

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SWEETHEART SOCIAL

SWEETHEART SOCIAL ATTENDEES ENJOYED a fun filled Saturday night, February 18, beginning with a vast variety of Chinese dishes, although we did pass on trying the fish stomach and pork intestine options. And then it was off to the theater for an adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, which was a delightful comedy and love story. ■

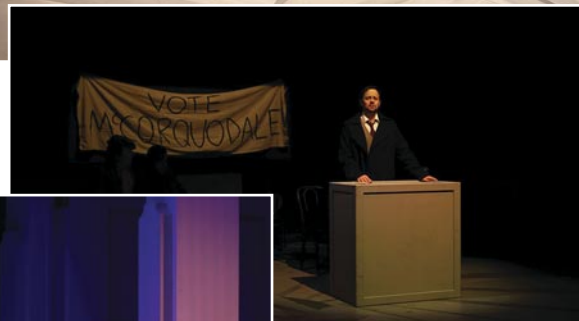
★ Legislative Update ★

THE LEGISLATURE WILL COMPLETE its 45 day session on March 3rd. As of February 21st, there were 832 numbered bills and resolutions introduced, with many bills still needing committee hearings.

For the third year in a row, Legislative Leadership has called this the “Year of the Tax Cut,” with **HB 54**, Tax Revisions, the bill that will include most of the tax relief package, including a reduction in the income tax from the current 4.85% to 4.65%. Also being debated is **SJR 10**, Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution that would remove the earmark on income tax to fund education.

For the Construction Trades, **HB532**, Building Code Revisions was released to the public on Feb. 21st, and adopts the 2021 International Code Council code books with numerous statewide amendments, especially to the IBC. It adopts the commercial provisions of the Energy Efficiency Code, with residential provisions remaining with the 2015 Code.

And **HB409** adopts the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code, with amendments; and certain National Fire Protection Association codes and standards. It also repeals the Tall Wood Buildings of Mass Timber Construction part of the State Construction Code. www.leg.utah.gov is where you can follow all issues of the Utah State Legislature. ★



Scene photos: Jennifer Mustoe,
Frontrowreviewersutah.com



RMGA BOARD BRIEFING JAN & FEB 2023

In January, after a lengthy discussion about RMGA's Journey-worker Accreditation Grandfathering form, it was decided that more clarification was needed about a candidate's "credit hours" and how they learned critical areas of the HVAC industry. The board will review the RMGA Grandfathering Form at our April, in-person meeting.

In February, we discussed the RMGA Home Comfort Study and the problem home in Promontory Utah that was analyzed. A lengthy report was shared with the homeowner and builder, detailing how poorly the duct system was designed and installed. In March, the board will decide how we might expand the program to include additional problem homes.

To assist Technical Colleges instructing HVAC technicians, the board authorized the creation of an electronic Study Guide with embedded assignments and videos for students working on CANVAS. It will be available to all Colleges that maintain RMGA membership, and require their students to each purchase the RMGA Study Guide.

It was announced that RMGA Certification Testing is now available in Evanston, Wyoming, and to be offered at Western Wyoming Community College on the 15th of every month. Similar to testing in Utah, testers will be required to buy a \$100 voucher from RMGA, and pay the testing center a \$50 proctoring fee.

The RMGA website now has a "Bad Installation" Photo Gallery where members can upload photos or comment on previously posted photos. Check it out at:

<https://utrmga.org/bad-hvac-installations-photo-gallery>

The board approved a truck sticker ad campaign, with 5 x 7" stickers that read: **"Certified HVAC Technician On Board"** with **RMGACertified.com** the domain name that re-directs consumer to the RMGA Contractor Member page. Next month, our office will send a few Truck Stickers to our members free of charge, with instructions on how they can request more stickers.

Our next board meeting will be on Zoom Wednesday, March 8th at 11:00 a.m.

The 2023 Education Summit will be on September 13 – mark your calendar! ■

RMGA BOARD MEMBER RETIRES



BRIAN TEMPLIN

Brian Templin, with ESCO Services, announced his retirement from the RMGA board, and the HVAC industry. Brian's involvement, dedication and service to RMGA has been greatly appreciated. Congratulations can be sent to Brian at bwtemplin@gmail.com

Jamie Schumacher
jamie@gunthers.com
801-756-9683 ext 230

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JAMIE SCHUMACHER



Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

In preparation for the start of our residential busy season, I've been reviewing the positions of people in our organization, I have come to realize that one of the mistakes that can easily be made is to assume that just because a person has, for example, 20 years of excellent installation experience, that that person will automatically be able to make the transition from being an amazing technician to being able to manage other people. Not everyone has the same abilities; yes, many can learn. Simply put, success in one area doesn't automatically guarantee success in another area.

In the book Good to Great, Jim Collins explains the importance of not only having the right people on the "bus" but having the right people in the "right seat" on the bus. Take time to meet with your teams, make sure they understand your expectations and that they have the abilities to fulfill those expectations. Success doesn't just happen, "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failing, loyalty, and persistence." — Colin Powell

Best,



WELCOME OUR NEW RMGA MEMBERS:

COMFORT SYSTEMS USA

Don Lindhardt
2035 Milestone Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
801-907-6700
don.lindhart@csusai.com

MR COOL INC.

Brandt Larsen
3024 South 800 East
Preston, ID 83263
208-852-1828
mrcoolheating@hotmail.com

RMGA GAS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

CALL 801.521.8340
OR EMAIL
RMGAUTAH@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER

You can now request registration on the new
RMGA website: <https://utrmga.org/certification>

MAR IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, March 9
Friday, March 10 &
Saturday, March 11
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

MAY IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, May 18
Friday, May 19 &
Saturday, May 20
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

JULY IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, July 13
Friday, July 14 &
Saturday, July 15
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

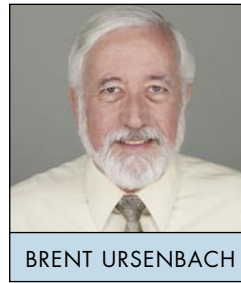
Dominion Energy CTC Room
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

All Certification Classes are \$400. Price includes the RMGA Study Guide, IFGC, online video access, 24 hours of instruction, and 2 attempts at the exam (if necessary). Technicians should attend ALL sessions. In-person attendees should bring lunch or plan to visit a local restaurant during the lunch hour. **Take the Pre-Test to evaluate your readiness for the exam at <https://utrmga.org/pre-test/>**

Partial funding of RMGA training programs has been provided by the Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing from the 1% surcharge funds on all building permits.

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

IRC Chapter 16 – SMACNA HVAC Duct Construction Standards – Metal & Flexible



BRENT URSENBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS
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PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HAVE REVIEWED *ACCA/ANSI Manual D – Residential Duct Systems*, primarily focusing on pressure drops across devices, duct sizing, and fitting design. This discussion will concentrate on installation practices as identified in *SMACNA – HVAC Duct Construction Standard*. In a recent RMGA investigation into complaints of poor airflow in a residential installation, excessive duct leakage was identified as the primary reason airflow at return inlets and supply outlets tested at far below the design volume. With a design airflow of 1000 CFM, duct testing showed actual return CFM measured at 365 CFM and actual supply CFM at 740 CFM. With massive leakage identified at the plenum/trunk connections, the areas around the furnace room are marginally comfortable, but the living space around the perimeter of the home does not heat or cool.

The attached photos identify obvious leaks where the plenum tapped into the bottom of the main trunk. It is painfully obvious why the supply airflow at the registers is poor. Please notice the dirt on top of the coil and in the duct. This is a 6-month-old house, with



the furnace used for construction heat without a properly sized filter.

View looking down into the plenum from above (below):

View from below, facing up, from outside the plenum (right):

Referring to the currently adopted **2015 International Residential Code (IRC), Chapter 16 Section M1601 Duct Construction Subsection M1601.1.1 (3):**

Field-fabricated and shop-fabricated metal and flexible duct constructions shall conform to the SMACNA HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible except as allowed by Table M1601.1.1. Galvanized steel shall conform to ASTM A 653.

As many do not own a copy of SMACNA, the following summarizes several important rectangular duct specifications:

1. All transverse duct joints/connections shall be made with s-cleats or a combination of s and drive cleats.

☛ (Continues top of next page)



2. Where s-cleats are used on all four sides, screws are required within 2" of corners and 12" on centers.
3. Larger ducts, typically commercial, may require standing cleats.
4. Fittings and tap-ins may use clinch/hammerlock connections.
5. Provide flanges for connections to coils, air handlers and other equipment.
6. Seal all connections per SMACNA and the IECC.
7. Listed UL-181 tape is a duct sealer, not a substitute for sheet metal, cleats and fasteners. It is for use after a secure, relatively tight connection has been made. Notice in the second photo where foil tape was spanning ½" to 1" gaps, the tape has failed.
8. Flanged/butted connections such as at plenum to equipment connections should include gaskets and sealers as connections are being made.
9. Refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions for specific equipment requirements.

Watch for future discussion from SMACNA and other standards on duct reinforcement, turning vanes, round ducts, hangers and supports. Of course, your questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Thank You, Brent ■

Looking for a New Opportunity?

Thriving Alaska HVAC Business for Sale

Ketchikan Dray Heating Company, established by owner Greg 48 years ago, is a community staple. We have a dedicated customer base that we serve year after year, an outstanding reputation, and a competent and committed service team. Greg is ready to retire and will entertain all reasonable offers. He is committed to seeing the company succeed into the future and will help the transition as needed. Potential owner financing.

Revenue—\$1M
Cash Flow—\$200K

FFE + Inventory—\$130K
Included in asking price

\$410,000 OBO

Email: greg@ktndray.com

NOT IF, BUT **WHEN**: How to

For any business large or small, the question of facing a cyberattack isn't if — it's when. You should build and design your systems with the thought in mind that it will be as secure as you can make it.

PREVENTION

Having the necessary tools for protecting electronic assets means budgeting for them. Just as technology changes rapidly, so do cybercrime schemes, and out-of-date hardware and software become more vulnerable with time. Have a dedicated tech budget to regularly upgrade hardware and software. A large system upgrade can be an intimidating cost to a small business, but so is a security breach, says John Nedoba, president of Boelcke Heating & Air Condition, based in Stevensville, MI.

After Boelcke Heating & Air Conditioning had been hacked, the company moved to a more secure cloud-based system, says Nedoba.

Service teams are entrusted with sensitive customer data, including credit card



information. Gone are the days of conducting transactions on paper. Boelcke uses company-owned devices, each dedicated to a service truck, for all customer transactions. This ensures customer data is stored and encrypted directly in the company's system.

Ideally, there should be more than one backup, including an off-site backup. A company can quickly access information backed up off-site in the event of a security breach—especially if a cybercriminal attempts to hold company information ransom or deletes it entirely.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

While companies of all sizes are at risk, the larger a company grows,

the bigger a target it becomes.

Staff play an important role in protecting the company. If everyone in the company is thinking about cybersecurity on a day-to-day basis, the business is less likely to become vulnerable through passivity. Alert staff to threats, such as someone receiving a suspicious email.

While insider threats are a small number of all cyberattacks, of those, the highest percentages of insider threats come from ex-employees. A disgruntled former employee has the potential to wreak havoc with a company's system or share confidential information out of revenge. Limit access to sensitive data to only

Prevent and Mitigate Cybercrime*

the necessary staff members and discourage password sharing among staff.

Along with employee turnover, passwords should be changed regularly.

EMAIL PHISHING AND PASSWORD PROTECTION

Phishing schemes—when a cybercriminal uses websites or emails that seem legitimate and reputable but are actually designed to collect personal and or business information to steal money or an identity—are getting more sophisticated.

The best way to catch a fake email is to pay attention and double check. Does anything seem off? Is the logo not right? Does the signature not follow standard format? Does the request seem unusual? Even if the company has strong security in place, if employees access personal accounts on company devices, a phisher may use that as the entry point into the system. Someone who is more vigilant at work may let down their guard in their personal interactions. Additionally, all business should

be handled within the company's email system.

For smaller companies that cannot afford a sophisticated security system, safeguarding email and passwords may be their most important defense, especially if an owner is involved in day-to-day operations and can be easily impersonated online.



RECOVERY

Recovering from a cybercrime is expensive, and having an insurance policy can mitigate some of the financial damage. Just like with any other type of insurance, consider buying what you can afford.

After a cybercrime, a business may need to purchase new

software and hardware or hire an independent forensic investigator or legal counsel.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Neboba recommends monitoring potential changes to local, state and national laws and regulations regarding credit card processing and fraud protection.

A world with cybercrime

seems scary, but following the old adage of *trust, but verify* can go a long way in helping keep your HVAC company safe. ■

** This is an edited reprint of an article by Megan Stolz Rogers published in the November/December issue of ACCA Now (Air Conditioning Contractors of America).*



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MUTUAL COMPANY DIRECT CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES
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ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY NETWORK ANNUITIES

**IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO PROTECT
RMGA MEMBERS**

WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER LIFE AND DISABILITY INCOME
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WORKERS COMPENSATION HIRING PRACTICES
FEDERATED DRIVESAFESM TELEMATICS SOLUTION
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