

# The Tool Box

*Serving the Electrical, HVAC & Plumbing Industries Since 1912*

**What's inside...**

- Reclaiming the Vision of a World That Works 1-2
- Mechanical Member 3
- Associate Member 3
- Tool Box Talks 4
- Members' Birthdays 5
- Anniversaries 5
- Condolences 5
- Inspirational Quote 5
- Area Meeting Photos 6-7
- Health Insurance Program 8
- MCASC Word Scramble 9
- Mark Your Calendars 10
- Recruitment Challenge 11
- Vision/Mission Statement 12



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**Reclaiming the Vision of a World That Works**

The other day I heard about a young man who gave up a promising career in corporate America to become ... a professional gambler. You read that right. Top of his class in college, math whiz, highly regarded “quant” with a major US-based corporation, married with young children. And he heeded the clarion call of Las Vegas.

This young professional might well be following his bliss, but the world needs more talent and vision deployed to bigger and greater challenges. His contribution will be missed.

The Black Plague of the 14<sup>th</sup> century wiped out half the population of Europe. It also opened up new human potentialities. An acute labor shortage empowered serfs to walk off land they had been tied to for centuries, and seek employment elsewhere. The Plague ended feudalism. Last year, 47 million workers made the decision to quit their jobs to seek something better. To pursue their vision of what life could be.

In tumultuous times, we need new visions more than ever. Without vision the people perish, as the proverb has it. History shows that while we sometimes are unkind to them, visionaries can point the way forward. Maybe it’s just me, but today’s crop of visionaries, with the exception of Bill Gates, almost singularly fails to inspire.

Mark Zuckerberg wants us to escape the realities of a warring, pandemic-ravished, heating up planet by submerging ourselves in the metaverse. Elon Musk wants to colonize Mars. The dominant vision just now among the young is dystopian. How to break the spell and paint a new vision? Where are the visionaries of our time who inspire us – and take us to a higher plane of thought?

**WHY BUCKY FULLER IS BOOMERS’ FAVORITE VISIONARY**

Like a lot of other people of my generation (I am a boomer), I came of age fascinated by the ideas and inventions of Buckminster Fuller (1895 – 1983), inventor of the geodesic dome. In the 1960’s and ‘70s, Fuller became a beloved public speaker on college campus-



Fuller was especially prolific when it came to envisioning how things could be done differently, more efficiently, using fewer resources. After Ford Motor hired Fuller to build one of his geodesic domes over its headquarters building in Dearborn, Michigan, Fuller was suddenly a hot commodity. The military hired him to dome over its defense system outposts. World's Fairs and expositions everywhere went big for "Bucky domes."

His Dymaxion vehicle could turn on a dime and caused traffic jams when introduced in 1933. His Dymaxion homes were billed as the wave of the future. They were to be assembled in factories, transported via blimps, and installed in a single day. Fuller designed flying cars and underwater communities that would be resupplied by submarines. Above it all, new-age communities envisioned by Bucky would float above the clouds like gigantic cruise ships in the sky.

Prolific ideator though he was, most of Bucky's notions never got off the ground. His most famous construct, the geodesic dome, would prove to be impractical. "They leaked," noted a disillusioned early enthusiast named Stuart Brand, of *Whole Earth Catalogue* fame. "The angles between the facets could never be sealed successfully." But no matter.

Almost 40 years after his death, it's not Bucky's inventions, it's his embrace of potentiality and possibility that stands him apart. Bucky's vision of the world, and the humanistic values of one world that endeared him to the Boomer Generation, at a time when idealism and can-doism was sending kids into the Peace Corps, not to gambling halls.

In his early years, depressed, jobless, and with a family to support, Fuller considered suicide. Instead, he asked himself a series of questions: "What is my job on the planet? What is it that needs doing? What is it that I know something about that probably won't happen unless I take responsibility for it?"

Out of this period of study and self-examination, Fuller began to see that his calling was not confined to inventing things. But to inspire inventive thinking in others. In mid-life he began to travel the world speaking to audiences about the future, about possibility, and potentiality. These lectures would go on for hours and the effect was expansive.

Fuller coined the term "spaceship earth" and no matter where he spoke, he'd create a sense of global unity by telling his audience that "we are all passengers on spaceship earth."

Fuller's 1960s vision was to observe that humankind was depleting the earth's resources at a rapid clip. He saw that there would come an inflection point, a reckoning. "Whether it is to be Utopia or Oblivion will be a touch-and-go relay race right up to the final moment," he would often say, humanity is in 'final exam' as to whether or not it qualifies for continuance in Universe."

All hands on deck on spaceship earth.

Robert B. Tucker is a global futurist and innovation keynote speaker with a client list that includes over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies. President and founder of The Innovation Resource, Tucker is an internationally recognized pioneer in the field of innovation, Tucker's highly interactive presentations lead audiences on a guided tour inside the world's most creative companies.

Through stories and examples, Tucker shows leaders how to tap the mindset, skillset and toolset of innovation to embrace change, discover opportunity and avoid obsolescence. Known for his in-depth customization, Tucker provides today's leaders with practical strategies, cutting edge insights, and inspiration to take action once back at the office.



# Mechanical Member



SIFCO Mechanical, Incorporated, located in Sumter, is a family owned, full service, mechanical contracting firm specializing in commercial and industrial heating and air conditioning design and build projects in South Carolina and throughout the Southeast from Georgia through Virginia. In addition, SIFCO provides commercial heating and air conditioning maintenance and service for customers throughout South Carolina.

Founded by E.H. Moses on August 4, 1890 as the Sumter Ice Manufacturing Company with a block ice production capacity of 5 tons per day, SIFCO is publicly recognized as Sumter's oldest continuing business enterprise and proudly celebrated its 132<sup>nd</sup> anniversary this year.

In 1919, Sumter Ice and Fuel Company (SIFCO) was formed and subsequently became SIFCO Industries in 1973. In 1983, SIFCO Mechanical was organized and sold by the Moses' family, to Robert A. Goff, P.E., who had been General Manager of the heating and air conditioning division since 1976. His vision and focus is to honor SIFCO's rich history while advancing innovations and incorporating new technology in our industry. Operations are now managed by his oldest son R. Allen Goff, Jr. who has worked at SIFCO since 1987.

SIFCO Mechanical, Incorporated currently consists of 35 dedicated employees, all of whom share the common commitment of providing quality service and workmanship in mechanical construction. A strong family tradition is evident by recognizing the tenure of multiple generations of employees.

SIFCO Mechanical, Incorporated is a proud member of Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina and eagerly looks forward to its third century of continued service in our industry.

# Associate Member



Founded in 1963, AAA Supply, Inc. is your plumbing supply company with three locations serving the Upstate of South Carolina (Greenville, Greer, and Laurens). We are a third-generation family-owned company and proud to be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March, 2023. We take great pride in our 60 years of service to the Upstate of SC and neighboring states.

AAA Supply, Inc. provides products to the residential and commercial plumbing and mechanical industries. Our goal is not only to provide high quality products, but also top-notch service where our customers' needs are of utmost priority. With a newly renovated showroom in our Greer location, we can help with building the home or remodel of your dreams. Along with homebuilders and homeowners, we work with general contractors and subcontractors in the commercial arena as well. With 60 years of experience in the plumbing supply industry there is no job that is too large or small.

Because of our long-lasting relationships with customers, employees, and vendors, AAA Supply, Inc. has been able to thrive in the plumbing supply industry for the past 60 years and we look forward to serving the Upstate community for many more years to come!

## “Tool Box Talks” – Safety Tip

### **Cutting, Welding, & Compressed Gas Safety –Respiratory Hazards**

[Reference: 1910.252 / 1926.352]

Welding, cutting, and brazing operations produce various types of toxic air contaminants that could potentially pose a threat to your health. Today’s toolbox talk provides an overview of how many of the respiratory hazards associated with welding, brazing, and torch cutting operations are generated, and some steps we can take to help minimize exposure to unsafe levels of these toxic contaminants.

To understand how a solid such as metal can be a respiratory hazard, we will use water as an analogy to explain the process by which metals in a solid form become something you can breathe. When water is in its solid form, which is ice, and then exposed to high heat, it first changes to its liquid form, which is water, and then it begins to change into its gaseous form, which is water vapor. As the water vapor rises, it begins to cool and condensate, forming small droplets that drift down into your breathing zone.

The same general thing happens when metals are super-heated during welding and torching operations. The solid metal on which you weld or cut, as well as filler metals such as welding or brazing rods in use, becomes molten, or liquified. Then, some of the molten metal evaporates into the air, where it subsequently cools and forms microscopic-sized respirable particles of airborne metal flakes called fumes. When these tiny toxic particles get into your breathing zone, you can inhale them deep into your lungs.

Potentially toxic metal fumes such as, but not limited to, iron, manganese, lead, zinc, and hexavalent chromium, are generated in many welding and cutting operations. Additional toxic air contaminants can be generated by coatings present on the base metal, such as paint, rust inhibitors, galvanize coating, or paint. There are also toxic contaminants generated by gases heated during shielded-gas welding, and by the flux coating on welding and brazing rods. Therefore, OSHA established permissible exposure limits, or PELs, for each type of airborne toxin, as well as one for a combination of all the airborne particulate.

OSHA suggests you implement the following steps, when possible, to help minimize your exposure to potentially toxic levels of air contaminants generated by welding, cutting, and brazing operations:

- Surface contaminants and coatings that can potentially create exposure to toxic fume when heated should be scraped, wiped, or otherwise cleaned off the surface to be welded or cut, when possible.
- Simply welding outdoors or in open work spaces alone does not necessarily mean the atmosphere is safe. Therefore, affected workers should try to position their head so as to prevent welding fume and gasses from entering their breathing zone. For example, try to position your body so that your head is upwind when welding in open or outdoor environments, as well as indoors if there is air movement.
- General ventilation, be it natural or mechanically forced movement of fresh air, can help reduce fume and gas levels present in your breathing zone. In areas without ventilation or exhaust systems, welders should use natural drafts along with proper positioning to avoid exposure to fume and gases.
- Local exhaust ventilation systems, when available, can remove fume and gases from the worker’s breathing zone. Position fume hoods, fume extractor guns, and vacuum nozzles as close as possible to the source of the welding or cutting plume to remove the maximum amount of contaminant. Portable or flexible exhaust systems should be positioned so that fume and gases are drawn away from the worker. Position exhaust ports so that other workers in the area are not exposed to the exhaust.
- Respiratory protection devices such as respirators may be required by the employer to be used if work practices or ventilation do not reduce welding fume and other respiratory hazards to safe levels.



## Happy Birthday Members!

Mary Owens	12/5	Walkup Electrical Construction	Wife of Randall
Jim Rabon	12/9	Honorary Life Member	
Fae Sox	12/10	Widow of Honorary Life Member Wyman	
Harvey Kirkland	12/12	Honorary Life Member	
Tiffney Cullum	12/13	Cullum Constructors	Wife of Chris
Nancy Cullum	12/16	Cullum Mechanical Construction, Inc.	Wife of Furman
Steve Barwick	12/18	Barwick Plumbing Company	
Furman Cullum	12/19	Cullum Mechanical Construction, Inc.	
Carol Forsberg	12/24	Wife of Honorary Life Member Ned	
Katrina Shealy	12/25	Wife of Honorary Life Member Jimmy	
Sandra Merritt	12/27	Wife of Honorary Life Member Ray	
Johnny Richards	12/27	Gatch Electrical Contractors, Inc.	
Chris Cullum	12/29	Cullum Constructors, Inc.	

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

## Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Caswell	12/20		Naomi
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Harley	12/22		Terri

## Condolences

Jason Flynt and staff on the loss of Jason's brother,  
 Ryan Edward Flynt  
 November 23, 2022  
 White Crane Company

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

**It is never too late  
 to be what you  
 might have been.**

**George Eliot**

# Area Meeting Snapshots

**Piedmont Area Meeting**  
**Sponsor: James M. Pleasants**  
**11/2/2022**



**Midlands Area Meeting**

**11/3/2022**



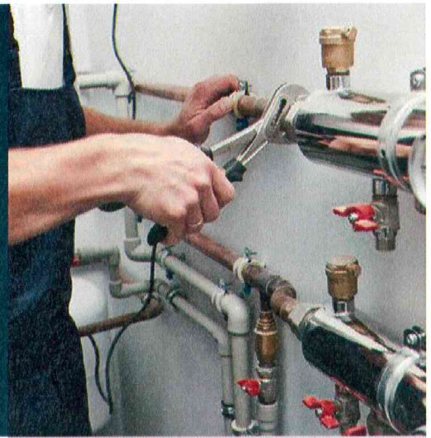


**Coastal Area Meeting**  
**11/15/2022**





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# MCASC "Holiday" Word Scramble



1. Lodahiy: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Lojly: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sleve: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Gsihel: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sletemito: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Kstsoicgn: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Durhlop: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Rete: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ereptnss: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Nglea: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Srloac: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Enreeidr: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Gongeg: \_\_\_\_\_
14. Natsa: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Erehc: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Yrtpa: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Rgocose: \_\_\_\_\_
18. ydcn aencs: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Seujs: \_\_\_\_\_
20. Etbelhme: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers to November's word scramble



- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Starved    | 11. Refrigerant  |
| 2. Flooded    | 12. Vaporization |
| 3. Humidistat | 13. Zone         |
| 4. Plunger    | 14. Flange       |
| 5. Hose Bib   | 15. Escutcheon   |
| 6. Trap       | 16. Nipple       |
| 7. Generator  | 17. Thermal      |
| 8. Spike      | 18. Socket       |
| 9. Resistance | 19. Insulator    |
| 10. Magnet    | 20. Surge        |



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# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

## **Area Meetings & Up Coming Events**

### **Piedmont Area**

**No meeting scheduled for December**



**Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Hosted by: Yandle-Witherspoon Supply

Location: 45 Brookfield Oaks Drive, Greenville, SC

Speaker: William "Bill" G. Bartlett, PE, W.B. Barlett Engineering Services  
"The Adopted South Carolina Mechanical Codes & Current Updates"

### **Midlands Area**

**No meeting scheduled for December**



**Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

Hosted by: TBD

Location: TBD

Speaker: Robert Ziegler, NCCER Craft Instructor,  
"Communicating With & Recruiting Today's Youth"

### **Pee Dee Area**

**No meeting scheduled for December**



**Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm**

Hosted by: City Plumbing Company

Location: Roger's Barbeque, 2004 W. 2nd Loop Rd., Florence, SC

Speaker: Jeff McKay, Executive Director, NESA, "NESA Update"

### **Coastal Area**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:00 to 10:00 pm**



Joint Christmas party with ASHRAE, CCA and NAWIC

Location: Hobcaw Yacht Club, 180 Hobcaw Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

Hosted by: Atlantic Coast Electric Supply

Location: 332-A International Circle, Summerville, SC

Speaker: Paul Ogorek, EV Dunbar Company  
"Energy & Refrigerant Changes - How It's Impacting our Industry"

**MCASC requires that all attendees follow the CDC and OSHA Guidelines when attending.**





## ***2022-2023 RECRUITMENT CHALLENGE!!***

*Effective NOW through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023!*

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN:**



# **TWO COMPLIMENTARY**



## **Registrations to the 2023 Summer Convention!**

**We are counting on you to break out your networking boots and inform prospective members about the benefits of being part of the**

**Mechanical Contractors Association of South Carolina!**

We look forward to welcoming our new members and as a reminder; here are some of the benefits we continue to provide:

- an ongoing effort to offer free training opportunities for both professional & craft personnel  
(Participation in our training program means "WE pay YOU to be a member!")
- a proactive political/legislative agenda
- current business/technical information & support
- a joint industry collaboration to improve relative business practices
- development of industry related career opportunities & work force development
- networking opportunities
- Group Health Insurance Program

**Help us to continue to enhance the future of the construction industry in South Carolina!**



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 Fax: (803) 731-0390

E-mail: [mflowers@mcasc.com](mailto:mflowers@mcasc.com)  
[www.mcasc.com](http://www.mcasc.com)

*Serving mechanical contractors  
 in South Carolina since 1912.*

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Managing Director

**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.