



Common Ground

April 2, 2007

President's Message

by Tom Lee

What a great year 2007 has started out to be!

The March Dinner meeting was a huge success. Outside of a few Holiday Inn parking issues, due to the many 'park-and-ride' snow birds in the lot, I didn't hear of any complaints. The board will certainly discuss having a repeat meeting there. I thought that the food and the service were very good. But it was the company which I enjoyed the most along with Donn Bellmore's presentation. Thank you, to all of you that took the time out of your very busy schedules to attend and make this Chapter the most successful ESD Chapter in the Association. It is always good to see you and your attendance is very important to the Chapter as a whole.

For those of you that were not able to attend the dinner I would like for you to know that we were honored that afternoon with the attendance of Lisa Pimpinella. Lisa came all the way from Rome, NY, where she performs the many tasks and duties of being our ESD Association's Operation's Manager. Lisa wanted to become a North Central Chapter member and she submitted her dues to become one. Can't say as I blame her. Welcome to our Chapter, Lisa! We are very happy to have you join us.

You won't want miss out on the upcoming training sessions being held in May. There's always more to learn about the control of ESD. I myself may be too old to be taught anything but I'm still planning to attend just in case that it's only a myth about being too old to learn.

And the June 11th meeting will more than likely have another informative technical presentation so mark that day down on your calendars. See you all then, if not before.

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2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

by Tim Jarrett

March 5th

- The Chapter's annual Membership Dinner Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Bloomington, MN
- Technical presentation: "Controlling ESD in Automated Equipment" was presented by Donn Bellmore of Universal Instruments

May 9th & 10th

Program Manager Courses - Holiday Inn Hotel, Bloomington, MN

May 9th - Full Day Class

- "How To's of In-Plant ESD Survey and Evaluation Measurements" presented by Steve Halperin of Stephen Halperin & Associates, Ltd

May 10th - 1/2 Day Class

- "Clean Room Considerations for the Program Manager" presented by Chris Long of IBM

May 10th - 1/2 Day Class

- "Air Ionization: Issues and Answers" presented by Arnie Steinman of MKS, Ion System

June 11th

- Meeting Site: TBD
- Technical presentation – TBD

December 10th

- Meeting Site: TBD
- Technical presentation – TBD

September 10th

- Meeting Site: TBD
- Technical presentation – TBD

Additional meeting details will follow via e-mail announcements. If you are not on the chapter's list, please contact Tim Jarrett [tim.jarrett@guidant.com]

We also strongly encourage all chapter members to consider hosting a future meeting. In addition, if you have a static related control topic you'd like the local board to cover during a future meeting, please contact Tim Jarrett.

Membership

by Bernie Reiland

Our membership is 52 at this time. A pretty good start for the year. Seventeen members from 2006 have not renewed. Maybe changed jobs or something.

We welcome four new members:

- John Auger / Celestica,
- Douglas Pletcher / Barger Packaging
- Dean Hedstrom / Aetrium
- Lisa Pimpinella / ESDA Headquarters

Rosemount Aerospace leads the way with seven members from one company. We had 27 members renew with credit cards. We will close the credit card transaction down on March 30. Thanks everyone for their support.

Secretary's Report

by Kevin Duncan

The North Central Chapter of the ESD Association held its annual ESD Chapter Dinner Meeting on March 5th, at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington, MN.

Membership registration was held from 4:00 to 4:45 pm.

At 4:45 pm, the meeting was called to order.

After a brief introduction and a welcome to visitors, Chapter President, Tom Lee, called the business part of the meeting to order and asked for the following Officer Reports:

Membership Report: Bernie Reiland reported that the Chapter had 45 registered members. Chapter dues will be able to be paid by credit card until April 1, 2007.

Treasure's Report: Jack Chandler, Chapter Treasurer presented the 2006 budget. Jack also reported the Board of Directors had decided to move our savings account to another account that would return more interest. This may allow us to invite one more guest speaker per year.

Tim Jarrett, Program Chairperson, presented information on the upcoming ESD Program Manager Education opportunity, Co-sponsored by the ESD Association and the ESDA North Central Chapter. The education opportunity will be held on May 9th-10th at the Holiday Inn, Bloomington, MN. The courses offered are: How To's of In-Plant ESD Survey and Evaluation Measurements, Clean Room Considerations for the Program Manager and Air Ionization: Issues and Answers. These three courses are part of the ten course pre-requisite needed for ESD Program Manager Certification offered by the ESD Association.

Tim also reported for the National Delegate, sharing information that the new version of ANSI/ESD S20.20-2007 would soon be released for a free download at www.ESDA.org.

Tom then requested any other new business.

The Chapter recognized Jeff Salisbury for his years of service as Chapter President. Tom Lee presented Jeff with a gift certificate, as a token of the Chapter's appreciation.

At 5:30 pm, Program Chairperson, Tim Jarrett introduced our guest speaker, Donn Bellmore of Universal Instruments. Don presented, "Controlling ESD in Automated Handling Equipment (AHE)".

Donn's presentation covered such topics as: Before AHE Standards, Device and Assembly Damage, ESD & Decreased AHE Performance, Proper Grounding for Applications and Proper Materials for Applications. Donn's presentation was well received.

At 6:30 pm, Dinner was served.

Web Site / Newsletter Editor

by Tom Lee

The Chapter President has asked me to include some pertinent information regarding the newsletter. That, plus the newsletter editor wanted to fill up some space.

If we go back 20 years, when our Chapter began, there were zero web sites and electronic mail, better know as e-mail, was very limited. In those early years of our Chapter many of you may recall getting a "hard copy" of the newsletter mailed to you through the U.S. Postal Service. One of the main purposes of that newsletter, during those "pre e-mail days", was to inform our Chapter members when and where the next Chapter meeting was to take place. The goal of the newsletter editor at that time was to get the newsletter "snail-mailed" out to the members no less than two weeks prior to any upcoming Chapter meeting.

Well I like to think that because of all of your efforts to control ESD in your workplaces, the electronics industry really took off and the numerous inventions which came along because of that, things like e-mail and web sites, quickly became a necessity for organizations such as ours.

Our Chapter is currently putting to use those great new forms of communication. You, as a present or past Chapter member, are getting notified electronically of each upcoming meeting by our Program Chairperson. So this puts the purpose of the newsletter, to be used as a meeting notification communiqué, somewhat out-of-date.

The Chapter's board members continue to see value in the newsletter but the newsletter has now evolved into a somewhat different role. By delivering the newsletter to you closer to a previous Chapter meeting rather than closer to an upcoming meeting, you, as a dues-paying Chapter member, can come up-to-speed on any new business meeting items or current events much quicker than waiting until just before the next meeting.

Let's say you were very unfortunate in being unable to attend the last meeting. Well, now you're able to find out what you missed out on a whole lot sooner.