



Gulf Coast PHCC

Ellen Lancaster E-mail: phcc Lancaster@hotmail.com

July 2009 Newsletter

PHCC Has Two Important Announcements

- ◆ **Our own Doug Turner, past President & present Board Member, has been elected President of the State PHCC organization. Well done, Doug!**
- ◆ **We have a new Executive Director: Laurie Jones. Welcome! (More about Laurie in the next newsletter)**

An Opportunity:

Nominate an Apprentice of the Year! Contact Nancy Jones (njones@phcc-tx.org)

Fundraisers

- ◆ **Golf Tournament - Sept. 16th, 2009**
- ◆ **Casino Night - Jan. 22nd, 2010**

Your PHCC chapter is able to maintain its high level of service and educational programs because of its support of its fundraisers.

Participate!

Golf Tournament News

I'm writing on behalf of the Gulf Coast PHCC to ask for your support for our first ever Golf Tournament. Our tournament will be held September 16, 2009 at BlackHorse Golf Club in Cypress, one of the premier golf destinations in Texas. We're excited to be hosting this tournament and expect approximately 80 golfers. I've included a flyer, which outlines all of the details.

Although playing participants is our primary need at this point, there are several ways in which you may help us. They are:

Donate a promotional/merchandise for our raffle

Donate promotional items for goodie bags

Become a sponsor of the tournament (Details on the enclosed flyer)

And of course, sign up as a player or team

If you have an item or items to donate and they cannot be mailed, please call me and I will arrange to have it picked up. Anything that you may be able to do to help us will be appreciated. We are proud of our fund-raising efforts and could be successful without the help of our industry partners such as yourself, who support us.

Thank you in advance, and if you need additional information or have any questions, please call me at 281-370-8005 or email me at milton@miltonfrankplumbing.com. or Joe Hall 713-823-3831.

Thank You,

Milton Frank

Milton Frank Plumbing

Our Sponsors so far:



Your Board of Directors has a great schedule planned for the rest of the year. The following are the planned speakers:

August 13th — Bob Maxwell. Lunch meeting at Brady's Landing.

September 10th — A representative from TCEQ. Lunch meeting at Brady's Landing.

September 16th — **Golf Tournament at Black Horse Golf Club, 1:00pm.**

October 8th — Al Ortega. Dinner meeting.

November 12th — Nancy Jones, State PHCC. Lunch meeting at Brady's Landing.

December 10th — "Best Business Practices" Discussion.
Christmas Lunch.

January 22nd — Casino Night/Holiday Party at Catillac Bar.

JOURNEYMAN/TRADESMAN PREP COURSES FOR 2009

July 25th & 26th
Sept 19th & 20th
Nov 7th & 8th

If you are a member, your employee pays only \$315. Otherwise the course cost is \$390.

GULF COAST PHCC GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

We have our first confirmed sponsors for the 2009 golf tournament;

Shawn Owhadi with Southwest Sales has been instrumental in securing our first two golf sponsors:

\$ 1,000.00 Sponsorship

Delta Faucet Company



Sponsor of Hole-in-one



\$ 500.00 Sponsorship

Rinnai tankless water heaters



We also have a total of 12 golfers signed up.

What a great start for the tournament being 3 months out from teeing off!

A big Thank You to our sponsors!



OSHA Directive

“OSHA is back in the enforcement business, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis told the 3,000 safety engineers attending the ASSE Safety 2009 Professional Development Conference’s general session. In her first official visit to Texas, she announced a Texas construction safety initiative. Beginning in July, OSHA will increase the number of inspectors in Texas for a concentrated effort to prevent injuries and fatalities at construction sites. “The Texas construction industry experiences too many fatalities,” she said. “There have been 145 fatalities since 2007,” she said, and Hispanic fatalities continue to rise, with a 125 percent increase in fatalities since 1992. “Texas has the dubious distinction of having more workers die than in any other state. We will increase protections for a greater number of workers.” “When these inspectors observe unsafe scaffolds, fall risks, trenches or other hazards, they are empowered to launch an immediate investigation,” said Solis, the daughter of immigrant union workers. “As I have said since my first day on the job, the U.S. Dept. of Labor is back in the enforcement business.” She will add 670 additional investigators and inspectors to improve compliance in low wage industries, focusing on reducing repeat violations.”

To further comment on the above article, I attended a meeting with the Dallas Area Director of OSHA on Wednesday July 1st and he indicated that in support of the comments made by Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, compliance officers will be brought into Texas from throughout the United States to conduct widespread inspections. Cities to be targeted include Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin. OSHA will conduct the inspections based on drive-by observations as well as obtaining job site locations using the “Dodge Report.”

I would suggest you get the word out to your general contractors as well as sub contractors who may be working with scaffolding, at heights or in doing trenching, that there is a likelihood they will receive an OSHA visit in July or August. Job site management should be made aware of their options, should an OSHA compliance officer arrive on their site.

Comments by Jim Parker, CRIS.

PHCC Educational Foundation

The PHCC Educational Foundation's programs are supported by YOU and your contributions. Many [generous 2009 supporters](#) have done their share, and they are looking to you to take the campaign the last few steps. Your gift will help fill our program funding bucket and keep the educational offerings coming for another year.

You can do your share by becoming a donor: just make your [2009 contribution](#) today. Big gift or small, every drop in the bucket counts!

The **PHCC Educational Foundation** has always been dedicated to helping contractors build the strongest, most durable, profitable and professionally run companies possible. Check out the summaries below of the Foundation's upcoming educational events to see how you can benefit from the programs that **YOU** support.

Summer/Fall 2009 Programs

Introduction to Understanding Overhead Webinar

Join us for a **free** webinar on Wednesday, July 22nd at 3 pm Eastern, hosted by the PHCC Educational Foundation

CPA & PHCC member Michael Bohinc and John Zink from the Foundation will provide an overview of what small business owners need to know about direct costs & overhead and will provide a walk-through of the Foundation's Understanding Overhead software. [Register online here.](#)

Plumbing Apprentices Contest

On October 22, 2009, the PHCC Educational Foundation will be conducting the annual Plumbing Apprentices Contest during the PHCC National Convention in New Orleans.

Use [this online form](#) to register your extraordinary third, fourth, or fifth year plumbing apprentice for the contest. Space is limited to the first 20 qualified applicants, so be sure to register early.

Foundation Seminars for PHCC Chapters

The Foundation works with PHCC chapters across the country to bring high quality educational speakers to state and local level meetings. Upcoming Foundation Speaker events include:

July 17, ***Going Green in the Service Market***, PHCC of Louisiana

Aug. 21, ***5 Dumb Things We Do to Mess Up Our Business & Other Sessions***, PHCC of AZ

Sept. 9-10, ***Creating, Communicating and Executing a Successful Game Plan***
Plb. and Mech. Contractors of Hawaii

Oct. 2-3, ***Two-Day Strategic Management Workshop***, Great SW Illinois PHCC

Oct. 21-23, ***How to Get the Net Profit You Desire + other seminars and Learning Labs***
at the [PHCC National Convention](#), New Orleans, Louisiana

Nov. 12, ***Surviving the Recession & Preparing for the Recovery***, PHCC of Nevada

Contact your PHCC chapter to attend any of these events taking place in your area.

We hope you can take advantage of these educational programs and the others available through the PHCC Educational Foundation. Visit our homepage for links to more offerings at: <http://www.phccweb.org/foundation>

Top 10 Reasons You Should Attend CONNECT 2009:

A wide range of business-critical seminars will be offered on pre-fabrication, residential fire sprinklers, understanding overhead, year-end tax planning and more.

A free copy of the PHCC Foundation's *Understanding Overhead* CD - a \$129 value - for attendees of the Overhead Seminar.

Free GreenPlumbers Workshops on inspection report service and solar hot water.

Product and Technology Showcase — your opportunity to learn about new products and technologies from manufacturers and industry partners. And there's lunch, too!

Keynote speaker Stuart Varney, business and financial journalist for FOX News, will discuss how the shifting domestic and global trends will affect p-h-c businesses.

Richard Trethewey of *This Old House* will discuss the 21st century heating and cooling systems.

A panel presentation by top manufacturers will help you understand what to expect in the current economic climate, and how to prepare for the upturn.

The WWII Museum will host the closing event and installation of officers. The museum's exhibits will be open before and during the reception/dinner.

New Orleans is known for its intoxicating music, old world charm and amazing food. The **Sheraton New Orleans** is in the heart of it all, on the edge of the French Quarter and around the block from Harrah's Casino.

Easy and affordable travel. If you stay 4 nights, the Sheraton New Orleans is offering the 4th night for 50% off. Room rates are only \$186 single or double.

Register before July 31, 2009 and you could win a three-night stay at the Sheraton New Orleans (room & tax) during convention. We hope to see you there!

More about the Convention:

- One of the most important reasons you attend a national convention is to network with the most influential people in the industry who are stretching the envelope in achieving business opportunities and efficiencies that others only dream about. I am asking forward-thinking, creative members to be in New Orleans for the PHCC Convention: CONNECT 2009. Plumbing and HVACR professionals gather strength and wisdom from each other. We often talk about the benefits of engaging with our peers, and the need for this right now could not be greater. The comparison of organizational tactics, the sharing of ideas, and even a good disagreement or two, prepares us to navigate and lead. There is no better opportunity for this type of exchange than [PHCC: CONNECT 2009](#) in New Orleans, Oct. 21 – 23.
- As Congress goes into its July 4th recess, PHCC is keeping a watchful eye on the health care debate. Most members express concern about any kind of government mandate for health care; however, everyone is seeking a way to control this ever-increasing cost of doing business. Current draft legislation includes language “to be filled in later. . .” One such section circulating throughout the U.S. House provides for an exemption for small business but does not state what that exemption will be. Similar legislation was introduced last week that would require an employer to provide each employee with not less than one hour of accrued paid sick time for every 30 hours worked up to a total of 56 hours of paid sick time in a calendar year. Can you imagine the cost that would have on the construction industry? More reasons to support your association in these changing times.
- Members of the PHCC Educational Foundation’s Plumbing Apprentice & Journeyman Training Committee have been in Kansas City, Mo., this week for the annual SkillsUSA Plumbing Contest. These members help organize and run this annual contest for secondary- and post-secondary plumbing students. This year, 46 students from around the country are competing for honors and a prize package worth more than \$2,500. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Friday evening.
- The Governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson, is becoming a leader in promoting green technology and jobs in his state. [By clicking here](#) you will find a press release concerning recent legislation that increases the market for geothermal and solar installations. Similar legislation recently passed in Denver and California. Members who are most familiar with legislation that promotes new technology will be positioned to profit from the work. Please be sure that your state/local association is aware of the opportunities and communicates them to the membership.
- Members will be asked to complete a survey about the economy from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). PHCC has allowed for its membership to be contacted to complete the survey, along with many other associations, including the architects and landscape designers. The results of the survey will let us determine how we can best help our members conduct business in these changing economic times.
- The value of the educational opportunities at the PHCC Convention: CONNECT 2009 cannot be overstated. [Click here](#) for a two-page description of all that contractor members can learn in New Orleans, Oct. 21 – 23, 2009. Great value at a reasonable cost for every member.

Legislative Updates

SB 1410/HB2697: Responsible Master Plumber clarification bill: This bill clarifies the difference between a Responsible Master Plumber and a Master Plumber. It does not amend the plumbing license law itself. This bill has passed both the Senate and House committees and is waiting for the Governor's signature. Two amendments were attached to the bill late in the session. The first amendment is a plumbing endorsement to install residential fire sprinklers (training to be decided.) The second amendment was attached by the builders because their bill had no chance of passage. This amendment would prohibit local jurisdictions from requiring residential fire sprinkler installations. We are not happy with the builders amendment, but will deal with it before next session. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

SB802/HB1758: This bill allows an apprentice who has completed a Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Program or a Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Board-approved program to apply up to 500 classroom training hours toward his Journeyman or Tradesman license exam requirements. It also allows an apprentice who has completed an associate of applied science degree in a plumbing technology program to apply those hours toward a Journeyman or Tradesman license. Note: An apprentice applying for a Tradesman License must have 24 hours of training approved by the Plumbing Board or a program approved by the Department of Labor. An apprentice applying for a Journeyman License must have 48 hours of training. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

SB2192/HB3129: This bill amends Chapter 39 of the Business & Commerce Code to exempt licensed plumbing, air conditioning and electrical services from the "Third Day Right of Refusal." This law was designed to protect consumers from door to door sales transactions, but could be interpreted to include installation services. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

SB1354: This omnibus amends several provisions of the Plumbing License Law, including a provision that an appliance dealer must be licensed as a plumber to install or do service work on water heaters. Another provision requires a TSBPE field representative to hold a plumbing license. It also requires persons renewing a certificate of registration as a drain cleaner, drain cleaner-restricted registrant or residential utilities installer to annually complete at least six hours of approved training approved by the plumbing board. This bill also requires a Journeyman to work for four years before applying for a Master's License or to have a year of an approved Apprentice Program. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

YOU MAY READ THE TEXT AND HISTORY OF EACH BILL BY GOING TO
www.capitol.state.tx.us