc. Barry Schaub
SwedeBro Steve and Pat Udell Uhl Company Voss Lighting

Thank you also to the hard-working MNCEG Board and Committee Members who met numerous times this year to rethink and reconfigure how to deliver meaningful education and networking opportunities to our members and scholarships for their children:

Kerry Bacon Lori Bauer Howard Berny Lonnie Danielson Kurt Heideman Christina Johnson Nick Johnson
Charlie Judge Jody Landsberger Steven Lawrence Jim Nieswaag Jim Oelhafen Bill Olson Al Pfeilsticker
Doreen Remington Mike Remington Dave Rydeen Amy Satterfield Frank Sahlin Barry Schaub Steve Udell

And last but not least, thank you to all our members and associate members who have renewed their membership with the MNCEG, attended education sessions, presented education sessions, responded to requests for surveys and other input, and have helped keep our organization strong and vital.



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SAVE THE DATE!

February 23, 2021: Virtual Presentation of University of Minnesota Pioneer Hall Renovation and Expansion, presented by TKDA; 10:00 am

June 7, 2021: MNCEG Scholarship Golf Tournament, Oak Glen Golf Center

September 8-10, 2021: MNCEG Annual Conference & Trade Show, Breezy Point Conference Center

Dates and details on the January Quarterly Meeting, March Quarterly Meeting, and June Quarterly Meeting to be announced.