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The Tool Box

Serving the Electrical, HVAC & Plumbing Industries Since 1912

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10 Principles for Navigating the Acceleration of Everything

Robert B. Tucker, Innovation Resource Consultant

With ChatGPT celebrating its first anniversary this month, I've been musing lately on what historians might say about the times we are living in. What does the future hold when things are changing this fast in so many realms of our lives? How do we prepare for what's ahead when there is so much uncertainty? How do we find our way in this new era of destabilizing, relentless change, hyper-competition and mushrooming complexity?

Look around today and what you see are the contours of a radically different era emerging before our eyes. From technology to energy; from geopolitics to social media; from the workplace to the boardroom; and from the marketplace to your industry and profession.

As a global futurist and innovation speaker, I'm familiar with the vicissitudes of rapid change. I've made a living and seen the world advising governments, corporations, and small businesses on how to profit from change in 54 countries.

But this post-pandemic, artificial intelligence climate is different. I truly believe we will experience more change over the next 10 years than we have over the past 50 or 100 years. More social change, more environmental and climatological disasters and challenges, more scientific and medical breakthroughs, and more technological change. As societies continue to age, and the number of live births continues to decrease, vast demographic changes will intensify.

I also see that we are woefully unprepared for these changes.

What is needed is a set of principles to guide us toward being adaptive and resilient. Just as rockets avoid collisions with space debris by adjusting their trajectories using onboard propulsion and guidance systems, we'll all need to adopt new "navigational skills" that alert us to debris in our paths.



Below are some principles for successfully navigating the future with confidence:

- 1. Train yourself to think like a futurist.** You're at the supermarket, or your kid's soccer game. You're walking through an airport, or listening to a sermon. Everywhere you go and whatever you're going, be observant of the changes before your eyes. Read voraciously and skip the trivia. Engage yourself by asking questions: where will this change seemingly go? How will this one develop?
- 2. Scan and monitor an array of trends.** To avoid being blindsided by change, keep tabs on a range of trends: your industry trends of course, but also workplace, geopolitical, climatological, demographic, economic, social, and regulatory trends.
- 3. Look for patterns within emerging trends.** Former Disney futurist, Yvette Montero Salvatico, uses the analogy of the night sky. Think of the stars as trends, she counsels. As you look further you begin to notice constellations: the Big Dipper, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, and so on. It's the same with trend-tracking. Take the time to look for patterns in what you are observing. The result is better response time and more "ah ha's."
- 4. Audit your information diet.** Examine your information diet and objectively assess whether your newsfeed and the podcasts, publications, and email newsletters you ingest are mostly informational fast food, or whether you're continuously intaking "news you can use."
- 5. In fast-changing times, avoid fads, hucksters, and get-rich-quick schemes.** The crypto crash of 2023 is a case in point. Millions of people got suckered into this "wave of the future" opportunity, which was an over-hyped Ponzi scheme. The age-old adage still applies: "A fool and his money are soon parted."
- 6. Assault assumptions as a matter of course, whether personal, organizational, or societal.** We were caught flat-footed by COVID-19 because we assumed that modern medicine and healthcare practices had made global pandemics a thing of the past. It is always the category of trends that we are not monitoring that rises and bites us like a snake.
- 7. To lead ahead of the curve, peer ahead of the curve.** The winners in this emerging age are the ones who seek to anticipate where the trends are going and creatively respond by discovering emerging needs and being quick to fill them.
- 8. Look back and drink in history to look ahead.** Winston Churchill once said, "The farther backward you could look the farther forward you can see." As the world accelerates, hindsight (learning from history) precedes insight (understanding the present), and insight precedes foresight — the ability to see what is likely to happen in the future and to take appropriate action.
- 9. Remember that every action you take today shapes the future tomorrow.** We must be purposeful in realizing our knowledge and perceptions about the future inform our decisions. The decisions we make today become our tomorrow. Nothing about the future is written in stone. The future is what we make of it by the big and little decisions we make every day.
- 10. Visualize the future you want to see, rather than the media creates for you.** Contemplating where you want to go and how you intend to get there is time well spent. It is a hallmark of every successful individual. Always has been and always will be.



7 Surprising Facts About St. Patrick's Day

While St. Patrick's Day is now associated with wearing green, parades and beer, the holiday is grounded in history that dates back more than 1,500 years. The earliest known celebrations were held in the 17th century on March 17, marking the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick in the 5th century.

- The Real St. Patrick Was Born In Britain:** Much of what is known about St. Patrick's life has been interwoven with folklore and legend. Historians generally believe that St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain (not Ireland) near the end of the 4th century. At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest in the area now known as Northern Ireland. After toiling for six years as a shepherd, he escaped back to Britain. He eventually returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.
- There Were No Snakes Around For St. Patrick To Banish From Ireland:** Among legends associated with St. Patrick is that he stood atop an Irish hillside and banished snakes from Ireland—prompting all serpents to slither away into the sea. In fact, research suggests snakes never occupied the Emerald Isle in the first place. There are no signs of snakes in the country's fossil record. And water has surrounded Ireland since the last glacial period. Before that, the region was covered in ice and would have been too cold for the reptiles.
- Leprechauns Are Likely Based On Celtic Fairies:** The red-haired, green-clothed Leprechaun is commonly associated with St. Patrick's Day. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in Leprechauns likely stems from Celtic belief in fairies—tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies.
- The Shamrock Was Considered A Sacred Plant:** The shamrock, a three-leaf clover, has been associated with Ireland for centuries. It was called the "seamroy" by the Celts and was considered a sacred plant that symbolized the arrival of spring. According to legend, St. Patrick used the plant as a visual guide when explaining the Holy Trinity. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.
- The First St. Patrick's Day Parade Was Held In America:** While people in Ireland had celebrated St. Patrick since the 1600s, the tradition of a St. Patrick's Day parade began in America and actually predates the founding of the United States. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601, in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida.
- The Irish Were Once Scorned In America:** While Irish Americans are now proud to showcase their heritage, the Irish were not always celebrated by fellow Americans. Beginning in 1845, a devastating potato blight caused widespread hunger throughout Ireland. While approximately one million perished, another two million abandoned their land in the largest-single population movement of the 19th century. Most of the exiles—nearly a quarter of the Irish refugees were looked down upon as disease-ridden, unskilled and a drain on welfare budgets.
- Corned Beef & Cabbage Was An American Innovation:** The meal that became a St. Patrick's Day staple across the country, corned beef and cabbage, was an American innovation. While ham and cabbage were eaten in Ireland, corned beef offered a cheaper substitute for impoverished immigrants. Irish Americans living in the slums of Lower Manhattan in the late 19th century and early 20th purchased leftover corned beef from ships returning from the tea trade in China. The Irish would boil the beef three times, the last time with cabbage, to remove some of the brine.

Kindness and Profit

Tom Frisby

My female paralegal accompanied me on a walk-through of a major power plant project under construction in South Texas. She had previously been a performer on Broadway but wanted a career in something more cerebral. With the company project manager, we toured every square foot of the facility, climbed ladders from floor to floor and walked along steel beams 15 stories in the air. At the end, the project manager asked her: "Well, what did you think of that, little girl?" She replied: "First of all, never call me 'little girl' again or I will bust your ass! Second, what I think is that we walked by over 800 workmen who were busting their tails for you, exposing themselves to risks and earning enough to make payments on their single wives and you never stopped to speak to one, to say thank you, to ask about the family or even acknowledge they were alive. I think that sucks, that is what I think. If I were you, I would be at the gate at the end of the evening thanking each one for the day's work and commitment to make this a successful project. And then you might not be losing money on it and need my boss's services. That is what I think." That night, the project manager was standing at the gate as he was again the next morning. He may have developed carpal tunnel syndrome from shaking hands and losing his voice from the many "thank you's." And ultimately, my services were not required.

Kindness works in our industry as well as any other. Kindness is simply showing respect for others, being interested in others, and as an attribute of successful cultures (construction is a culture) was first espoused by ancient Chinese and Indian philosophers such as Buddha and Confucius, and of course Christ in the Golden Rule. It costs nothing, and it works. It is not a sign of weakness – yelling and screaming and neglecting the needs of employees fall in that category. Treating all with respect, recognizing them and their contributions – acts of kindness – are signs of strength.

That is just the way it is.

Mechanical Member

Carolina Chillers
Building Efficiency and Sustainability

A Service Logic Company

Since 2002, Carolina Chillers has been the South Carolina and Georgia leader in commercial and industrial HVAC services.

We are based near Charleston, with a sister office in Columbia and Savannah, GA, and remote offices in Greenville, Florence, and Augusta, GA. Our clients include some of the largest hospitals and corporations in the state, and we continue to grow larger each year. We attribute this growth to our outstanding staff, commitment to exceptional customer service and a vast knowledge and understanding of even the most complex HVAC systems.

At Carolina Chillers, we have placed an emphasis on planned maintenance. Our planned equipment maintenance program includes preventive and predictive maintenance services to avert potential failures and extend equipment life. Using cutting-edge maintenance management systems, we customize each program to maximize efficiency and minimize equipment downtime to provide a comfortable, healthy and safe environment- the cornerstone of our success.

Aside from our focus on proper planned maintenance, we also offer emergency repair services, indoor air quality services, energy optimization, building controls, and design build retrofit services.

Our business is more than a trade. Expert craftsmen, designing for efficiency, building for longevity. True innovation is not taken from the shelf, it is fostered through investigation and experience. More important are those who deliver it each and every day. Cultivating a group of individuals, we empower them with the tools to grow: continuing education and advanced training with an emphasis on safety. Quality of life for our employees is reflected in our quality of service. From this foundation, lasting relationships grow beyond the obvious industry promises.

Associate Member



Viega started in Germany in 1899, founded by Franz-Anselm Viegner, who created an innovative new design for a brass beer tap. By 1901, Viega began to manufacture home plumbing products, growing and expanding internationally as the authority in pipe pressing technology. In 1999, Viega expanded its product offering to North American, where we introduced ProPress and MegaPress.

Quality is the driving force behind everything we do. It's the heart of our company's identity and it has been that way for more than 125 years. Today, we have more than 5,000 employees worldwide and we are a global market leader in fitting products, but because we are still family owned, we set our own standards.

Viega is proud to innovate, manufacture, and deliver the life lines for the buildings of tomorrow. We are even more proud to support the men and women who work to make safe, secure, and consistent pipe connections with Viega MegaPress & ProPress.

Liam Sullivan is the South Carolina District Sales Manager and supporter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of SC. If you would like to learn more about the benefits of Viega press fittings and valves or receive a free field training course please reach out at Liam.Sullivan@viega.us.

Happy Birthday Members!

Jeff Hunter	3/1	Carolina Insulation Contractors	
Michelle Duncan	3/3	Trane Comfort Solutions	
Martha Goff	3/5	SIFCO Mechanical	Wife of Allen
Charles Hipp, III	3/7	Hipp Properties	
Emily Gibbs	3/9	Bear Mechanical Services	Wife of Edward
Tami Jacques	3/9	Hajoca Corporation	Wife of Bob
Carroll Heyward, Sr.	3/14	W. B. Guimarin & Company, Inc.	
Carroll Heyward, Jr.	3/18	W. B. Guimarin & Company, Inc.	
Michelle Berry	3/19	MCASC Administrative Assistant	
Gerald Edwards	3/20	Honorary Life Member	
Russell Lamb	3/30	Honorary Life Member	
Julie Clark	3/31	RepSouth	Wife of Mitch
Varity Poston	3/31	Premier Electrical Staffing	

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

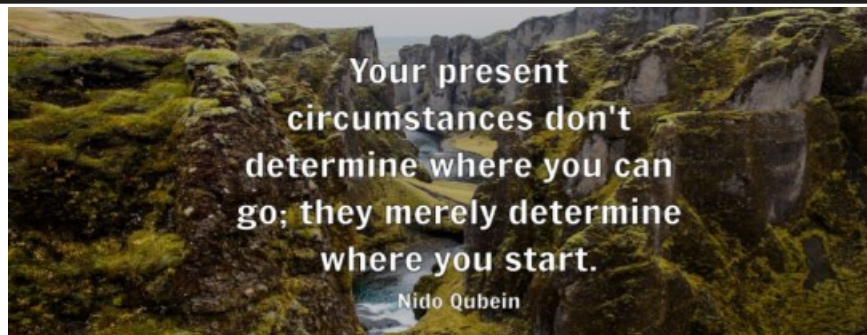
Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Edwards	3/7	Honorary Life Member	Wanda
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Merritt	3/25	Honorary Life Member	Sandra

Condolences

The Rogers Family in the loss of
Elmer Rogers
February 25, 2024

Inspirational Quote



“Tool Box Talks” – Safety Tips

Fire Prevention – Tips for Preventing Accidental Fires

Accidental fires are an unusual occurrence in most workplaces. So it is easy to take for granted some of the everyday hazards that, if overlooked, can contribute to the occurrence of these fires. So here are some general tips to help prevent accidental fires at work, as well as at your home:

Dispense flammable liquids only in areas free from sparks, flames, and other sources of ignition (see the handout for a reminder of the Pictogram that will appear on labels of flammable liquid containers);

Keep all containers of flammable liquids closed or covered when they are not in use. And return them to their designated storage area when you are done using them;

When dispensing flammable liquid from one container into another, bond the two containers together and ground one. This helps prevent the build-up of static electricity, which can create a spark and ignite the vapors (see handout for example);

Discard all rags and waste materials that are impregnated with flammable or combustible liquids, oil, or grease in covered, self-closing metal containers (should be colored red), and empty these containers into designated receptacles at the end of your shift;

Keep all waste paper, cardboard, and similar combustible materials cleaned up and placed in designated waste receptacles. Letting these items accumulate on the floor or other work areas creates an unnecessary fire hazard;

Only use flame or spark-producing equipment, such as welders, torches, and grinders, in designated areas. Special approval of management must be obtained to use this type equipment in areas where it is not normally used (discuss your company’s “hot-work permit”, if you have one);

Smoking is allowed only in designated areas. Always dispose of butts in designated receptacles (if you have implemented a smoking ban at your site, discuss that instead);

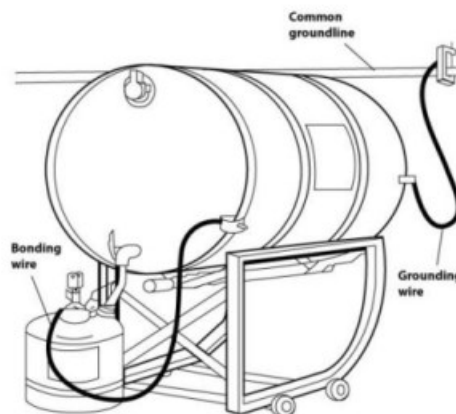
Make certain to avoid stacking materials too close to fire sprinkler heads, as doing so can affect their ability to disperse water adequately when activated; usually we must maintain a minimum of 18 inches of clearance below the level of the sprinkler heads;

Make sure portable fire extinguishers remain fully charged and accessible at all times.

PICTOGRAM DEPICTING FLAMMABLE HAZARD



PREVENTING FLASH FIRES WHEN DISPENSING FLAMMABLE LIQUID



MCASC Grant Pictures



Midlands Area Meeting February 1, 2024



Midlands area meeting was hosted by Central Controls, Inc.

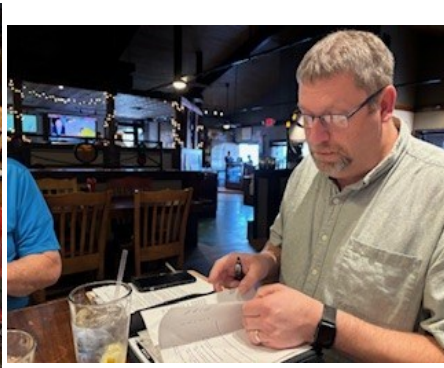
Pee Dee Area Meeting February 8, 2024



Piedmont Area Meeting February 20, 2024



Coastal Area Board Meeting & Oyster Roast February 22, 2024





*James
Island
Yacht
Club*



*Coastal
Oyster
Roast*



2/22/24



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Piedmont Area

March, 2024

Area social is being planned for March so stay tuned for further details!!



17th Annual Piedmont Clays for Education Tournament

Friday, May 3, 2024

The Clinton House, Clinton, SC

The election of the 2024-2025 Officers and Board will take place at this event.

Midlands Area

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 4:00 pm

13th Annual Midlands Nine at Night Golf Tournament

Location: Charwood Country Club, 222 Clubhouse Dr., West Columbia, SC



The election of 2024-2025 Officers and Board will take place at this event.

Pee Dee Area

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Hosted by: D&L, Inc.

Location: 221 Palmetto Road, Darlington

Speaker: Hixon Copp, Director of Research and Special Projects with NESAP

Program: "NESAP Update"

The election of 2024-2025 Officers & Board will take place at this meeting.



Pick A Winner for Education—Winner Of Drawing Was Mark Matz

17th Annual Pee Dee Blast Sporting Clays Event

Friday, September 20, 2024

Back Woods Quail Club, Georgetown, SC

Coastal Area Member Social

Thursday, March 26, 2024 at 5:30-8:00 pm

Rusty Bull Brewery & Chuck Town Axe Throwing

3005 W Montague Ave, North Charleston, SC 29418

The election of 2024-2025 Officers and Board will take place at this meeting.



Pick A Winner for Education—Winner Of Drawing Was Mike Rhodes

15th Annual Coastal Inshore Fishing Tournament

Captains Dinner Friday May 3, 2024

Weight in location: WO Thomas, Jr. Boat Landing, May 4, 2024



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*Serving mechanical contractors
in South Carolina since 1912.*

Executive Board & Staff

Karen Linden
President
Dale Prosser
Vice-President
Steven Hayes
Treasurer
Jim Hearn
Secretary
Varity Poston
Associate President
Mona Flowers
Managing Director

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

"The Tool Box"

Associate Member



Carter - York - Agency
Electrical Manufacturer's Representative

Mechanical Member

Summerville Mechanical

[Update Your](#)

[Outlook](#)

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

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.