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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION I VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

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Members Across the Country Share The Books That Have Helped Them Become Better Leaders.



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PHCC Solutions is published for the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors – National Association. 180 S. Washington St. – Suite 100 – Falls, VA 22046. Phone: (800) 533-7694. PHCC Editor-in-Chief: Charlotte Perham, Vice President of Communications & Marketing

Published by: NAYLOR 550 SW 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601; Phone: (800) 369-6220; www.naylor.com.

Account Manager: Heather Greyling, Project Manager: Adam Lingenfelter, Content Strategist: Adam Turner, Project Administrator: Cindy Samons, Marketing: Courtney Stec, Publication Leader: Rick Jones, Advertising Sales: Adam Firestone, Ken Kepler, Chris Zabel, Jason Zawada Layout & Design: Deb Churchill, Cover: Provided by Our Motorsports

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START SMALL. WIN BIG.

BY JOEL LONG PHCC-NATIONAL PRESIDENT

he feeling was in the air at PHCCCONNECT2021 in Kansas City, Missouri, last fall. Whether it was with fist bumps or hugs, we greeted each other with excitement that we had survived the pandemic and with hope that we were moving our businesses forward with a positive leadership approach.

Coming in as your president, I appreciated the "big win" that PHCC— National effectively had guided us through COVID with countless resources on everything from safety protocols to explanations on how to obtain a PPP loan. I always say that – with PHCC – you're not alone, and members felt that more than ever.

I also believe in the *smaller* victories because the successes that happen at the state and local level help us *all* win. Whether we copy some efforts for our own benefit, or adapt others to meet our specific needs, what we learn from each other makes us *all* better.

PHCC Rocks

That really was the inspiration behind the PHCC Rocks podcast series that we began hosting last fall. I often see PHCC as a clearinghouse for best ideas and best practices; what I've learned from others truly has transformed my business and my relationships with people. I hope you, too, have benefitted from the lessons learned during the more than 20 episodes we've aired this year.

We've chatted with chapter executive directors and secretaries, Auxiliary leaders, representatives from PHCC—National, and many others. We've shared positive stories on getting statewide licensing approved, tips for hosting fun chapter events that attract the next generation and benefit our local communities, and suggestions on growing our apprenticeship programs. And we've witnessed countless (and very specific) offers from members helping other members!

On the Move

With travel restrictions easing this year, PHCC representatives were able to get back on the road and roll up their sleeves on issues that impact - or will impact - all of us. We successfully voiced our opposition to the natural gas bans in New York and have partnered with many other states as this issue spreads. A main mission this year was to introduce our new CEO, Mark Ingrao, to as many members as possible, and Mark and the Executive Committee have traveled from one corner to the other. We treated this mission as a "listening tour" for him and our board and hope this came across as we traveled. The views of our members from all over the country drive us to be a better organization. In addition, PHCC participated in several important code body meetings this year, representing your interests in future code updates.

And when we couldn't meet in person, we still made a big impact across the country, whether it was assisting members in areas impacted by devasting weather events or partnering with chapters to place social media ads promoting their conferences and membership efforts.

A Hybrid Success

We've made a lot of progress in the past year pushing back against natural gas bans, burdensome employer mandates, and increased regulatory action in Washington, D.C., and one of our biggest platforms in doing that was our annual Legislative Conference on Capitol Hill. I was thrilled to see 20 *new* attendees this past May during our hybrid event, joining others to participate in 74 meetings – some face-to-face and some virtual – with our lawmakers. I can't say it enough ... it's so important for us to talk to our legislators because they don't know the impact of the decisions they're making unless those of us on the front lines tell our stories!

Intelligence for Your Business

Some of the most valuable resources coming to you from PHCC this year were those from our new Business Intelligence department. I hope you're reading those PHCC Insta-Intel emails and PHCC Competitive Edge reports, because they are full of trends, best practices, and forecasts that are already helping members better manage and predict costs, prepare more accurate bids, and better allocate resources and manage operations.

Show Me the Money!

Of course, we're all looking to improve efficiency and our bottom lines, and PHCC—National offered three new member discount programs this year that do just that. Be sure to visit **phccweb.org/ discounts** for exciting new offers from U.S. Bank, The Home Depot, and Pink Callers.

If hosting the podcast series has taught me anything this year, it's that our *members who are involved* get a lot more out of their membership than they put into it. I challenge you to find out for yourself. You'll discover that when you help the industry and not just your business, along the way, you help your business. Let's help *each other* win at a higher level!

PHCC—National Association President Joel Long is co-owner of GSM Services, a third-generation family business in Gastonia, North Carolina.



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CONNECT TO COLLABORATE. COLLABORATE AT CONNECT!

BY MARK S. INGRAO, CCP, CAE PHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

recently was asked by PHCC Corporate Partner Federated Insurance to participate in a video interview highlighting PHCC as an organization, including its partnership with Federated. For most of us, it can be a little scary to put yourself out there – in front of a camera – but during the interview I knew I was among friends, which helped put me at ease.

Fortunately, I quickly became so comfortable that I truly began speaking from the heart, especially when talking about PHCC's Core Values: Professionalism, Leadership, Member-Focus, and Collaboration. In my opinion, this last one - Collaboration - impacts everything else we do. In fact, "Paving the Way for Constructive Collaboration" is the theme of PHCCCONNECT2022 coming up in Charlotte, North Carolina. While we will be recognizing and thanking current PHCC President Joel Long for his positive leadership this year, we will welcome President-Elect Dave Frame and his message of constructive collaboration.

In my first year here at PHCC, I have seen many examples of collaboration at work. Some include:

- As a federation, we collaborate with our chapters to provide the best member experience.
- We collaborate with legislators at all levels of government to ensure laws are passed that will help our members best serve their respective communities.
- We collaborate with our corporate partners, like Federated, to advance the missions of both organizations.

• We also collaborate with other associations to ensure the voice of the contractor is heard.

Making Collaboration Work

In reality, we are all moving toward the same goals, and we need each other to achieve them. Many times, that means leaving one's personal agendas at the door and connecting with others by getting to know them, learning and understanding their pain points (many of which may be the same as ours!), communicating regularly, and building trust. By working together and helping *each other* win, we end up doing what is best for the *industry*.

As testament to that, PHCC has realized many successes on your behalf, several of which are listed in the President's Message on page 6. We're excited to implement PHCC's *new* five-year Strategic Plan, with initiatives centered around Membership, Public Awareness, HVAC and Plumbing Resources, Workforce, and Organizational Readiness.

As you look toward 2023, think about how you can implement more collaborative efforts in your own business plan. For example, are there ways you can work more effectively with your sales reps, partner with your wholesalers, or tap into manufacturer education? Also consider how to make the most of your PHCC member benefits and services, all designed to make you the "contractor of choice" in your area.

Providing Value

Throughout my life and career, I have made so many valuable connections, and

I am grateful for each one. Through these partnerships, I have grown as a person and a professional. My interview with Federated is a case in point; I discovered how strengthening our knowledge of each other as partners ends up advancing both our organizations.

From the time I interviewed for the PHCC CEO position, I have been struck by how committed PHCC leadership, chapter executives, and members are to doing what is good for the association ... staff at National supporting local initiatives, chapters learning from other chapters, young professionals stepping into leadership roles, the list goes on. In building and maintaining those valuable connections, I'm confident we'll continue to realize success at every level of this federation ... and for every member business.

I encourage each of you to experience this positive, constructive collaboration firsthand by attending PHCCCONNECT2022. Make it a point to push out of your comfort zone and reach out to at least one person you have never met. Build that valuable connection, and begin a new collaboration that will strengthen your business, the industry, and our association.

Mark S. Ingrao, CCP, CAE, is Chief Executive Officer of PHCC—National Association. With decades of executive-level association management experience – particularly in the construction industry – Ingrao and his team work to ensure that PHCC contractors are the best choice for professionalism, reliable products and knowledgeable service.



1883: THE CORNERSTONE OF COLLABORATION, THEN AND NOW

BY CHARLOTTE R. PERHAM PHCC CHIEF EDITOR AND VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

s a fan of the "Yellowstone" television series, my husband and I were intrigued to watch the precursor to the show: "1883." I not only wanted to learn about the origin of the Dutton family but also get a better sense of what was occurring in our country in 1883, the year PHCC's ancestors established what we know today as the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association.

Granted, a wagon train full of pioneers setting off for the west is not the same scenario as the 125 frock-coated Victorians taking their seats at the Old Masonic Temple in New York City for the first convention of master plumbers. But I thought a combination of my imagination and this storytelling would give me a better idea than a history book of what people were actually like in those days, what they experienced, and what would make them come together for a long, treacherous trip.

A Common Goal

What I discovered was the people of that day had a diverse mixture of backgrounds and goals that sometimes led to conflict ... and even death. They were *united*, however, by a common purpose of heading west for a new life. They knew they had to make that journey together to reach their destination safely. Sure, they faced turmoil, disease, and challenges (plus arrows and gunfire!) along the way, but the survivors protected themselves and their camp, and they moved on with a shared goal of reaching the new frontier and embracing new beginnings.

At the same time, our PHCC forefathers were banding together to protect the trade, knowing "it would be necessary to seek the cooperation of the trade throughout the country" to overcome an endangered



future. They knew that – to protect the public – it was their responsibility to provide a safe and sanitary plumbing system. Together, they aimed to educate those in the trade, fostering sanitary codes, and upgrading contractors' professional and business methods. Gradually, as the interests of the members broadened to include heating and cooling, the organization would expand to embrace those pursuits as well.

History would show that this example of constructive collaboration in New York City and on trails heading west was not unique for 1883 but remains true today. PHCC members continue to prove that they are *stronger together* than alone. Just take a look at some of the examples in this issue of *Solutions*.

Stories to Help You Succeed

On page 16, your fellow members in new construction share how they're effectively collaborating with others on the job site – from builders, developers, and the general contractor to *other tradespeople* on the project. And those in service and repair talk about how they've partnered with companies providing collaborative technology tools (all of them PHCC Associate Members!) to better manage customer relationships, streamline business operations, and provide valuable data (page 25).

Neighboring PHCC *chapters* are helping each other win, not only in providing members with valuable safety, recruitment, and apprenticeship programs, but also in making *fun* part of the mix with an annual competition of games. Learn more about the Zone 2A Challenge on page 49!

If you've listened to any of the PHCC Rocks podcasts hosted by Joel Long, you know that our PHCC National president – a big believer in the power of positive leadership – often invites guests to share their favorite books. On page 30, we give you a glimpse of some of the top picks that have helped your peers become better leaders.

And in our cover story on page 12, you'll meet Chris Our, who cut his professional teeth at his father's construction company and now owns a professional stock car racing team that competes in the NASCAR Xfinity Series. Chris and others from Our Motorsports will deliver the keynote address at PHCCCONNECT2022, in Charlotte, North Carolina, sharing how constructive collaboration has helped them win in *both* arenas.

Together, we'll accomplish more in Charlotte than you could ever realize alone ... building stronger relationships that will help you build a stronger business and a secure future. I hope you're planning to join us where it all comes together – PHCCCONNECT2022 – the Cornerstone of Collaboration.

See you there!

Charlotte R. Perham is Vice President of Communications & Marketing for PHCC— National Association. She specializes in strategic communication of news, trends and events in the construction industry.

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OUR MOTORSPORTS, OUR FAMILY



WITH A BACKGROUND IN CONSTRUCTION, THE PHCCCONNECT2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SHARES HOW HIS PASSION FOR RACING FUELED HIS CHANCE AT RUNNING A *SECOND* FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS.

BY ADAM TURNER, NAYLOR ASSOCIATION SOLUTIONS

When Chris Our was a young boy, his father, Robert B. Our, would bring Chris to the office of his site and utility construction company after school and on weekends. And for a young Chris, a construction site filled with trucks and tractors excited him to no end, so he took any opportunity he could to work there, building a passion from an early age for the company he and his siblings would one day inherit.



Chris and Mary Our.

Chris and his siblings eventually inherited Robert B. Our Co. from their father, and *their* children eventually took over the company from Chris's generation, making them the third generation of the family to run the business, located in Harwich, Massachusetts.

Catching the Bug to Race

But the construction business was not Chris' only passion. When he was in his early teenage years, Chris would go with his father to a dirt racetrack where the local dune buggy racing association would host events on weekends; Robert B. Our Co. would bring machines to grate and water the tracks.

"That's where my brother and I would always be on the weekends, and of course, we caught the bug to race," Chris says. "Then over the years, we got into it and did it."

Over the next few decades, Chris continued to work for his father while racing cars on the side, and he only took breaks from racing when outside events, like starting a family or the economic downturn of the 1990s, demanded his time and resources.

And then, in 2010, Chris started racing in an open-wheel series – a style of races similar to the European F1 model – in New England for four years. Chris's team had multiple drivers at this time, and they would participate in the whole series, which gave Chris and his team several wins under their belts.

Stepping Up to the Big Leagues

But Chris had his eyes set on the big tracks, which prompted him to move from the open wheel series to the Auto Racing Club of America (ARCA) series. His team participated in large national races taking place at iconic tracks like the Daytona International Speedway in Florida and the Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama. The team performed well in the ARCA series, so Chris decided to step up to the big leagues by competing in the NASCAR Xfinity Series.

In 2020, he created his NASCAR Xfinity Series team, Our Motorsports, which brought his passion for racing to the national stage for the first time. Unlike the open wheel and ARCA series where Our's team participated in every race, Chris had to carefully choose the races in which Our Motorsports competed. "To be competitive, to market yourself and to give exposure for partners, you can't just pick a race here and there," he says. "You have to commit to it and run it, or don't do it."

Now in its third year of running in the Xfinity Series, Our Motorsports has steadily increased its presence in the races. In its first year, the team committed to running a single car driven by Brett Moffitt, the 2019 Camping World Truck Series champion.

Then in each of the following years, Our Motorsports added another car to its team, and in 2022, the team is racing three cars with 23-year-old Anthony Alfredo running car no. 23, and 29-year-old Jeb Burton, son of former NASCAR champion Ward Burton, running car no. 27.

"Running three cars this year was probably a little aggressive," Chris says. "But we learn a lot faster because our notebook grows faster with our three different teams with three different crew chiefs. Even so, it has been a tremendous undertaking to go from two to three cars."

Running a Family Business

With the added pressure of a third car, Our saw the opportunity to make Our Motorsports a family business, just like Robert B. Our Co., by welcoming his 18-year-old daughter Mary as the co-owner of car no. 2, Our Motorsports' car driven by Brett Moffitt. Mary has made history as the youngest female owner in NASCAR history, and her interest in the sport came directly from her father, Chris.

"We would go with [Chris] on the weekends to watch him race modifieds, and it was very fun," Mary says. "I had tried working at the construction company one summer, but it was not for me. And then last season, he took me to some more races with just the two of us, and when I saw the business side of it, I was really intrigued by it."

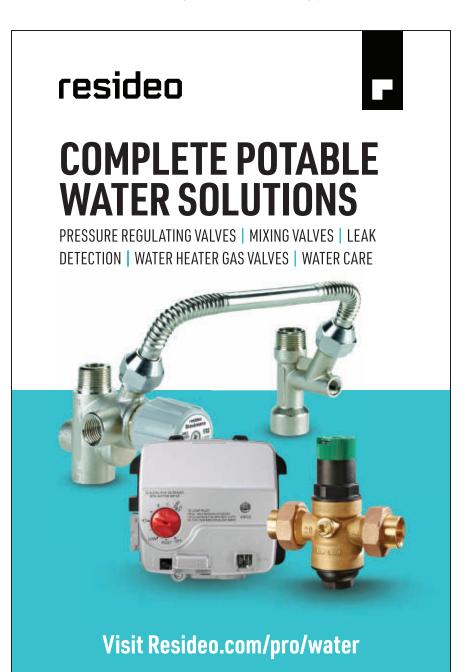
Chris and Mary's shared love of racing has brought the two of them closer as they travel to races together and discuss

"Running a family business is something you do together, and you grow together and try to take it to another level."

~ Chris Our

how best to improve the team. But Mary is still young, Chris says, and is learning the ropes of the business and partner sides of racing as she finishes school.

And even though her time is split between school and the team, Mary has taken a role in managing their social media accounts alongside Our Motorsports' marketing partner, Surge. She works with Surge's team to prepare the social media content before each race, and they post before and after each



race to garner more attention to the team's accounts.

Chris says that, due to Mary's age, some sponsors are hesitant to work with someone "untested," and this is especially an issue with alcohol sponsors. But Mary is proving herself through her social media work and how open she has been to learning the insand-outs of the team. And with Mary taking on increasingly larger roles within the team, it has become a true family enterprise, just like Robert B. Our Co.

"Running a family business is something you do together, and you grow together and try to take it to another level," Chris says. "I'm 61 years old, and Mary is 18, so we have different ways of thinking of things. Even with my sons in the business, we've groomed them to where they are, but they still have their own opinion on how things should be done, and we can talk about it."

"It's been very enjoyable, and it has got me locked in pretty solidly. I always could've done something different with this," he adds, laughing, "but now it's almost got me in a pickle." ●

Adam Turner is a Digital Content Strategist at Naylor Association Solutions. He helps trade associations in the construction, healthcare, and financial sectors develop content for member communications.



Hear From Chris Our at PHCCCONNECT2022!

Chris Our and others from his team will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, Oct. 6. Hear more about his experiences in racing and the vital importance of collaboration in making a construction company or NASCAR team work like a welloiled machine. Chris also will discuss how his team uses data to improve its performance at Our Motorsports.



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CONSTRUCTIVE COLLABORATION

HOW NEW CONSTRUCTION P-H-C CONTRACTORS COMMUNICATE WITH BUILDERS, DEVELOPERS, GENERAL CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER TRADESPEOPLE ON THE JOB



Dave Jones Inc. plumbing and fire protection foremen go over the blueprints for a large apartment building.

BY JEAN FEINGOLD

Plumbing-heatingcooling contractors

working in new construction know all about the importance of teamwork. They're coordinating with general contractors or homebuilders and others involved with the project, including owners, developers, architects, and other tradespeople. Everyone must work together to get the job completed, and that requires effective communication.

At Madison, Wisconsin-based PHCC member company Dave Jones, Inc. (DJI), commercial construction is headed by Andy Wagner, with residential construction under the direction of Paula Bowers. Both say careful scheduling with all construction partners is necessary to get jobs done on time and on budget.

Communication is Key

Communication, Wagner says, is the most important thing in construction, starting before the project begins and continuing after it ends. "In our bid proposals, we lay out the inclusions and the exclusions for our work as clearly as possible to help define the scope of work," he adds. In the design phase, it is essential to hold coordination meetings so the HVAC and plumbing will fit with the work of the other trades without conflict.

"Once work begins, successful projects have regularly scheduled weekly meetings with our people, the GC, and affected subcontractors," he says. "Everyone can voice their concerns about the schedule. When a project is awarded, you get an estimated timeframe. As it proceeds, unexpected things happen. There may be staffing or weather delays that could require ramping up later to get back on schedule."

DJI streamlines its communications on commercial jobs with GCs by performing up to four trades internally and collaborating in-house. This reduces the number of contacts needed. During the pre-construction process, DJI likes working directly with architects and owners to fast track answers.

Facilitating Communication

In working with homebuilders, Bowers says they prefer having their project managers go to the homebuilder's construction manager for all information. "We have many standard operating procedures in play to make us as efficient as possible, and we share those with our homebuilders to make sure the process goes as smoothly as it can," she says. At the same time, DJI workers talk daily with other subcontractors, including excavators, concrete, drywall, countertop companies, cabinet companies, trim carpenters, and other mechanical trades.

"The most common challenge is with scheduling," says Bowers. "Even with constant communication, there are always things that come up in construction – weather delays or other trade partners being ahead or behind." DJI works closely with homebuilders as each year begins to learn their projections for the upcoming year to evaluate how many crews DJI has and how much work they can take on. The goal is to be honest with homebuilders on potential struggles and work toward a resolution.

For custom home projects, DJI may work with homeowners, architects, or interior designers. "We have a showroom consultant who meets with homeowners to help them select plumbing fixtures while helping them stay in budget," Bowers says. "This comes with its own set of challenges, as homeowners might have limited experience with how a project comes together."

Construction projects of all types currently are suffering from material delivery delays. By communicating about what is on back order and how that affects the project, solutions to reduce return trips can be discovered, Bowers notes.

The Worst Type of Communication

"The biggest issue with communication is no communication," says Bowers. "This rarely happens, but when it does, a simple conversation about the importance of letting us know the status of the job, whether it's when the job is going to start or an update on what phase the job is in, is essential. We constantly want feedback, so we know how we are doing. Everyone at DJI is open to change and updating processes, but we may have to make them work for everyone involved."

Commercial jobs can have the same problem. "At the front of a project, there can be delays in excavation or concrete, and we aren't told something is delaying the schedule," Wagner says. "Or they may say they are a few weeks late on framing but won't explain how that will affect the rest of the schedule." Sometimes other workers damage work done by DJI but don't report it when it happens. Discovering damage at the finish requires more rework than if it had been pointed out in a timely way. Or the GC may not agree to change order costs or contract language, or there could be code issues.

Building Relationships Beyond the Job Site

Effective communication does not rely solely on talking about the project. People prefer doing business with others they know, like, and trust. That's true, too, when p-h-c contractors work with GCs, homebuilders, and subs. DJI fosters these communication-enhancing personal relationships by sponsoring fun events. "To get to know our construction partners, we find out what they like to do and then do it together," Wagner says. This could include going out to dinner, or outings to ball games or fishing or hunting trips. Sometimes GCs sponsor a barbecue at the job site, or DJI buys pizza. These activities are good ways to encourage conversation. "Sometimes it's just talking while on the job site, to get to know how they operate," he adds.

Bowers agrees, saying, "We want to know them personally, and that helps us get to know their business as well. Creating those relationships is key to our business and helps make the job fun. Getting to know other subcontractors who will be onsite and reaching out to them directly helps create those relationships. More importantly, if we can do each other favors to make the construction processes easier, we will do it. Construction doesn't always go smoothly, but it's important to have strong relationships to figure it out together rather than pointing fingers."

Technology Helps

DJI uses technology to enhance internal communication. "Every DJI employee, both residential and commercial, receives a smart phone their first day they show up for orientation," Bowers says. "They use it to clock in, find job locations, use our intranet called Dave's Den, receive emails, and more," she adds.

"In addition, every crew leader receives a tablet. These are used primarily to fill out forms through GoFormz, giving the project manager information about obstacles they may run into on the job, report tasks they weren't able to complete, and share pictures. They can also use this to bring up house plans and specs," Bowers says. "Dave's Den has helped improve communication between the field and office immensely. Crews go here to find information without having to reach out to a project manager, or to find other resources, such as HR or company events."

Wagner's team likes using project management software, which assists in job planning before work begins and gives field foremen instant access to up-to-date

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plans during construction. He says they also benefit from 3D design coordination tools.

Communication Never Stops

Building completion does not mean communication between DJI and their construction partners ends. After project completion, the company often holds a roundtable meeting with the GCs to discuss how the job went, or they circulate surveys to get the same information. Since they do so much repeat business with the same GCs and owners, this meeting improves relationships for projects down the road. Says Wagner, "We want to know what worked for us, what worked for them, and what didn't work." Continuing communication results in constructive collaborations ... now and in the future.

Jean Feingold is a freelance writer who has written for trade magazines in the construction, energy, marketing, insurance, restaurant, banking, trucking, and other industries for more than 25 years.

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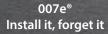
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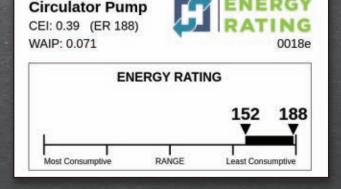
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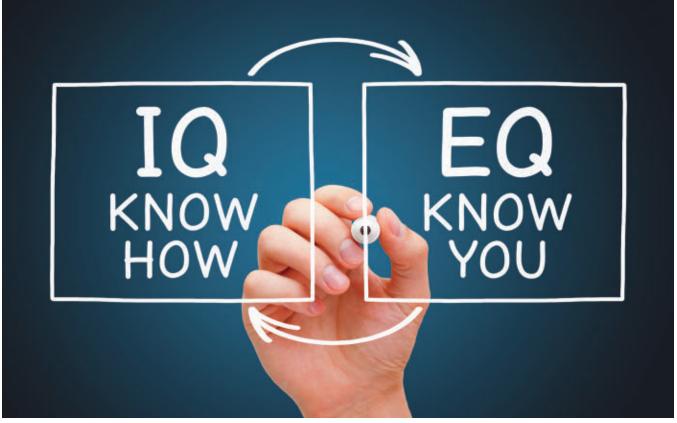


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BY BETH A. DOBKIN, DIRECTOR OF QSC BUSINESS COACHING

As a business coach, I spend a lot of time with teams that struggle to communicate effectively. Survey results regarding company opportunities tend to reflect common feedback that communication should be a core focus. The expectation is that everyone will work together toward a common goal, yet little time is spent teaching the communication skills necessary to collaborate. Emotional intelligence (EQ) competency is the foundation of effective communication and the core ingredient for collaboration success.

Before going any further, let's define EQ. EQ is the ability to understand and express one's emotions and to show sincere empathy and understanding when communicating with others. Your emotions drive how you think and react to events around you. Have you ever been in a situation where someone else's behavior has made you react strongly? Most believe that our reaction is a response to an event that is outside of our control. What really happens is an event takes place, you experience thoughts, feelings, and emotions related to the event, and you *respond* in a way that reflects your thoughts, emotions, and feelings.

Daniel Goldman, author of the bestselling book on this topic (see page 34), says EQ is "the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships."

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Start your application here! You might think this is not important, but organizations that operate at a high level of EQ are rewarded with greater trust from employees, sustained motivation, improved teamwork and collaboration, easier adaptation to change, high quality execution, and increased profits.

EQ and IQ: What's the Difference?

Unlike IQ, EQ scores are flexible and can be improved. There are five competencies of EQ that require mastery to communicate and collaborate effectively. These five competencies include self-awareness, selfregulation, self-motivation, social awareness, and relationship management.

Understanding and managing our emotions and recognizing the emotions of others helps us to be more successful in both our professional and personal life.

On a personal level, EQ gives us the tools to have difficult conversations without destroying relationships. At work, EQ gives us the power to resolve conflicts, manage our emotions under stress, coach and motivate others, collaborate, and build a safe environment or company culture.

Improving *You* Improves Your Business

You might think this is not important, but organizations that operate at a high level of EQ are rewarded with greater trust from employees, sustained motivation, improved teamwork and collaboration, easier adaptation to change, high quality execution, and increased profits. Does any of this interest you? Let's look at each competency a little closer.

Self-awareness is the foundation of EQ. It is an understanding of your own thoughts and how they affect you. It is the process of knowing how your actions will affect those around you. In the workplace, it is especially important to focus on competency, integrity, and healthy workplace interactions, as these are typically the triggers that can cause emotional roadblocks. Self-awareness promotes healthy and productive conversations, allowing people to collaborate without fear. Imagine a boss that has no self-awareness. He might blame everyone else when results are poor. However, someone in the same role with a high EQ might share their own experiences to improve the situation. A highly self-aware individual always considers the ripple effect of their emotions.

Competency two is self-regulation. This is the ability to manage negative impulses and emotions – thinking before you act. This competency is all about keeping yourself up when things go wrong, managing expectations, persistence, making intentions clear, and seeing the good in others. Selfregulation begins with mastering your own thoughts. By controlling what you think, you can control what you do.

Self-motivation – competency three – can be very challenging. It is the internal state that helps us start, continue, or end a behavior. For example, one might be motivated to eat when they are hungry. If you are dieting, you must control your internal motivation to change the behavior you have adopted. All behavior originates from self-motivation. It is what all individuals use to find purpose. A person with higher EQ in this area usually pursues and achieves their goals with confidence.

Dealing with Others

The first three EQ competencies revolve around the individual management and understanding of one's own emotions. The last two competencies are focused on how one deals with the emotions of *others*. Social competency is important because it determines one's effectiveness in their role.

Social awareness is the ability to read the emotions of the room and respond effectively using empathy - just the right tone, matching pace, choosing the right volume, and placing the proper emphasis on the content of the message. It is communication at its best. And it is not just verbal. Most people are sensory listeners. That means they will remember the way the conversation made them feel more than the conversation itself. Most people will respond based on how they feel after quickly assessing whatever is happening. Tuning in to the emotions of others as you interact with them will help to prevent misunderstandings and provide an accurate point of reference.

The final competency for EQ is relationship management, and it can only be mastered by applying all the other emotional intelligence competencies. It is one's ability to form and maintain healthy, positive relationships. Remember how much effort you put into dating? Most people cannot maintain that level of commitment long term. When the honeymoon is over, the real work begins. This is true of any relationship. Too often an emotionally charged situation ends up with disastrous results. And no one is innocent. Relationship management is not about being perfect; it's about forgiveness and learning how to respond to mistakes in a way that allows the relationship to thrive.

Emotional intelligence is the most sought-out skill of leaders today. Improved communication, cooperation, collaborative problem solving, improved efficiency, less attrition, less workplace conflict, and higher profits are just a few of the benefits you will experience when your team practices emotional intelligence in the workplace. Beth A. Dobkin is the director of coaching services for Quality Service Contractors (QSC), a PHCC Enhanced Service Group geared for service and repair contractors.

QSC Talks!

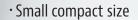


New This Year: Beth Dobkin will lead Quality Service Contractors' (QSC's) own version of "TED Talks" right on the trade show floor at PHCCCONNECT2022. Stop by the QSC booth on Thursday, Oct. 6, for this "QSC Talks" series of five 15-minute interactive discussions focusing on emotional intelligence in the workplace, including a variety of resourceful tips for doing business more effectively. Come and make the most of your PHCC experience!

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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SCHULER SERVICE. INC.

Schuler Service, Inc. technician Jason Sabin (r) uses a tablet to show a customer the work needed on her home.

BY SHERYL S. JACKSON

When Schuler Service, Inc. began almost 100 years ago, communication was face-to-face, marketing was word-of-mouth, and work and financial records were all on paper.

Today, face-to-face communication among all team members is still important, as evidenced by the weekly all-company meetings, says Joe Mrochko, vice president of inside operations and marketing of the PHCC member company located in Allentown, Pennsylvania. While in-person meetings "build camaraderie" and will never be replaced by technology, he adds that technology "helps everyone stay connected while working and has improved our ability to schedule, invoice, and market." Texting via a network provided by PHCC Associate Member ServiceTitan, which the company uses to manage customer relationships, is heavily used among company team members and between the company and customers, says Mrochko. "About six months ago,

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Schuler Service, Inc. service team.

we rolled out Microsoft Teams to use for video, phone, and text communication among employees, but we didn't push its use, so it floundered at first," he says. "We may have found a way to encourage its use, however." That encouragement came in the form of new tablets – android tablets with Teams installed – to replace existing iPad tablets. "Now that Facetime is no longer available, technicians are using the video available through Teams to contact supervisors if they need help diagnosing a problem." Technicians can also communicate clearly with *customers* using their tablets. Not only does technology enable them to create multiple options quickly and easily for service, but techs can show customers what a repair might look like. "We have YouTube videos of previous work we've done, so a customer can see how we restore the yard if we have to excavate," Mrochko gives as an example. These videos are helpful in explaining what a customer can expect so there are no surprises, he adds.

What is the Future of Booking Appointments?

According to research conducted by Schedule Engine and ServiceTitan, the future of home service scheduling is online. Key findings include:

- 1. A majority of home service providers believe that more than 30% of their jobs will be booked through an online scheduling tool over the next three years.
- 2. More than two-thirds of home service providers plan on investing in online booking technology within the next year.
- 3. Schedule Engine's customers book on average three to four times more jobs online than other online scheduling tools.
- 4. Over the last two years, ServiceTitan customers have already seen the percentage of jobs booked online by their customers more than double.
- 5. In the majority of home services sectors, more than half of all consumers start their search online before scheduling a service appointment.

Making It Easy for the Customer

Schedule Engine is another tool Schuler uses to schedule appointments. "We saw an immediate benefit when customers could schedule their appointments through our website," says Mrochko of the PHCC Associate Member. "We monitor social media and review sites, and the most common comment is that we've made it easy to schedule appointments." In addition to the online appointment option, which allows customers to schedule appointments when the office is not open, a 24/7 live chat feature provides extra information customers may need, he says. "I did have to write some questions and answers specific to our pricing and services, but it was not an overwhelming process to set up chat."

Another beneficial tool with the online scheduling is a diagram of the house that the customer can use to identify the problem and even upload photos, says Mrochko. "This information goes into the job file created for the appointment, along with any chat dialogue, so the technician can use the extra information to gather the right supplies."

Reducing the Touch Points

When Billy Stevens, CEO of Sera Systems first entered the plumbing, heating, and cooling business in the "Whatever [technology] you choose, be sure you can commit the time to making sure that people understand why it's important and how to use it, then make sure it is used. You spend too much time, energy, and money investing in new technology, so invest in promoting it and training people, or your deployment won't be successful."

~ Joe Mrochko, Schuler Service, Inc.

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mid-1990s, all record-keeping and scheduling was done with pen and paper. Even without technology, his focus was on an efficient, lean, and well-organized business – the success of which led to him partnering with a private equity firm to acquire other companies.

"I retired in my 40s, took five years off to travel and spend time with my family, then decided to build software that can help other service companies run their businesses as efficiently as I did mine," says Stevens of his field service management software company, another PHCC Associate Member.

Removing inefficiencies means reducing the approximately 28 touches in multiple areas of the company required to schedule a service call, he explains. "Technology that recognizes the customer as a high-value account, schedules a same-day appointment while shifting other lower-value appointments, and identifies the availability of technicians eliminates multiple phone calls from CSRs to dispatchers to technicians and schedules the customer in minutes."

To develop and test the software, Stevens started another company, billyGO. "We reach our fourth anniversary in January 2023, and we've grown from zero customers at billyGO when we started to over \$10 million in revenue," he says. In addition to streamlined scheduling and dispatch, Stevens points out that service businesses need a way to capture information about customers, services performed, invoices and payments, employee sales, and service performance and costs. "Software should be able to help an owner run the business efficiently and eliminate unnecessary operational costs."

One of the most significant benefits of today's communication and collaboration technology is the automatic data collection from multiple sources, said Chris Hunter of ServiceTitan. He remembers the early days in his own p-h-c business, when he and one other person in his office spent hours going through invoices with another person in his office, scouring them for information about sales, time spent on calls, and other metrics. "We were collecting information but would not know until the end of the month how we were doing," he says. "We were not able to identify any issues in real-time, so we could not quickly pivot to make changes in scheduling, routing, or anything else to address problems."

As a principal industry adviser for ServiceTitan and a business consultant with his own firm, Hunter advises business owners about the opportunities to grow a business with the right technology as well as how to choose from the myriad of options available.

"The first step is to look at your goals for the business," says Hunter. "If you are a small- to medium-sized company, look for technology that you can scale as your business grows." This is important to evaluate upfront so there is no need to invest in another software or platform down the road, he adds.

Talk to other p-h-c contractors who are using the different technologies being evaluated, suggests Hunter. "Ask them why they choose what they did, and find out if it is working as they expected."

When asked for his advice on choosing a technology to improve communication and collaboration within the business, Mrochko says, "Whatever you choose, be sure you can commit the time to making sure that people understand why it's important and how to use it. then make sure it is used. You spend too much time, energy, and money investing in new technology, so invest in promoting it and training people, or your deployment won't be successful." He adds, "When we deployed Microsoft Teams, my colleague and I agreed it was a good fit for us, but at first, we were the only ones using it, so we had to regroup and re-introduce it when we purchased new tablets!" •

Sheryl S. Jackson is a freelance writer and editor who specializes in education, leadership, and legislative topics for several industries, including construction.

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PHCC PICKS!

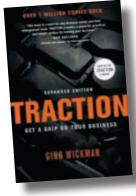
MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY SHARE THE BOOKS THAT HAVE HELPED THEM BECOME BETTER LEADERS.

If you've listened to any of the PHCC Rocks podcasts hosted by Joel Long, you know that our PHCC—National president is a big believer in reading. "Books have changed my life," says Long, adding that they help him "settle in my mind what I'm doing right or not doing."

With a focus this year on positive leadership, Long has invited guests on the PHCC podcast series to share their favorite books and then offers up what *he's* currently reading and how it has impacted him personally and professionally. Books have given him "better perspective" and helped him "be more open to change," he says. "I think it's really important that leaders read."

Here are some of the top picks from both Long and his PHCC Rocks guests:

#1 PICK!



Traction: Get a Grip on Your Business

BY GINO WICKMAN

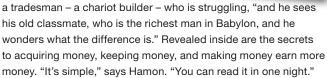
Offering powerful ways to run your company that will give you and your team more focus, more growth, and more enjoyment, this is the book that gets mentioned on PHCC Rocks time and time again! PHCC of Washington Dennis Hamon reveals that his business has implemented the book's

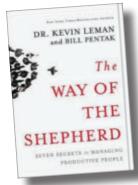
Entrepreneurial Operating System, and Long shares that his company started applying the system – which claims to *not* be "complicated or theoretical" – about three years ago. "We lead every meeting with it," says Long. "It will change how you look at meetings and how you try to organize future plans."

Dennis recommends ...

The Richest Man in Babylon BY GEORGE S. CLASON

Hailed as the greatest of all inspirational works on the subject of thrift, financial planning, and personal wealth, this is another recommendation by Hamon. It's "our trade book," he says; it's about





The Way of the Shepherd: Seven Secrets to Managing Productive People

BY DR. KEVIN LEMAN AND WILLIAM PENTAK

When William Pentak had the once-ina-lifetime opportunity to interview Ted McBride, one of the most respected CEOs in America, he was shocked by what McBride was willing to share. McBride taught him the seven secrets

he inherited long ago from his mentor – an eccentric but brilliant professor who passed on these time-tested management principles that, while ancient in their origin, are still applicable in today's fast-paced, high-tech world.

It's a leadership book about someone who knew what to do technically but was intimidated about how to manage other people, says Long. "These lessons teach him how to lead his flock and build trust," he adds. **300K COVERS FROM RESPECTIVE PUBLISHERS**

Jerome suggests ...

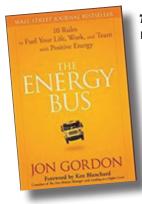
The Four Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive: A Leadership Fable BY PATRICK LENCIONI

PHCC of Georgia President Jerome Sabol recommends this find from his involvement in a PHCC Quality Service Contractors (QSC) peer group. Readers are treated to this fictional story of corporate intrigue



as the frustrated head of one consulting firm faces a leadership challenge so great that it threatens to topple his company, his career, and everything he holds true about leadership itself. In the story's telling, the author helps readers understand the simplicity and power of creating organizational health and reveals four key disciplines they can follow to achieve it.

Joel is a fan!



The Energy Bus BY JON GORDON

"I'm a big fan of Jon Gordon," says Long of the best-selling author and keynote speaker at PHCCCONNECT2021 in Kansas City, Missouri. In *The Energy Bus*, Gordon takes readers on an inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment at work and at home.

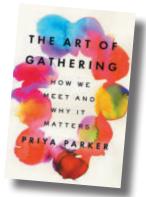
"It's an easy read and tells a great story about a guy who has a lot of self-doubt and about how somebody he met on a bus really changed his future," says Long.



Beth's pick!

The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters BY PRIYA PARKER

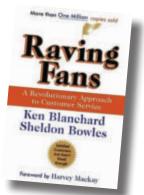
Author Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are lackluster and unproductive, saying we rely too much on routine and the conventions of gathering when we should focus on distinctiveness and the people involved. PHCC of Tennessee Executive Director Beth Killen



admits she wants to get better at meetings and is leaning on the expertise of this author, herself a facilitator of high-powered gatherings, who explains what works, what doesn't, and why. "It's amazing," Killen says of the book. "If you don't have a purpose [for a meeting], you shouldn't be there."

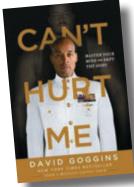
Raving Fans: A Revolutionary Approach to Customer Service BY KEN BLANCHARD AND SHELDON BOWLES

Are your customers satisfied only because no one else is doing better? Just having satisfied customers isn't good enough anymore. If you really want a booming business, you have to create Raving Fans. Long admits he's *re-reading* this book to help his company improve its focus on customer service. "It's



frustrating because it's such a simple thought process on how to get more connected internally and externally." Let it be a reminder to you on how to turn your customers into raving, spending fans!

Jason recommends ...



Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds BY DAVID GOGGINS

"It inspires people," says PHCC— National Zone 3A Director Jason Pritchard of *Can't Hurt Me*, a story of David Goggins whose childhood of poverty, prejudice, and physical abuse was a nightmare. Through self-discipline, mental toughness, and hard work, however, Goggins transformed himself from a depressed, overweight young

man with no future into a U.S. Armed Forces icon and one of the world's top endurance athletes. Let it inspire you!



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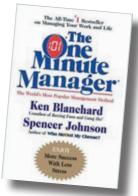
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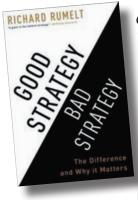
Larry's choice!

The One Minute Manager BY KEN BLANCHARD AND SPENCER JOHNSON

PHCC of Pennsylvania President Larry Shoemaker is reading *The One Minute Manager* for a *third* time ... and with good reason, as this timeless business classic



has helped millions achieve more successful professional and personal lives. The best seller tells a story, recounting three techniques of an effective manager: one-minute goals, one-minute praisings, and one-minute reprimands. Each of these takes only a minute but has lasting benefit!



Good Strategy. Bad Strategy. The Difference and Why It Matters

BY RICHARD RUMELT

Developing and implementing a strategy is *the* central task of a leader, and this book has resonated with Long as a business leader. "There's a chapter about chain link systems, and all of our teams are only as good as the weakest link, and it just struck a chord with me," he says. "We spend all this time building

these teams and trying to get better and better in our businesses and our associations, but then there's that one weak link, and many times we ignore that weak link because maybe it's a difficult conversation or maybe we don't know how to handle it," he adds. This offers eye-opening yet pragmatic tools that easily can be implemented. "If you get a chance, read this book!"

Dave's favorite!

The Trusted Advisor BY DAVID H. MAISTER, CHARLES H. GREEN AND ROBERT M. GALFORD

"My all-time favorite and I recommend this to anybody is *The Trusted Adviser*," says Dave Chic, program director for PHCC's QSC and CCA (Construction Contractors' Alliance). In this 20th anniversary edition, the authors illustrate how

to be effective communicators in a digital world and detail five distinct steps you must take to create a trust-based relationship. "It spoke to me because it's all about working with people who trust you," says Chic. "Because trust is earned, you know when they've picked you to do something, even if there are problems, they are trusting you to fix it and make things right."



Eric suggests ...

The Ideal Team Player: How to Recognize and Cultivate the Three Essential Virtues BY PATRICK LENCIONI

QSC Advisory Council Member Eric Maxon recommends this story of Jeff Shanley, a leader desperate to save his uncle's company by restoring its cultural commitment to teamwork. Jeff must crack the code on the virtues that real team players possess, and then build

a culture of hiring and development around those virtues. "Not everyone can be the CEO ... not everyone can be the apprentice," says Maxon. "This is about the different types of employees, different personality traits, and different roles," he adds, "and creating a culture around teamwork."

It's Your Ship: Management Techniques from the Best Damn Ship in the Navy

BY CAPT. D. MICHAEL ABRASHOFF

When Captain Abrashoff took over as commander of the USS *Benfold*, it was like a business that had all the latest technology but only some of the productivity. Knowing that responsibility for improving performance rested with him, he realized he had to improve his own leadership skills before he could



improve his ship. Within months, he created a crew of confident and inspired problem-solvers eager to take the initiative and responsibility for their actions. "I just love that thought process on the journey," says Long. "Also knowing what's at stake ... those lives of other people that are with us matter to the same extent."

Thumbs Up from Russell and Crystal!

DANIEL

The ground buck in means reserves what is means to be small Emotional Intelligence Why II Can Matter More Than 10

Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ BY DANIEL GOLEMAN

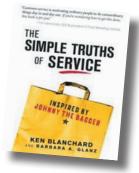
Both Russell Robillard and Crystal Carter from PHCC of Louisiana praise this best seller – considered by the press as a "wake-up all to organizations and corporations"– that delineates the five crucial skills of emotional intelligence (EI) and how they help determine success in relationships, work, and even physical well-being. We spend so much of our

time online; more and more jobs are becoming automated and digitized; and our children are picking up new technology faster than we ever imagined. This latest edition could not come at a better time, preparing readers, now more than ever, to reach their fullest potential and stand out from the pack with the help of EI.

The Simple Truths of Service BY KENNETH BLANCHARD AND BARBARA A. GLANZ

"It's a simple story about how important it is to deliver good service and have a great attitude and do what's best for your customers ... and with energy," says Long. "I need to be reminded a lot about how to build loyalty with being positive, because it's hard in today's world." This customer

CONSERVE Water conservation that puts you in control



service classic is an unforgettable true story about a very special young man living with Down Syndrome who takes a chance and changes the culture of a grocery store by being creative and giving the customers more than they expect. "I just love it," says Long.

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WHAT WILL A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY DO FOR OUR INDUSTRY?

BY MARK VALENTINI PHCC DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

id-term elections are historically an opportunity for the party opposite of the president to make major gains in Congress. It is a trend that has been particularly pronounced since 1994 when the "Republican Revolution" led by then-Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) made extraordinary gains in the legislature that laid the foundation for a long-lasting Republican majority in Congress with only shortlived intervals of Democrat party rule of both houses from 2007-2011 and the two congressional sessions since 2019.

With President Biden struggling to implement his agenda, a poor economic outlook, and a Republican minority in Congress that has proven formidable against a Democrat majority (especially in the Senate), Republicans can expect to take back the House of Representatives with a 20-30 seat majority in the worst-case scenario. In the best-case scenario, Republicans take the House by at least 30 seats and regain control of the Senate by 1-2 seats.

The Factors at Play

What are the trends we need to pay attention to this cycle? The economy is first and foremost in any election at any time. When the economy performs well (or if there is a perception that the economy performs well), combined with low unemployment, and voters are generally content with the state of American affairs, the party in charge remains in charge. We know that this is not the case this cycle. Inflation is expected to top 11% *(eleven percent!)* by the end of the year; we've had two consecutive quarters of negative growth indicating a recession is nigh; and consumer confidence is in the doldrums. Adding to Democrats' political woes is an exodus of moderate House Democrats in red districts that are either resigning or getting primaried from the left.

The suburbs will be key for either party. Rural areas are undeniably Republican, while urban areas remain reliably Democrat. The suburbs are the last frontier and can swing either way. Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin seems to have the secret sauce for suburban victory, focusing on education and the economy, which gave the governor's mansion to a Republican for the first time since 2010 in a state that hasn't voted for a Republican president since 2004 or a Republican senator since 2002.

Furthermore, New York's governor race may not be an easy win for Democrat Governor Kathy Hochul. After an attempted assault on New York Republican gubernatorial nominee Lee Zeldin, the state's no-cash bail law is in the spotlight. The offender was released from custody not six hours after the attack, which Zeldin used as an example of what's wrong with the no-cash bail policy and laying the blame squarely at Governor Hochul's feet. Zeldin may be on to something. In deep-blue California, San Francisco's Democrat district attorney was recalled, and Los Angeles' DA is barely clinging to his job, because of their soft-on-crime stances, including support of no-cash bail. Zeldin could very well ride a national wave into the governor's mansion in Albany on this very issue.

So, what are the implications for PHCC?

A Republican takeover of Congress would freeze the President's agenda, meaning we would continue to enjoy the favorable tax environment under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed during the Trump administration. Any movement on the environment and energy side would occur exclusively by executive order or through federal agencies, which can be slowed or deterred through the federal courts.

Even if Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) retains his slim majority in the Senate, a Republican House is just enough to deter any major Biden administration priorities. The upside for PHCC is that this will be a major setback for Democrats as they seek to eliminate the use of fossil fuels, especially natural gas. If Zeldin wins the governor's race, that will stop the Empire State's rush to ban natural gas dead in its tracks, which means the legislature could try to force the issue during lame duck.

The downside of a Republican takeover is that Republicans may seek to water down registered apprenticeship in the workforce in favor of certifications; while certifications may benefit other segments of the economy, it would be detrimental to building a skilled plumbing workforce. However, PHCC has secured exemptions for the building trades under Republican leadership that preserves registered apprenticeship for plumbing, and we are poised to do it again should we need to.

Election Day is November 8. Be sure to contact your state or local election board to confirm your registration.

Mark Valentini is the Director of Legislative Affairs for PHCC— National Association. A seasoned professional with more than 20 years of experience on Capitol Hill and with several national trade associations, Valentini applies his expertise in public policy, workforce and training, and insurance and tax matters to advocate on behalf of all PHCC members.

What If Water Heaters Had Tinder[®] Profiles?



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CHANGES PROPOSED FOR GAS PRODUCTS

BY CHUCK WHITE PHCC VICE PRESIDENT OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS

s many of you know, PHCC works to follow activities of the federal government. Most folks think of that as following one large entity, and while that is true, that entity has many parts. The PHCC Regulatory Affairs Department deals with the sections of the Executive Branch known as the Agencies. These Agencies are many in number, but of particular interest to members are the Department of Labor (DOL) and its subsidiary OSHA, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Department of Energy (DOE).

These Agencies put forth regulations – regulations that are really interpretations of laws promulgated by Congress and signed by the president. By statutory authority, these departments create the rules to live by, many times with significant impact on businesses and consumers. The Agencies have significant power; they can propose and implement rules in relatively nontransparent processes, take and decide how to value public comment, and ultimately only be challenged through the courts.

Significant Changes

Today, our examples are actions from the Department of Energy. DOE is charged with establishing and reviewing product efficiency standards for numerous products. Two current rulemakings will make significant changes to commercial gas fired water heaters and residential gas fired furnaces. Both of these product classes are long overdue for their respective reviews, more than six years for water heaters and around 10 years for furnaces.

As proposed, DOE will establish the minimum efficiency rating for commercial gas fired storage water heaters at 95%, gas fired instantaneous water heaters and hot water supply boilers at 96%, and residential duty commercial gas fired water heaters at a condensing level UEF rating (high draw pattern). All these levels use condensing type venting products. Non-condensing natural draft products that could use existing masonry chimneys or typical double wall metal venting systems would be eliminated from the market.

Similarly, the second rule affects residential non-weatherized gas furnaces and mobile home gas furnaces. These products would have to meet a minimum efficiency standard (AFUE) of 95%. As above in the commercial water heater rule, this standard could only be met with condensing type products. Furnace products

that use natural draft venting through masonry chimneys or double wall metallic vent systems would be eliminated from the market.

Speaking Up for You ... and Your Customers

PHCC has followed these activities for several years and has filed comments with the DOE challenging their assumptions. The rules must be technologically feasible and economically justified. While the technology exists, PHCC believes the economic aspects of the rules are in error and is on record to that effect. You see, the Department has never installed these products nor surveyed the vast amount of building stock (all with unique aspects) that affect the individual installations. DOE has not gone to basements to see installations nor laid hands-on installations that pose significant venting problems.

Instead, DOE assigns an insignificant factor to problem installations, which minimizes the impact to their model. Product costs and assumed labor rates are pre-COVID at best, perhaps pre-21st century is more accurate. PHCC has again made comments to reflect these and many other concerns, in some respects, also speaking up for its members' clients. Consumers are the un-represented voice in this; most clients will first find out about these changes when they are given a quote or bill for work to be done.

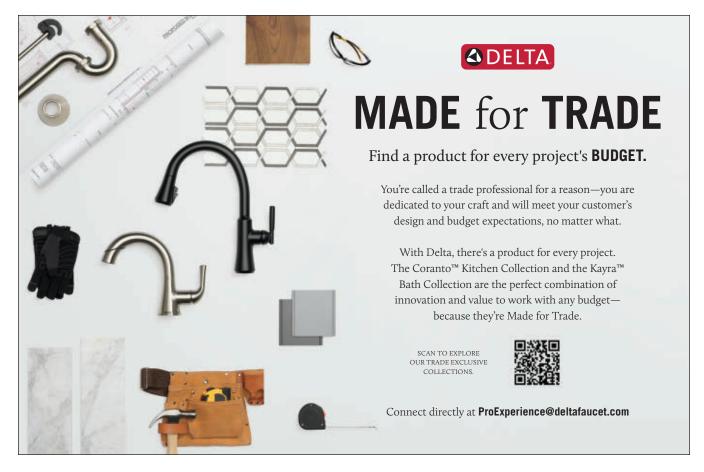
Lastly, one has to wonder why this has taken so long. DOE admits they are well behind schedule; perhaps some blame lies with the last administration's opposition to regulations, but some of these issues are older than that. These rules have been argued for a long time; the economic numbers would not work before, and the problems were considered real.

If the rationale were a slam dunk, this would have been done long ago. Product and material prices have not gone down; labor costs have not gone down; and, over the last 10+ years (with the exception of recent global volatility), energy prices have been relatively stable. The factors that support the economic model have not changed for the better; the only thing that *has* changed is the goal of the administration.

And, by the way, while not on an official docket yet, residential gas water heater rules are next. \bullet

Charles "Chuck" R. White serves as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for PHCC—National Association. White works closely with government regulatory bodies, such as the DOE, and serves on a number of councils and coalitions including NSPC, PERC, ABPA and IAPMO as a representative of PHCC's contractors.







CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

BY JOHN ZINK FOUNDATION VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

THE PHCC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DELIVERS ON THE VISION AND MISSION OF ITS FOUNDERS MORE THAN THREE DECADES AGO ... AND BUILDS ON ITS REPUTATION FOR STAYING RELEVANT AND ANTICIPATING THE CAREER NEEDS OF GENERATIONS TO COME.



t was 1987 when a group of PHCC contractor leaders got together to build the new Educational Foundation. With the help of manufacturer partners, they rolled up their sleeves to raise funds and develop resources focused on business management, marketing, and finance topics. In time, they added workforce development projects, apprentice education, technical training, and scholarships.

That group realized then what we still know today – that "we can accomplish so much more *together* than as individuals," says Craig Lewis, president of R.E.C. Industries in Texas and past chairman of the PHCC Educational Foundation.

And in the 35 years since, countless Foundation donors, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and other partners have rallied together to successfully carry out the mission of providing innovative educational training to enhance the success of the plumbing and HVACR workforce.

"Our industry exists to provide clean water, sanitary plumbing systems, and environmentally safe and economical air conditioning systems to the American people," says Lewis. "The Foundation plays a vital role in providing training programs that enable the workforce and the contractors to meet those goals."

Launching Careers

Recognizing that protecting the industry starts with building the careers of promising p-h-c professionals, the Educational Foundation has been a long-time sponsor of the SkillsUSA Plumbing Championship, as well as host of its own National Plumbing and HVAC Contests. Lewis credits the success of these events to the generous donations of time, materials, and money from manufacturers, as well as meticulous planning by our contractor members, Foundation staff, and industry partners. "Success is achieved when you see so many young people passionately competing at a high level during these contests," says Lewis.

Anticipating Needs

With brilliant vision – and the power of constructive collaboration – the Foundation began to focus on online training and launched its PHCC Academy management system in 2017 during the time of Lewis' term as chairman. "Our Foundation staff, all the members on our Foundation Board, and the great collaboration with our PHCC—National association ... all of these players brought ideas forward," says Lewis. "These ideas were debated, and then a plan was agreed upon and put in place. Everyone worked together for the betterment of our industry and adapted to the changes that were placed in front of us."

Of course, these moves were quite prophetic, as the Foundation was well-positioned to continue delivering educational content when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020. Closure of many brick-and-mortar apprenticeship schools greatly accelerated adoption of the Foundation's online training offerings.

Building Relationships

Lewis is quick to credit Foundation staff with effectively collaborating with PHCC state chapters and contractor members on how the Foundation can best meet their needs. "If this industry has taken care of you and you care about the future of the plumbing and HVACR profession, you have an obligation to plant the seeds for the next generation. Whatever you can give in time or money, you will be rewarded many times over. It sounds cliché, but it's true."

~ Craig Lewis

RUST THE

For example, he says, when the Foundation was aiming to launch its online apprenticeship program, its staff initiated and engaged in considerable dialogue with contractor members and state executives, addressing questions and concerns such as how the program would be funded and how the scoring would be completed. The Foundation also suggested that each company have a mentor to monitor the progress of the students to ensure they were successful. Today, the Foundation has trained more than 4,500 students and professionals through an expanded program of online opportunities!

Continuing to Meet the Challenge

In 2020, the Foundation signed the Pledge to America's Workers at The White House, committing to expand programs that educate, train, and reskill American workers. It set a goal of training 75,000 apprentices in the following five years through the Foundation's curriculum, textbooks, and PHCC chapter training partners.

"I think the Foundation's biggest accomplishments in meeting the workforce challenge are providing tools that contractors can use locally to encourage high schools to implement training programs as well as to establish their own plumbing and HVAC apprenticeship programs," says Lewis.

"The Foundation has developed and updated our DOLapproved plumbing and HVAC programs every year for many years," he adds, "and is currently in the process of completely rewriting the HVAC curriculum." He explains that – in recent years – the Foundation has added several programs, including a Fast Track to Service Plumbing course, a new Plumbing Pre-Apprentice training course, and Plumbing Assessment Tests that employers can use to gauge the plumbing knowledge of

QSC is ALL About ... COLLABORATION



QSC provides PHCC members numerous opportunities for collaborative interaction and the exchange of service and repair best practices.

Combined with the community feel that QSC provides, the QSC Power Meeting 2022 **"Under the Sea" Sand-Sculpting Contest champions** will attest that none of them could have created their winning masterpiece by themselves. Collaboration was key to their bringing home the gold (and bragging rights)!

QSC Power Meeting 2022 Sand-Sculpting Contest Winning Team

Plan to collaborate with PHCC and QSC cohorts at **Power Meeting 2023** in the "Heart of the Bluegrass," Lexington, Kentucky, **March 28-31**, and take advantage of many more peer-to-peer interactions.

QUESTIONS? Contact Dave Chic, QSC Program Director, Quality Service Contractors (QSC), at chic@naphcc.org.

prospective employees or improve a current employee's skillset by identifying areas where they have knowledge gaps.

Lewis praises Kevin Tindall, the Foundation's current chairman, and the Foundation Board with "anticipating what programs need to be provided so our contractors and their employees can be successful ...and then *funding* those programs." He adds: "We have to continue to stay ahead of the curve by asking our contractor members, our manufacturers, and other industry leaders what challenges they foresee and how we can provide training solutions for those challenges."

Paying It Forward

"I have realized personal satisfaction from seeing men and women develop a skill that enables them to take pride in their work and provide a good means to take care of their family and give back to society," Lewis says. "This industry has provided so many blessings to my family and me, and the small part that I have been able to contribute has helped me to pay it forward to others in our industry."

His message to potential Foundation donors and volunteers: "If this industry has taken care of you and you care about the future of the plumbing and HVACR profession, you have an obligation to plant the seeds for the next generation. Whatever you can give in time or money, you will be rewarded many times over. It sounds cliché, but it's true." ●

John Zink is Vice President of Development and Communications with the PHCC Educational Foundation. In addition, he organizes the Foundation's management workshops, scholarship program and PHCC chapter seminar partnerships. For 25 years at PHCC, he has enjoyed helping business owners, employees and apprentices improve their skills and find their path to success.

Get Involved. It Feels Good!

Constructive Collaboration

We at the PHCC Educational Foundation can't wait to see you at CONNECT, Oct. 5-7, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- Attend Our Foundation Board Meeting. PHCC members are welcome to sit in and learn about the Foundation's current and upcoming programs.
- Cheer on Our Apprentices! Come see the nation's best plumbing and HVAC apprentices compete for top honors during our National Apprentice Contests on the tradeshow floor.
- Make a Gift. During CONNECT, we'll be making a final push to reach our goal for our 2022 Invest in Your Future Campaign. Make a donation from your phone during our awards luncheon or visit **phccfoundation.org/invest** today. Thank you!





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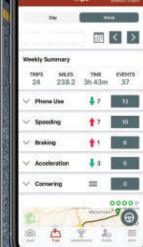
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LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER (IT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY!)



ou've likely noticed that PHCC—National recently asked members to go online and update your **PHCC Membership Profile**. Several hundred members have taken a minute to do that, while others with good intentions set aside the task until later (and then it likely doesn't happen). So, why care about this request at all?

PHCC's vision is that "PHCC will become so relevant that PHCC contractors are the best choice for professionalism, reliable products, and knowledgeable service." Collecting and maintaining accurate membership profiles is all about getting to know you better ... to better serve you with relevant and timely products, services, and business intelligence that save your company money and drive you to thrive. Comparing and contrasting your business demographics allows PHCC to benchmark collective results against industry best practices to answer age-old questions like "how am I doing compared to my competition?" and "what can I do better?"

Rest assured that any findings from PHCC profiles or surveys that are shared – and any reports that are run – are performed in aggregate, and no contractor's individual data is ever shared or identified.

Rightsizing Costs for Your Business

Mark Twain once wrote that, "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so." Members are eager to assess their own allocation of assets against their peer network to ensure they are minimizing costs and maximizing quality, safety, and on-time performance while achieving the highest profits. Given the current economic, legislative, and regulatory environment that is only adding costs of doing business, PHCC can provide analysis of PHCC member-fed business demographics that offer general context and best practices for potentially rightsizing costs for your business.

By increasing the number of updated membership profiles, PHCC contractors can, for example, compare themselves to key performance indicators (KPIs) like annual sales volume by region, number of employees, and annual sales *continued on page 48*

PHCC National Membership Benefits

Here's what you need to know.

Whether you hold membership through our Federation model (local, state and national) or if you are a direct member of PHCC-National, we offer everything you need to strengthen your business and educate your employees. PHCC has 39 state chapters* and 127 local chapters throughout the United States. Engagement opportunities are here for you — just plug in!

ADVOCACY

- Federal legislative and regulatory representation
- State and local legislative and regulatory assistance
- State legislative and regulatory online tracking tool
- · Representation on code bodies and industry coalitions
- · Reinforcement of industry standards that protect public health and safety
- Annual legislative conference
- · Alerts on laws, regulations and code changes
- Grassroots network
- PAC activities

WORKFORCE & PROFESSIONAL 응용 DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

- · Free monthly webinars for members
- PHCCCONNECT annual conference and tradeshow offering tailored P-H-C education
- · Face-to-face learning opportunities
- PHCC career center and job board
- · Career and job fair materials



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PHCC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

- Plumbing and HVACR apprentice training
- Plumbing and HVACR Workforce Readiness course
- Plumbing Pre-Apprentice course
- Fast Track to Service Plumbing course
- · Foremen workshop
- Assessment tests
- · Essentials of Project Management class
- · Plumbing and HVAC apprentice contest
- Scholarships

BEST PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION **& NETWORKING**

- PHCCCONNECT annual conference and tradeshow
- · Safety and risk management tools
- · Access to subject matter experts
- PHCC water supply calculator app
- · Monthly electronic newsletters
- · Award winning magazine Solutions
- PHCC contractor online directory
- PHCC Online Buyer's Guide
- Online member communities
- State and local chapter events, education. publications and engagement

SAVINGS & DISCOUNTS

- · PHCC industry partnerships with manufacturers and product providers to the P-H-C trade
- events and services

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

- Regular PHCC members-only business intelligence reports and insights, forward-facing statistics
- Monthly Insta-Intel report
- Quarterly Competitive Edge report

CONSUMER AWARENESS

- Find A Contractor online directory
- Branded PHCC outreach

ENHANCED SERVICE GROUPS (ESG)

- Quality Service Contractors (QSC)
 - » Offers guidance, education and the resources needed to operate your business more efficiently. Business coaching, custom designed training and networking opportunities bring PHC service and repair professionals together.
- » Annual Power Meeting
- Construction Contractors' Alliance (CCA)
- » Provides contractors with a means to find solutions to the many issues new construction contractors face. CCA serves PHCC's plumbing and mechanical contractors specializing in residential. industrial, commercial and institutional new construction.
- Union-Affiliated Contractors (UAC)
 - » Resource for PHCC members who operate under a union, this group is focused on providing online resources and communities to offer greater assistance and communication with each other.
- PHCC–National Auxiliary
 - » Women and men with the purpose of working in partnership with the plumbing, heating and cooling industry through scholarships, education, and industry support. They are comprised of individuals who have a wide variety of backgrounds. The common denominator, however, is an interest in the P-H-C industry.

PHCC MEMBERS

Ask a colleague to join PHCC!

FALL SPECIALS on PHCC membership **AVAILABLE NOW!**

phccweb.org/membership



PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION Best People. Best Practices:

*States with no PHCC chapter receive direct benefits from PHCC National only

- PHCC Labor Unit Database subscription
- · Members-only discounts on programs,

PHCC membership pays for itself. Just plug in!

Member Savings and Discounts

- Aramark: 25% discount on uniforms.
- Code Books: Discounts vary by chapter.
- · ConsensusDocs: 20% discount on subscriptions to standard construction contracts.
- · Exxon/Mobil: 5 cent savings per gallon of gas using Fleet National card.
- Home Depot Pro and HD Supply: Two "Preferred Partner" programs with substantial savings for PHCC members: Home Depot Pro for retail and Home Depot Supply for wholesale.
- · Labor Unit Database: 30-day free trial and \$100 discount off subscription renewal.
- Market Hardware: Free consultation and discount on web sites and marketing services.
- Monthly Webinars: \$360 value (\$35/ea. for non-members).
- PHCCCONNECT Conference and Tradeshow: \$100 discount off each member registration.
- Solutions magazine subscription: \$30 value
- Time Communications: Discounted monthly rate on call management systems.
- Pink Callers: Access to an administrative support solution that assigns customer service reps to support home service business remotely.
- Plumbing and HVACR Apprentice eLearning Programs: Discounts vary by chapter.
- Plumbing and HVACR Textbooks: Up to 25% discount through your chapter.
- US Bank: Eligible for a 15-minute consultation to discuss how your business expenses can become opportunities to increase cash flow, lengthen operating cycle, and earn more rewards.
- · Who's Who Directory: Contact information for your fellow PHCC members across the nation. Free to PHCC members; \$75 non-member

FALL MEMBERSHIP

• @PHCCNational

Resources for Members



Plumbing and HVACR Workforce Readiness: Online course provides individuals with an

introduction to working in the plumbingheating-cooling industry.



TechLine: Expert advice on code questions and clarifications.

Safety Program Builder: Available from Federated Insurance, allows contractors to customize efforts that illustrate your commitment to ensuring safety in your workplace.



Overhead and Profit Calculator: This simple software tool helps business owners calculate their real costs and find the right selling price for their company.



PHCC Water Supply Calculator App: Offers a single resource to determine water supply fixture units and minimum fixture branch sizes for

common plumbing fixtures, typical pressure drops in water meters, equivalent lengths of fittings, and more.



Multi-Employer 401(k) Retirement Program: PHCC members can choose among several 401(k) retirement program options offered

by Lincoln Financial Group through Certified Financial Services.



Publications: Members receive Solutions magazine, PHCC Online and the PHCC Advocate newsletter, chock full of valuable news and

information to help run your business and stay current on industry legislation and regulations.

PHCC National Membership Options:

Contractor: A plumbing, heating, cooling/ refrigeration business seeking to access the Best People and Best Practices in the industry. Plug into a powerful network of great people, valuable resources, best practices, advocacy, and education and training.

State and local dues are collected at the state level for active state PHCC chapters. This is a federation model membership organization. If not state chapter, this is the only amount you owe annually. Visit phccweb.org/chapters/ to find your state chapter.

\$538 annually

\$269 annually (new member, 1st year*) \$403.50 annually (new member, 2nd year*)

Note: State and local dues where applicable. You must be a member of PHCC National to belong to any state or local PHCC.

Industry Associate: Business that support the plumbing, heating, cooling/refrigeration contracting industry. Gain visibility among leading p-h-c contractors around the country. Membership, advertising and sponsorship opportunities will be offered to access the decision makers in our industry. Manufacturers, distributors and vendors encompass this membership group.

\$2,000 annually**

Educational Associate: An instructor teaching in a plumbing and or HVACR program. \$29 annually**

Quality Service Contractor:

\$10,200 annually (Premium Coaching) \$4.200 annually (Pro Coaching) \$4.052 annually (Associate)

An active PHCC national Contractor or Associate membership is required.

Union-Affiliated Contractors:

\$240 annually**

National Auxiliary:

\$100 annually** \$50 annually (Senior 65+)

Retired: \$33 annually**

Student/Apprentice: Actively enrolled in a plumbing and/or HVACR program/school. Free

*First-time PHCC member. **PHCC National membership only.

CONTACT US: 800-533-7694 | membership@naphcc.org | phccweb.org | phccfoundation.org

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per technician – as reported by fellow PHCC plumbing and HVAC contractors – and know the data is valid (accurate) and reliable (reproducible). PHCC members can then challenge current assumptions about what is working for them by benchmarking against up-todate data, talking to customers and employees, comparing the organization against competitors, talking to accounting experts, and then determining the changes needed now to ensure continued success.

More targeted PHCC surveys will be sent eventually from the PHCC Business Intelligence Team to collect data about other KPIs like wage, benefit, and health insurance costs among PHCC plumbing and HVAC contractors in various parts of the country; employer costs per employee; and average service recalls and warranty claims, to name a few, and compare that information to member demographics to determine opportunities to share best practices. Check out some of those industry benchmarks that were provided in the 1st edition of PHCC's *Competitive Edge Quarterly Report* this spring.

Ensuring You Have a 'Trusted Source'

More than 92% of PHCC members agree that "PHCC is a trusted source for the news, information, and resources I need." For PHCC to identify shifting industry patterns that can cause a redistribution of market share, it will, in part, need PHCC membership profiles to be updated regularly. Realtime demographic data will strengthen PHCC's value to members by providing relevant and timely research, industry and economic trends, and regular forecasts to help members stay ahead of their competitors, and thereby position them as the Contractor-of-Choice in an everchanging and highly competitive built environment.

It's a bit of a cliché, but it's true – you can help us help you! And in doing so, as

John F. Kennedy once noted, "a rising tide lifts all boats." ●



For more information about the PHCC Business Intelligence Team, check out

phccweb.org/business-intelligence.

Take the Time

Please take a moment to "Log In" to **phccweb.org** (found in the upper left-hand corner of the home page) and click on "My PHCC Profile" to update your confidential company information. If you need help, please reach out to **customercare@naphcc.org** or call

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PHCC CHAPTERS WORKING TOGETHER (AND PLAYING TOGETHER!) FOR COMMON GOOD



PHCC of Tennessee President Gordy Noe (owner of Pioneer Heating & Air in Knoxville) and other axe-throwing champions from the state pose with the Zone 2A Challenge trophy at the 2020 competition, hosted by PHCC of Georgia.

here's some friendly debate among the chapters in PHCC's "Zone 2A" about which state in the south is "the best." These states – Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina – are big on bragging rights, and currently, Tennessee is the reigning "Zone 2A Champion" (a trophy awarded to the winner of the group's annual Challenge), thanks in part to some stellar axe throwing skills by PHCC of Tennessee President Gordy Noe!

All kidding (and games) aside, though, these chapters are each other's biggest supporters – personally and professionally – and their collaborative efforts have resulted in valuable resources and benefits for their respective members.

A Decade of Collaboration

PHCC of Tennessee Executive Director Beth Killen says the chapter's close connection with its neighboring state chapters started in 2012, when the first sub-zone meeting was held in Chattanooga after the then Zone Director (PHCC—National Past President Chip Greene) and the Tennessee Chapter's board members thought it would be a good idea to network, collaborate, and expand the collective knowledge of the state chapters and their executives within the Zone.

Since then, this annual event rotates among the chapters. "The planning is a cooperative process," says Killen, with the host state executive working out details for lodging, events, sponsors, and more. "The Zone director approves the agenda, which includes a group education and sharing session, sponsor sessions, and a meeting specifically for the state executive directors."

"In my opinion, the 'Power of the PHCC' is in the people that are involved and your interactions with them."

~ Beth Killen

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While the pandemic prohibited the Zone 2A Challenge in 2021, PHCC of Tennessee claimed victory in 2020 and again this year. "We will have the trophy engraved with '2022 – Tennessee AGAIN!," says Executive Director Beth Killen.

In addition, this group holds monthly Zoom meetings set up by the executive director of the current Zone director's state.

The Zone 2A Challenge

Knowing that PHCC's members are so passionate about what they do professionally, Killen says it's important to make "fun" part of the mix! With that, the Zone's annual meeting also includes the "Zone 2A Challenge," offering a range of Olympic-style contests that have included clay shooting, adult Jenga, trivia contests, bowling, laser tag, archery, axe throwing, and ping pong. "The competition is fierce, along with the bragging rights," says Killen. While the pandemic prohibited an event in 2021, Tennessee proudly hoisted the trophy this year.

Professional Wins

Big believers in sharing lessons learned and successful programs with other PHCC chapters, PHCC of Tennessee not only has grown its own Ride and Decide program – which pairs students ages 16 and up with contractors to get a "taste of the trades" while working a paid position during their summer breaks – but has helped other chapters start similar programs, in addition to presenting on the program at PHCC's annual CONNECT conference.

Likewise, PHCC of Georgia has launched a safety recognition program – R.O.P.E.S. – which not only recognizes member companies' exemplary safety procedures but helps members create, develop, and *improve* their safety culture. Georgia



Michael Vance, PHCC of Tennessee member and owner of Advanced Heat Pump Systems in Johnson City, tries to correct his bad move and win the Jenga competition during the Zone 2A Challenge.

is in the second year of recognizing contractors, and its safety committee actively works with business owners on improving safety standards within their companies. In the spirit of sharing, Georgia has encouraged other chapters in its Zone to adopt the program, and both Georgia and PHCC of North Carolina already are receiving positive feedback and using the program as a member benefit.

Among its other accomplishments, PHCC of Tennessee has grown a highly successful hybrid apprenticeship program, fulfilling its vision of running four-year, DOL-certified programs out of its own brick-and-mortar school with a lab and classrooms, as well as offering online options. While this is a Tennessee program, the chapter has shared its progress and components – including a mobile trailer with teaching labs and hands-on activities – with the other states in its Zone. "Lessons learned are always shared, whether in person at an event or with a simple phone call," says Killen

Of course, as Killen explains, so many of the benefits of the constructive collaboration among these chapters are "indirect." For example, when she was searching for a "new idea" for her annual trade show, communication with fellow Executive Director Ellen Whitaker from PHCC of Georgia resulted in a successful outdoor tailgate event instead of Tennessee's traditional indoor booth event. "You never know until you meet what type of information will be shared," says Killen. "When we have the golden opportunity to combine the annual event with our individual state board meetings, the knowledge and networking at the events is priceless among the attendees."

The Power of PHCC

"In my opinion, the 'Power of the PHCC' is in the people that are involved and your interactions with them," adds Killen. She encourages other PHCC Zones to collaborate with each other and offers that any of the chapter executives in her Zone would be "more than willing to share our process" and help members share this worthwhile experience.

"Whether it be a Zone meeting, chapter meeting, or board meeting, the relationships that are built can't be duplicated and are the essence of why the association matters and will always be singular and essential," she says. ●

Chapter Executives: See You at CONNECT!

What better place than at PHCCCONNECT2022 for you to network with other chapter executives – especially those from your neighboring states – and discuss how you, too, can collaborate on resources and events for mutual benefit? We can't wait to see you, Oct. 5-7, in Charlotte, North Carolina!



CALENDAR OF KEY PHCC EVENTS

(as of July 25, 2022)

PHCCCONNECT2022 Oct. 5 - 7, 2022

Charlotte, North Carolina

QSC Power Meeting 2023 March 28 - 31, 2023 Lexington, Kentucky **PHCC Legislative Conference** May 23 - 24, 2023 Washington, D.C.

PHCCCONNECT2023 Oct. 25 - 27, 2023 Cleveland, Ohio

FOR THE FULL LIST OF EVENTS AND STATUS, VISIT **www.phccweb.org/events**



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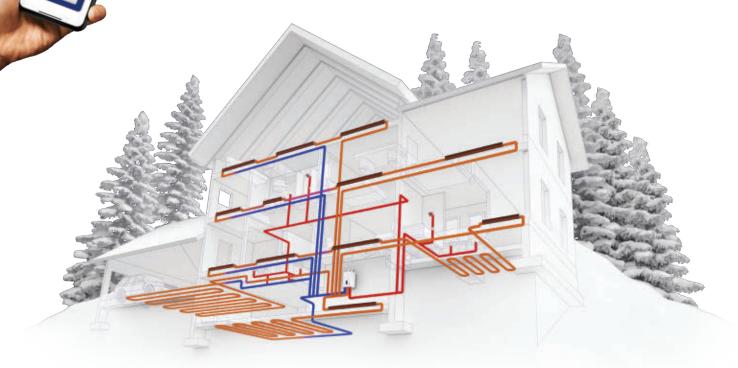
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