

The Tool Box

Serving the Electrical, HVAC & Plumbing Industries Since 1912

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Will Baby Boomers Live Up to Their Potential?

There's an old joke about two babies who were placed side-by-side in a hospital maternity ward. They lay there staring at one another. Decades later, in their 90s, the two recognized each other when they found themselves sharing the same hospital room. One of them says to the other, "So ... how'd it go?"

These days, the Baby Boom Generation seems to be asking this question. In the aftermath of covid, the social isolation and political ferment of the recent past have given pause to the demographic cohort that revolutionized America at each stage of its lifespan. The generation that Bob Dylan called "forever young" is transitioning once again – this time into old age.

In 1900, the average American could expect to live to age 47. By 2019, the average lifespan had expanded to age 79. Boomers have been given the greatest gift in all of history — 30 extra years of life. But now comes the hard part: what to do with all the time.

Boomers had been expected to work longer and delay retirement. But the global pandemic and Great Resignation of 2021 caused a change in plans. Untold numbers of working boomers called it quits. Social and political changes have changed the trajectory. Alarmed that many of the January 6th rioters were of their generation, some boomers have begun taking stock, pondering their generational and individual legacies. And wrestling with the bigger questions of life last visited by some in youth.

The Generation that Reinvented America

"Seventy may be the new 50," a friend's physician said to him the other day as he was undergoing his annual checkup. "But 80 is still 80." The oldest boomers, at 77, are closing in on 80, while the youngest are turning 60.

They started out so strong, so full of potential. Born between 1946 and 1964, 76 million newborns set off a population explosion in the United States. New hospitals, schools and homes were hastily built to accommodate the surge. With their appetite for Davey Crocket coonskin hats and Hula Hoops, boomers singlehandedly created something new: youth culture. They came of age opposing the war in Vietnam, attended Woodstock, created the women's and gay liberation movements, and invented the term "recreational drugs."

Eventually, they settled down, took out mortgages, and spawned the almost equally huge (92 million) Millennial Generation, now in its prime earning and family-formation years. In their wake they altered an entire culture and their society's future.

Boomers were first to embrace Eastern mysticism, meditation, organic foods, yoga -- the human potential movement. "We can change the world," sang Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. And with a toke or two on the old pipe, they believed they could.

Demographics and the Opportunity Mindset

As a boomer myself, reading Ken Dychtwald's 1989 book on the boomer generation was an epiphany. "Age Wave: The Challenges and Opportunities of an Aging America" was an eye-opener. It caused me to think about not just where things are right now, but where they are going in the future.

A former yoga instructor turned gerontologist, Dychtwald's big idea was that if you delved deeply into the trends and issues surrounding this emergent generation, you could anticipate their needs and wants, and cash in on the opportunities embedded in change.



**From our family
to yours,
Happy Labor Day!
September 4, 2023**

Dychtwald and other social forecasters had an influence on my choice of vocation of public speaker and consultant. By studying demographics and acting entrepreneurially, I discovered that I could help busy leaders and managers shape and profit from change instead of being blindsided by it.

And while my work as a futurist and innovation coach expanded beyond demographic trends to encompass technology, social, economic, regulatory, geopolitical and other trend categories, the formula was much the same: identify and track the “driving forces of change,” project ahead to where the trend was likely headed, consider threats and opportunities, and invent the future via innovation. I’ve shared this formula with audiences all across America and in 54 countries, from machine tool distributors meeting at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, to the Turkish Quality Association meeting in Istanbul, with business school students in Beijing and banks in Rome and Bangkok. What a ride!

On a personal level, tracking the boomer generation over the years forced me to think about designing my own future, about what I would do personally with 30 extra years of life? What were the dos and don’ts of growing older? What could I learn from previous generations? How best to go about creating what the speaker and writer Gordon Burgett once called, “Your Super Second Life”?

Well, suddenly here I am 69 years of age, as surprised as anyone to be this old. And now comes the reckoning, time to check-in on where we boomers are rather than where we thought we’d be or hoped we’d be. It turns out the generation now fading from the scene is trending all right -- but not in ways we may have anticipated. According to an ongoing study on longevity at Stanford University, self-isolation among boomers is rampant. Which is a behavior pattern, these researchers tell us, that has “as strong a risk factor for early mortality as cigarette smoking.

Boomers today are far less socially engaged than their predecessors. They are less likely to participate in community or religious organizations; less likely to be married; less likely to talk with their neighbors. Boomers report fewer meaningful interactions with their spouses and partners and are more likely to report weaker ties to family and friends.



“These findings are especially intriguing since this is the generation that proclaimed that the world should have higher standards,” notes the report. “This generation sparked great changes in our society in order to realize them. But if boomers bow out, a very different scenario may unfold.”

In 2031, the oldest Boomers will turn 85. They will enter the ranks of what demographers call the “old old” and will face the prospects of higher risk dementia, serious physical disabilities and long-term dependency. At the same time, there will be fewer able-bodied people to care for them. The population of the prime caregiving age group is expected to increase by only one percent by 2030, while the population over 80 will increase by 79 percent.

If there is one goal boomers tend to agree on it’s a determination to “age in place.” They’ve made a pact to avoid the staid, warehouse-like institutions that housed their parents’ generation in its final years. New and innovative technologies may make this possible. From robots to sensors to remote monitoring to pill dispensing, artificial intelligence and other empowering technologies will likely revolutionize and extend late-life independence.

But the issues of finding meaning and purpose are ones that technology cannot solve.

As advertisers and societal institutions move on to more urgent issues, we boomers are left with big questions: How can we not just extend life or enable independent living longer, but increase the quality of life in the extra years? How can we tap our vast life experience and knowledge and transfer it into something useful for younger generations? How might we lessen social isolation and restore the legacy of boomers as idealistic problem-solvers and possibility thinkers? How can we reach our full generational potential?

For the most part, we wrestle with these questions alone, if at all. As I view it, putting gold in one’s golden years has little to do with one’s generational cohort, rather with the choices we make each day. Eat an apple or eat that donut? Accept a friend’s invitation to dinner, or socially isolate? Go for a bike ride with your buds, or binge watch the new series on Netflix? Host pity parties, or support candidates who have future generations in mind, rather than their own self-interest?

These little decisions add up, become who we are. And we get to choose. We choose whether we’re going to feel young and curious and interested and interesting today, or whether we’re going to self-isolate and feel sorry for ourselves that the good old days have passed us by and we’re no longer relevant. Will boomers live up to their potential? It’s time to choose.

Robert Tucker

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Mechanical Member



Gatch Electrical Contractors, Inc., located in Charleston, South Carolina (SC) was formed by Jimmy Gatch in 1998 to focus on projects that include military installations, industrial manufacturing plants, water and wastewater treatment facilities, healthcare/medical facility, warehouse/storage/distribution facilities, medium voltage systems and design-build projects. Most of our projects are located within the tri-county area of Berkley, Charleston and Dorchester counties as well as many projects located throughout the low country of South Carolina.

Safety is our #1 priority. We recently surpassed 900 (and counting) calendar days without a recordable accident. Our team of loyal, hardworking employees committed to our core values consisting of safety, integrity, quality, teamwork and customer satisfaction which have been the foundation of our success. We look forward to the future and building on our success while maintaining these values to meet the clients' needs.

Associate Member



Premier Electrical staffing was founded in 2010, with a commitment to serve our customers with highly trained, pre-screened staffing for all levels of commercial and industrial electrical work. We strive to give our customers, as well as our employees, a rewarding experience.

Since the inception of our initial branches in North Carolina, we have grown to include branches in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and Colorado. Our extensive network allows us to provide top-tier electrical workers nation-wide, and for any scope of project.

Premier Electrical Staffing maintains a firm belief that our employees are our greatest asset. Before we send any workforce to our clients, every employee is tested for their knowledge of the electrical trade. We not only test our employees through both written and practical tests prior to hiring, but we provide continued training and guidance wherever needed.

We have over 13 years of developing lasting relationships with both, our coveted clientele and our valued employees. For our clients, we have built a reputation centered around reliability, quality, and world-class level service. While our 'Safety-First' attitude and continued support of our employees has established a deep bench of talented workers, that can meet any need.

We take pride that each of our branch offices supplies electrical contractors with qualified, reliable Journeymen, Mechanics, and Top Helpers.

It is our mission and end goal to exceed the expectations of all of our clients!

“Tool Box Talks” – Safety Tip

Material Handling and Storage – Working Safely Around Mobile Cranes

[Reference: 1910.180 / 1926 Subpart CC

Working around mobile cranes presents a multitude of potential hazards to your personal safety. Here is an overview of some common hazards associated with working around mobile cranes, and steps you can take to minimize those hazards to protect yourself and others:

- **Struck by the crane:** The swinging counterweight of a mobile crane can strike a worker, or crush them between the counterweight and outriggers or a stationary object. So, maintain a safe distance from the counterweight on a crane, and never enter any area marked off by barricades or warning signs. Also, do not stand directly in front of or behind a crane when it is about to move, as the operator probably cannot see you there.
- **Struck by the load:** Workers can be struck by the crane's load during lifting operations. Stay aware of your positioning when loads are being moved, and never place yourself beneath a suspended load. Also, use a tag line when helping move a load that needs to be carefully controlled, as doing so will help you maintain a safer distance from the load as it moves.
- **Dropped objects:** Tools, equipment, or debris dropped while working on a crane can pose a hazard to workers below. So, do not stand beneath anyone working on the crane's boom or deck.
- **Overloading:** Operating the crane beyond its rated capacity can lead to structural failure, tipping, or loss of control. So never add any materials, tools, supplies, or other extra item to a rigged load unless you first get clearance from the qualified rigger for the lift.
- **Electrocution:** Contact with overhead power lines or other electrical sources can result in electrocution, especially if the crane's boom or load becomes energized. So always alert the operator ASAP if you happen to notice any part of the crane or the load approaching overhead electrical lines. And NEVER approach or touch a crane that is in contact with an energized line.
- **Poor visibility:** Limited visibility from the operator's cabin can result in accidents, especially when lifting or moving loads in congested areas. So, if you notice the crane or load approaching something that appears to represent a hazard, say something right away to the designated signal person so they can stop the crane and take steps to avoid an accidental strike.
- **Wind and weather conditions:** Strong winds can cause instability in crane operations, leading to tipping or loss of control. If the wind suddenly starts to gust violently, adjust your positioning as needed to make sure you do not get struck by an out-of-control crane boom or load.

Condolences

Anne Campbell & Family On The Loss Of Her Mother
Mandina (Woodruff) Hollar
September 1, 2023

Edward Gibbs & Family On The Loss Of His Father
Fred Gibbs
September 4, 2023

Happy Birthday Members!

Gina Hinds	9/1	Smith, Kesler & Company	Wife of Steve
Tom Frisby	9/3	Honorary Life Member	
Stan Harbourt	9/3	H. R. Allen, Inc.	
Mike Richardson	9/4	Atlantic Electric Company	
Lisa Simpson	9/7	Wife of Honorary Life Member Al	
Ned Forsberg	9/9	Honorary Life Member	
Renee Locklair	9/9	Jennings-Dill	Wife of Andy
Pete Bailey	9/15	C. R. Hipp Construction Co., Inc.	
Tom Brock	9/15	Past State President	
Mitch Knox	9/18	Johnson Controls	Husband of Allison
Wayne McCartha	9/18	McCartha Cobb & Associates	
Paul Roesel	9/20	The Sack Company	
Tommy Walkup	9/20	Walkup Electrical Construction, LLC	
Donna Whatley	9/21	Greenville Mechanical, Inc.	Wife of John
Roddy Allen	9/23	H. R. Allen, Inc.	
Mitch Clark	9/24	RepSouth	
Del Laquiere	9/24	Triad Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	
Lisa Rabon	9/25	Wife of Honorary Life Member Jim	
Stephanie Karr	9/27	Yandle-Witherspoon Supply	Wife of Chris
Debbie Williams	9/29	Cashion Electricians, Inc.	Wife of John
Wanda Edwards	9/30	Wife of Honorary Life Member Gerald	
Darlene McGee	9/30	Honorary Life Member	
Bob Miller	9/30	Miller HVAC Service	

We would like to announce your Birthday too! If you would like to be listed, please call 803-772-7834.

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Ned Forsberg	9/1	Honorary Life Member	Carol
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Soderlund	9/12	Elliott Davis	Kristi
Mr. & Mrs. Josh Ridgill	9/27	CIC Firestop	Alexandra

*The Henderson Beach Resort & Spa
Destin, Florida
August 10-13, 2023*



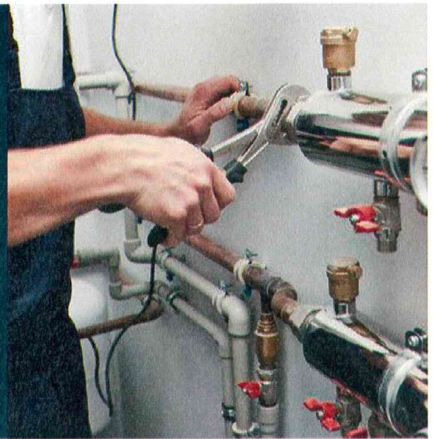


*Summer Convention 2023,
The Henderson Beach Resort & Spa, Destin, Florida*



Until next year!

we can help you fit the right group plan for your business



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Enjoy the cost savings of level-funding, without taking on added risk, with Allstate Benefits. Our program gives your employees access to broad, national networks — like the Aetna® Signature Administrators PPO Network and the Cigna PPO Network — while providing quality health benefits to all of your group's members.

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- ✓ **Teladoc® and Vitality®** wellness programs are included for being a member.



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* Savings example is for an employer group in Alabama with 3 eligible employees.

The Allstate Benefits Self-Funded Program provides tools for employers owning small to mid-sized businesses to establish a self-funded health benefit plan for their employees. The benefit plan is established by the employer and is not an insurance product. For employers in the Allstate Benefits Self-Funded Program, stop-loss insurance is underwritten by: Integon National Insurance Company in CT, NY and VT; Integon Indemnity Corporation in FL; and National Health Insurance Company in all other states where offered. National Health Insurance Company, Integon National Insurance Company, and Integon Indemnity Corporation are rated "A+" (Superior) by A.M. Best.

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SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS FROM AUGUST

1. Which state has the average hottest temperature? **Florida**
2. How old is the oldest mosquito fossil? **79 million years old**
3. What year did the Fourth of July become a holiday in the United States? **1870**
4. How many calories are in a cup of watermelon? **40**
5. What is the most commonly purchased BBQ meat in the United States? **Hotdogs**
6. How many popsicles are sold annually? **Approximately two billion**
7. What popular drink was originally invented as an ice cream topping? **Hawaiian Punch**
8. What is the most grown crop in the United States? **Corn**
9. What country has the most coastline in the world? **Canada**
10. Where was the first public beach in the United States? **Revere Beach in Massachusetts**
11. How long do seagulls live? **10-15 years in the wild**
12. How tall is the Guinness world record-holding sand castle? **45 feet 10.25 inches**
13. What year did Disneyworld open? **1971**
14. What is the most visited national park in the United States? **The Grand Canyon**
15. What is the most popular week for travel in the United States? **Second week of July**



11 FACTS ABOUT LABOR DAY

1. The first celebrated US Labor Day was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, planned by the Central Labor Union.
2. 10,000 workers marched from City Hall all the way to 42nd Street and then met with their families in Wendel's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.
3. Canada is said to have originated the idea of hosting a day honoring the labor movement. In 1872, they held a "Nine-Hour Movement" to show support for striking workers.
4. There is disagreement about who actually proposed Labor Day as a holiday. Some say it was Peter J. McGuire, who was the co-founder of the American Federation of Labor. Others believe that it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist.
5. Oregon was the first state to celebrate Labor Day as a legal holiday in 1887.
6. The decision to make Labor Day the first Monday of September was approved on June 28, 1894.
7. Labor Day started as a part of the labor union movement, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the US workforce, but modernly is seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer.
8. Americans worked 12-hour days seven days a week during the 19th century!
9. The Adamson Act was passed on September 3, 1916 to establish an eight-hour work day.¹
10. Historians say the expression "no white after Labor Day" comes from when the upper class would return from their summer vacations and stow away their lightweight, white summer clothes as they returned back to school and work.
11. There is still a Labor Day parade in New York City, which takes place throughout the 20 blocks north of the 1882 labor march.

Inspirational Quote

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner.
The price of victory is high but so are the rewards.

Bear Bryant

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Area Meetings & Upcoming Events

Piedmont Area

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Hosted by: Trane U.S., Inc.

Location: Local Cue, 30 Orchard Park Dr., Suite 7-8 (Green Room), Greenville, SC

Speaker: Kerri McAlister, Workforce Partnerships, WBL Co-Ordinator,

R. D. Anderson Applied Technology Center & MSC



Midlands Area

Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Hosted by: Murray Supply Company, 1222 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC 29201

Speaker: Anthony Reddish

Program: Ideas To Make The Midlands Chapter Bigger And Better



Pee Dee Area

16th Annual Pee Dee Blast Sporting Clays Event
Friday, September 15, 2023 from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm
Back Woods Quail Club, 647 Hemingway Lane, Georgetown, SC

Next scheduled meeting will be October 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Hosted by: Carolina Insulation Contractors

Location: Roger's BBQ, 2004 W. 2nd Loop Road, Florence, SC

Speaker: TBA

Program: TBA



Coastal Area

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Hosted by: Hahn-Mason Air Systems, 4115 Dorchester Rd., Ste. 200, N. Charleston, SC

Speaker: Tracie Lilly, Propel HR

Program: "Time & Stress Management"





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in South Carolina since 1912.*

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**Congratulations to our Associate &
Mechanical Members who will be
highlighted in the next issue of**

"The Tool Box"

Associate Member



Mechanical Member



Update Your Outlook

Let us know if we need to
update your Outlook or if
you know someone who
does!

MCASC Vision Statement

The Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina (MCASC) will be the leading construction association in South Carolina for specialty contractors and suppliers in the electrical, mechanical (HVAC), and plumbing fields by serving its membership, the industry, and the Community in a vibrant and harmonious fashion.

MCASC Mission Statement

The Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina (MCASC) will provide its membership with:

- current business/technical information and support
- a proactive political/legislative agenda
- a joint industry collaboration to improve relative business practices
- an ongoing effort to offer training opportunities for both professional and craft personnel
- educational scholarships for deserving students
- the development of industry related career opportunities

The Associations objective for this mission is to enhance the future of the Construction Industry in South Carolina.