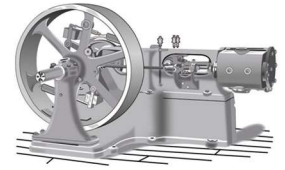


Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild **Update**

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.



Winter 2020

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This newsletter is published by the Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild.

To unsubscribe, please contact info@mnceg.org.

January Quarterly Meeting – Bell Museum Tour January 7, 2020



Fifty + MNCEG members and associate members enjoyed the January 7th Quarterly Meeting and Tour of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum. This impressive new natural history museum, with a project budget of \$79 million, opened in July 2018 and features thermally modified white pine wood cladding, use of new fabrication technology for high performance glass with maximum visibility and bird safety, and many other innovations. Thank you to Doug Bergert and Heidi Costello from Perkins + Will, Tim Eckman from McGough Construction, and John Smith from Michaud Cooley Erickson for sharing their insights on this award winning project.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings fellow guild members. It's hard to believe 2019 has passed and we're into 2020. I hope you all had a nice holiday season and were able to spend time with family and friends.

The New Year started out with a very successful tour of the Bell Museum. There was a nice turnout of members that were able to hear details about the construction of the building, followed by a great tour. A special thank you goes out to Jim Nieswaag for arranging the tour!

We've got some great events coming up. There's certified Plant Maintenance Manager training March 18-20. Registration is on line. Contact Jim Nieswaag with any questions.

The next event will be the 2020 March Quarterly Meeting that's held on the 11th. This is in conjunction with Inspec's 14th annual half-day training seminar. The event will be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Inspec always does a great educational seminar so hopefully you can make it. Thank you to Mike Remington, and the Inspec staff that put the seminar together.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 June Quarterly Meeting. This will be held at the Oak Glen Golf Course in Stillwater June 1. The quarterly meeting will be held in the morning followed by the annual Scholarship scramble golf tournament. Even if you're not a golfer it's a fun time, and we'll be looking at ways to get everyone involved.

The 2020 Annual Conference is slated for September 9-11. It will be held at Breezy Point as it has been the past few years. If you've never been there it's a great way to learn and to make connections with vendors and other Government employees experiencing some of the same challenges we all face.

On Thursday January 9, 2020 we lost a true friend, and a person that made as much of an impact as anyone I know with the MNCEG. Fred King passed away shortly before his 70th birthday. Fred had a gift for getting people involved, either vendors or members to better the organization. His ideas to grow the MNCEG were truly amazing. To name a few things that Fred recently did as examples were, to have our vendors become associate members, fireworks at the 75th anniversary conference, a Proclamation from Governor Dayton, Minnesota Chief Engineers Day, and one of my favorites was a band showing up and performing at the 75th banquet that no one knew anything about. There are many Fred stories that will be told for years to come. Thoughts and prayers go out to Fred and his family.

This will be the 77th anniversary of the MNCEG. I fully expect this to be another educational and exciting year.

Fun Fact from 1943:

Cost for a postage stamp \$.03

Wishing your boilers are running well, and you're having a great day!

Dave Rydeen

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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR 2020 CONFERENCE

Presentation submissions for the 2020 MN Chief Engineers Guild Annual Conference are now being accepted. The conference theme this year is **MNCEG: Version 2020**, and is scheduled for September 9-11, 2020 at Breezy Point Conference Center.

We are looking for session topics relating to the management, operation, maintenance, and engineering of public facilities. Some of the topics we are particularly interested in, based on feedback from our members, are:

- Benchmarking
- Building Envelope
- Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS)
- Electrical Safety
- Energy Code Impacts
- Mechanical sessions
- Specifications/Contract Writing
- State Project Management – process and roles
- Sustainability topics

We have heard from members that they want more “hands-on” type sessions, similar to the Mechanical Room sessions offered last year. We are very interested in seeing presentation submissions with hands-on learning opportunities.

In addition, our members continue to ask for sessions focused on management issues that facility managers face, including recruiting staff and options for interviewing qualified staff, management of staff and different generation challenges, communication of job duties and expectations, teamwork effectiveness, and providing leadership/advancement opportunities for staff.

While most of our presenters come from our membership base, we welcome outside resources also. If you have a resource within your facilities/companies, or know of a presenter you would recommend for any of these topics, feel free to connect with Doreen Remington, Chief Engineers Guild Administrator (dremington@mnceg.org) or Jim Nieswaag, MNCEG Program Director (jim.nieswaag@anokaramsey.edu).

Presentations should be 45-50 minutes in length and be educational, not promotional. We will have technical / educational sessions beginning early afternoon on Wednesday, September 9 through Friday morning, September 11. If your presentation is selected, you may be scheduled for one or two sessions during the conference.

Please send all submissions to info@mnceg.org. Include the following in your submission:

- Presenter’s Name, Organization, and Contact Information (email and phone)
- Presentation Title
- Presentation Summary (100 word max)
- Short Biography of the Presenter (50 word max)

We hope you will consider this great opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise at our 2020 Annual Conference. Education and information sharing is the cornerstone of our organization, and we value the tremendous wealth of knowledge within our group! **Submissions must be received by March 20, 2020.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION!

You won’t want to miss the closing session of our 2020 Annual Conference on Friday September 11th! We are excited to have Chris Heeter presenting our Capstone address this year. A wilderness guide for over 30 years, and a professional speaker for 18 years, Chris grabs audiences with humorous stories about her sled dogs and their personalities, then weaves those stories into practical takeaways.

Chris uses her experience with dogs to provide insightful analogies to teamwork and leadership within organizations:

“Recognizing their distinct personalities and how to work with them, including:

- **Managing the crabby, but productive dog**
- **Working with the dog who isn’t pulling his weight**
- **Getting the best contribution from each individual, finding the fit on the team**
- **Hanging on when the sled tips and your team just keeps pulling...**¹



We know you will enjoy hearing Chris and will leave the Conference energized and ready to tackle the many challenges you face in your workplace! Please plan to stay for the Friday morning sessions and Chris Heeter’s “WILD” presentation!

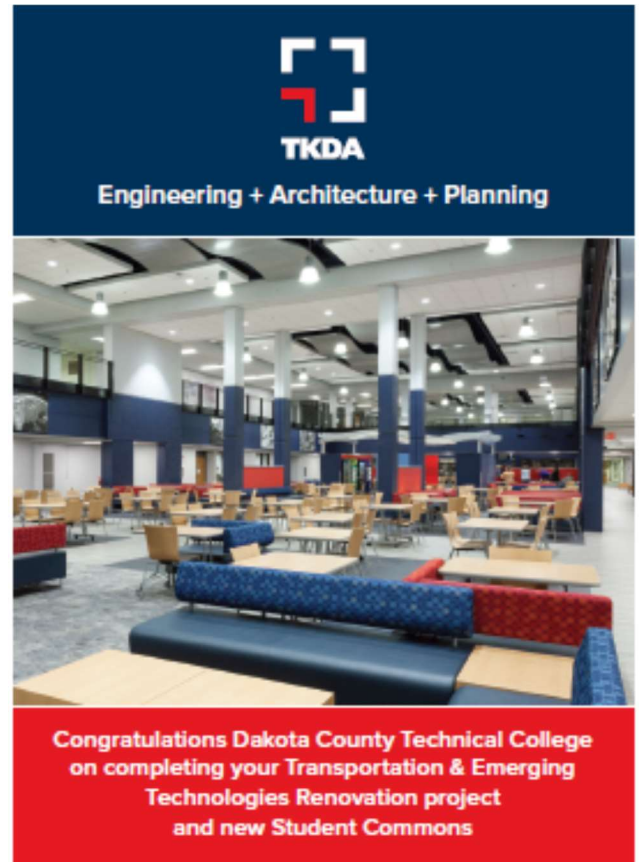
1. From promotional material from Chris Heeter and The Wild Institute. For more information, visit: www.thewildinstitute.com.

MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING – INSPEC SEMINAR MARCH 11, 2020

Please plan to attend the MNCEG March Quarterly Meeting held in conjunction with Inspec's 14th Annual Half-Day Technical Seminar "Facility Condition Assessments – Planning for Future Needs". The seminar will be at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Door #5, in Brooklyn Center. Check in begins at 7:30 am with Welcome and Program Introduction at 8:15 am. Seminar will conclude at 12:00 pm with a lunch to follow.

This half day seminar is presented by a team of experienced specialty consulting experts and a project manager from Hennepin County that utilizes a Facility Condition Assessment program to systematically measure the condition of the County's many facilities and also prioritize work in their portfolio. Topics will include how effective Facility Condition Assessments will help facility managers and owners understand the condition of their buildings and plan for future repairs and maintenance, best practices, common mistakes, accurate cost estimating, how Hennepin County uses their Facility Condition Assessments to plan for and maintain their properties, and how building managers or owners can identify what hazardous materials may be lurking in their buildings, and plan for future remediation and the related costs.

MNCEG members and associate members can attend this event free of charge (\$40 value). You must pre-register for the seminar by March 2, 2020. Register online by going to www.mnceg.org and selecting Events, 2020 March Quarterly Meeting, or just email info@mnceg.org and ask to be registered – please provide your name, organization, and email address.



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CERTIFIED PLANT MAINTENANCE MANAGER (CPMM) TRAINING AND EXAM

There is still time to sign up for the Certified Plant Maintenance Manager (CPMM) training and exam being offered March 18-20, 2020. This is a great opportunity to increase your knowledge and skills in the area of facilities management. 17 MNCEG members have attend the course and attained their CPMM Certification in the past 3 years!

We currently have 7 members taking the training next month but have space for a few more. Information about the class, time commitment, cost, and the application are all available at www.mnceg.org under Events, CPMM Training & Test.

We hope you will take advantage of this professional development opportunity for you and/or your employees.

Questions? Contact Jim Nieswaag, MNCEG Program Director (jim.nieswaag@anokaramsey.edu) or Doreen Remington, MN Chief Engineers Guild Administrator (dremington@mnceg.org).

INSTALLING AIR VENTS IN WET PIPE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Jim Oelhafen
LVC Companies

Just as high blood pressure is a silent killer to humans, so is trapped air to a wet pipe sprinkler system. I use this analogy because corrosion silently creates costly concerns over time.

Sprinkler corrosion presents itself in the form of pinhole leaks, water damage, plugged sprinkler heads, reduced hydraulic flow, and ultimately, a significantly decreased useful system life. Often with little to no warning.

Two quick facts as we discuss the value of installing air vents on wet pipe sprinkler systems: trapped air in wet pipe fire sprinkler systems creates corrosion, and all wet piped sprinkler systems trap air.

You have all seen the presence of corrosion's damaging process. Think about the rust-colored marks on your garage floor created by a long-handled tool leaning against the wall, or the pattern left when the puddle under your snowblower dries. These are very simple examples of oxidation corrosion. Science proves, when oxygen, moisture and metal are combined, corrosion will form.

Now let's take a look inside your sprinkler pipe. Have you noticed that the water has an orange or black tint? You guessed it. This too is the result of oxidation corrosion. The orange color is produced by Hematite (Fe_2O_3), which is a byproduct of the initial oxidation process. The orange coloration caused by Hematite is noticed within the first 30 days. As time goes on, the second phase of oxidation creates Magnetite (Fe_3O_4), which is responsible for turning sprinkler water black. Magnetite will leave its mark in about 90 days.

Let's apply that science with a specific and tangible example. Every time a 1,000-gallon sprinkler system is drained and filled, five pounds of metal is lost, and seven pounds of Hematite is created.

With this fact, we have been inadvertently promoting the corrosion process while performing routine sprinkler system inspections or making tenant improvements.

Fortunately, for sprinkler pipe health, we have learned that solving pipe corrosion is simple - eliminate oxygen and you will reduce corrosion.

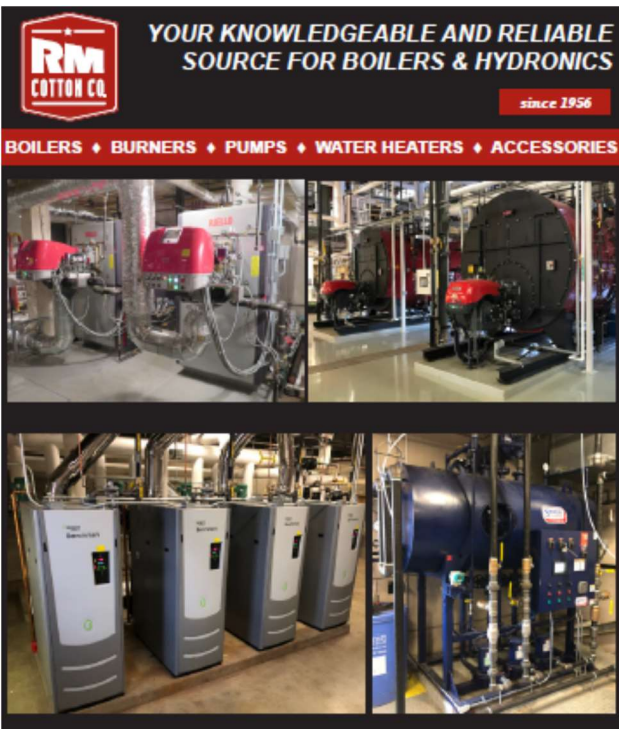
To address the concern, the 2016 version of NFPA 12 - targeted for Minnesota adoption late March 2020 - will prescribe a remedy by adding language requiring the installation of at least one air vent per metallic wet pipe sprinkler system. The vent will be installed at a high point in the system to allow trapped air to escape.

So, moving forward, new sprinkler systems will be equipped with at least one air vent per system. However, please remember that the code provides minimum requirements. Building design and layout may warrant more than one vent per system located at strategic highpoints to achieve the desired outcome.

Knowing a bit more about the cause and cure, it stands to reason that installing air vents on existing sprinkler systems would be wise. Wouldn't they share the same benefits? It's not often that something this simple has such a significant impact on an industry wide problem. But in this case, air vents provide a straightforward solution that has provided increased longevity and decreased life cycle costs of our sprinkler systems.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH TECHNICAL ARTICLES

The MNCEG is founded on the ideal of sharing information among members to improve the management of public facilities. We are always looking for technical articles to publish in our quarterly newsletters. If you have an existing article you would like to submit for consideration, or have an idea for a topic you think would be of interest, please contact info@mnceg.org. Thank you!



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MN CHIEF ENGINEERS GUILD COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

The Minnesota Chief Engineers Guild could not provide our many educational, networking, information sharing, and scholarship opportunities without the tireless work of our Executive Board and Committee Members. While it is a commitment of time and energy to get involved in an MNCEG committee, it's also a rewarding experience. We really have a great organization made up of truly committed individuals who want to advance the knowledge and effectiveness of the people who manage our public facilities.

We welcome new committee members **Nick Johnson**, Assa Abloy, Scholarship Golf Tournament Committee, and **Christina Johnson**, MN Historical Society, Scholarship Committee. You can find a listing of the Executive Board and all Committee Members on the website at www.mnceg.org under About MNCEG.

We are always looking for new committee members to bring fresh ideas and a different perspective to the table. If you have an interest in joining a committee or just exploring ways for you to get more involved in the MNCEG, please feel free to contact anyone on the Executive Board or one of the Committees.

MNCEG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of the great values the MN Chief Engineers Guild provides to members is our Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available to children of members, associate members, and retired life members who are enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions. Scholarship applications will be accepted starting in May and are due July 31st. Look for announcements later this spring and encourage your children to apply!

VENDORS EXCHANGE – REMEMBERING FRED KING



Sadly, Fred King passed away on January 9, 2020 after a courageous four month battle with cancer. As most of you know, Fred's contributions to the Guild are simply immeasurable. Fred not only served as Vendor Rep for many years, he was also instrumental in the development of the CPMM Certification Program that has been so successful.

Fred truly cared about the Guild and its members and was tirelessly devoted to finding ways to improve and expand the Guild for its members. He will be sorely missed by the MN Chief Engineers Guild and all its members and associate members.

I consider it an honor and privilege to accept Fred's role as Vendor Rep for the Guild and I can only hope to serve the Guild in a small fraction of what Fred provided us all with for so many years, and I will strive to do that.

Rest in peace Fred, we will all miss you.

Mike Remington, Inspec

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendar for upcoming MNCEG Events:

March Quarterly Meeting: March 11, 2020, Inspec Seminar – Facility Condition Assessments – Planning for Future Needs, Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN.

Certified Plant Maintenance Manager (CPMM) Training and Exam: March 18-20, 2020, IEA, Inc., Brooklyn Park, MN

June Quarterly Meeting / Scholarship Golf Tournament: June 1, 2020, Oak Glen Golf Club, Stillwater, MN.

2020 Annual Conference: September 9 – 11, 2020, Breezy Point Conference Center, Breezy Point, MN



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