



MARCH 2014

BAYOU BLAZE

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Fire Pump Basics—Fire Pump Refresher

Houston SFPE Meeting

6:00 Social
 6:30 PM Meal
 Followed by Meeting

March 19, 2014
 Dooley Tackaberry, Inc.
 1515 W. 13th Street
 Deer Park, TX 77536

Fire Pump Basics

The meeting topic is Fire Pump Basics and will be presented by **Mr. Robert Mueller** with Pentair Flow Technologies, North Aurora, IL. Pentair Flow Technologies brands include Aurora and Fairbanks fire pumps. Robert has 30 years of industrial engineering and management experience including ten years with Pentair as the fire pump systems manager.

Dinner will be provided by Dooley Tackaberry. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Owen at 713-427-3155

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *SFPE Houston Chapter Annual Business Meeting in April 2014*
- *NFPA Conference and EXPO-June 9-2, 2014 in Las Vegas, NV*
- *SFPE Conference & Expo—October 24, 2014 in Long Beach, CA*
- *2014 PE Exam Date set for October 25, 2014*

A Special Note from Your Officers and Executive Committee

If you have new employees, this is a great opportunity for an introduction to fire pumps. Also, for those of us who don't work with fire pumps on a daily basis, this will be a good refresher. For those Licensed Engineers out there, the presentation is meant to be more focused on technical information, not sales; therefore, you can use the time for continuing education credits. For other licensing and certifications; this may be an opportunity for continuing education points as well.

Since this meeting is graciously being hosted by Dooley Tackaberry at their facility in Deer Park, there is also a good chance that we may see an example or two of fire pump installations in production.

Plus, don't forget this is a GREAT networking opportunity. Let's get out, compare notes, and see how others in the Fire Protection Field are doing!



President's Corner

I am very glad to see that the Bayou Blaze is back in circulation and would like to personally thank Debra Miller for taking on the task. I'd like to take this opportunity to address some of the upcoming club business.

Michael Naber, our previous Treasurer, has moved away from Houston. So Amy Flower has been appointed as the Treasurer by the Executive Committee and will be serving in this role through the rest of the term. Also, longtime Executive Committee member Jason Schexnayder had to step down from his role on the Executive Committee due to work conflicts, so there is an open position on the board. We have had a few nominations and we are currently going through the process of replacing him.

We have had a few good meetings previously and I would like to continue the trend. You may have noticed that some months we have not had a meeting and I would like to take the opportunity to explain the reasoning. We always try to provide useful and novel presentations at our meetings, and while we have had offers for presentations for meetings, oftentimes they are not terribly relevant to the organization or are about a topic we have already had recently. We currently have the March and April meetings planned, but still have openings for May and June. If you know someone who would like to present and/or host a future SFPE meeting, please let me know.

Finally, we are looking at making some updates to the bylaws to reflect changes in technology over the past few years, namely the new website. The Officers and Executive Committee are currently working on drawing up these changes, which will be put to a vote sometime soon. Full members of SFPE Houston will be notified about these potential changes and asked to vote on the changes.

I think we have improved our organization over the first year of my Presidential term, but I would like to continue improvements through the remainder of my term and the next President's, whoever he or she may be. If you have any commentary, advice, or questions about our organization and the way it is run; please don't hesitate to email me at president@sfpehouston.org.

Will Clay

Will Clay
SFPE Houston
Chapter President



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2013 SFPE Conference & Expo A Success

The SFPE Houston Chapter served as one of the co-hosting Texas Chapters for the 2013 SFPE Conference and Expo that was held in Austin, Texas October 28-30th. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with other SFPE members throughout the world.

Your Houston Chapter was well represented during all of the functions associated with the Conference and Expo. Several of the Officers attended the Senate meetings that were held the Sunday before the Conference seminars. Some of the items discussed within the Senate meeting included:

- Free webinars for SFPE Members only
- SFPE support council and a Board of Directors Liaison for each region/Chapter
- Topics and Instructors database
- Electronic forum for Chapter leadership discussion
- Chapter obligations in filing taxes with IRS
- Baseline and metrics for membership growth

The evening of October 29th, there was a wonderful dinner that was co-hosted by the Texas Chapters including the Austin-San Antonio, Dallas-Ft. Worth, and Houston Chapters. We packed the barbeque joint and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

October 30th we co-hosted a day of seminars with the other Texas Chapters (Austin-San Antonio and Dallas-Ft. Worth). This had a great turn-out and the presentations and discussions were informative. The responses from those who attended appeared to be positive.

University of Houston-Downtown Program Dropped

We regret to inform you that our efforts in providing documentation in support of the Fire Protection Engineering Technology program at the University of Houston—Downtown have been unsuccessful. The program is no longer accepting applicants.

Looking for a Few Good Members

The success of the SFPE Houston Chapter in our endeavors to coordinate meetings and share information through our website and email distribution is based on two key elements:

- We rely on YOU are membership to attend our meetings and events that have been scheduled for keeping us all at the forefront of our field and providing networking within our field. And we Thank all of you who have been dedicated enough to attend these functions.
- We rely on a few of our members to step up and assist in the leadership of our SFPE Houston Chapter.

We acknowledge that we're all pretty busy these days. However, networking and remaining at the forefront of Fire Protection are still added to our long lists of things to do.

As our Chapter President noted, we do have a current vacancy on the Executive Committee. This is a great opportunity to increase your presence within our Chapter and directly contribute to the planning and evolution of our Chapter to meet the demands of our membership in the coming months and years.

If you think you might be interested in serving our Chapter in one of the leadership roles, please contact an officer or Executive Committee member.



2014 Membership Renewals and Business Meeting

Well, that time of year is once again fast approaching.....

Thanks to our wonderful website and the extensive work that has been done by the Executive Committee, Officers, and Past Presidents; you should be receiving email notices indicating the need to renew your membership. And as all of you should have noticed by now, you are able to make payments online! This helps you, and it helps the Chapter Treasurer and Secretary!

As a reminder, the Annual Business meeting is held during our April meeting. The Officers and Executive Committee hope to update you all on some of the planning of the Chapter including the by-laws, election of our Chapter Treasurer, updates on the Construction Industry Council (CIC), and our possible interface with schools and universities within our region.

If the membership has any questions or concerns, please contact an Officer or member of the Executive Committee. The SFPE Houston Chapter can not be successful without trying to meet the needs of our membership and for that we need your feedback.

Notes from the Editor

I know it has been a very long time since we have seen a newsletter or communication other than meeting announcements. So, we will try this again maybe starting on a quarterly basis.

Your input would be greatly appreciated.....

First, please let us know if you think a newsletter is of any benefit to you. If not, is there something else we could be doing to make your membership in the SFPE-Houston Chapter worthwhile? If it is of some benefit, please let us know. Feedback is essential. We would prefer not be in a vacuum.

Secondly, is there anything specific you would like to see within the Bayou Blaze? Would you be willing to be a contributor to the Bayou Blaze?

Like you, we are all very busy and would like to see that our time and effort is spent on those things that have higher priorities and have value to our members. You can provide feedback to any one of the Officers or Executive Committee members. Our respective email addresses are noted on page 2 of this newsletter.

One last note, I apologize for any typos, misspelling etc. But I am an engineer and didn't get an opportunity to have this reviewed for quality.

Visit Us at
sfpehouston.org

