

Western Regional Boiler Association

Meeting Minutes

March 16-18, 2010 Conference

Waterfront Marriott Hotel

Seattle, Washington

Opening

The 42nd annual conference of the Western Regional Boiler Association (WRBA) was called to order at 12:15 pm, March 15, 2010 by this year's conference Chairman Robin Styers. Robin began the meeting by welcoming this year's attendees and expressing his gratitude for the attendees and vendors participation and support. Robin reiterated the benefits of belonging to the organization in regards to the opportunities for members to meet and share experiences with other individuals involved in the boiler industry. Robin introduced the association's steering committee members. The attending membership and vendors were, also, introduced. Robin advised the attendees that this evening's dinner would be limited to "members only". Robin also advised that sign-ups for Boeing Field tour would be limited to 140 persons.

The following is a list of the presentations and presenters at this year's conference. Details of each presentation are available on the WRBA website.

Tuesday, March 16th

Presentation 1: Nationwide Boiler/Russ Rubago

[Pre-planning for installation of a temporary or emergency boiler](#)

Presentation 2: GE Energy-Environmental Services/Jake Shelton

[Power Wave Acoustic Cleaning](#)

Presentation 3: College of the Siskiyous/Ross Stevenson

[Power Generation Technology Program](#)

Presentation 4: Detroit Stoker/Bob Morrow

[New Technologies and Boiler Performance Improvement](#)

Presentation 5: STI Cems Services/Wade Day

[Specifying and installing a CEMS based on permit requirements](#)

Presentation 6: Fuel Tech Inc./Mark Sylvester

[Improving Fireside Heat Transfer](#)

Steering Committee meeting was held from 5:15-6:15 PM. The Steering Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow was postponed until the end of the conference.

After the Steering Committee meeting, members joined a well attended reception with the association members and the vendors enjoying no-host cocktails and the opportunity to establish contacts, meet new members and catch up with each other since last year. The “members only” dinner was served after the reception. Food was excellent.

Wednesday, March 17th

Wednesday began with a well-prepared buffet breakfast and time to visit the Vendor display area. Robin called the meeting to order and reminded attendees to visit the Vendor area during the breaks. Robin reminded attendees about the tour(s) schedule for the afternoon. Robin introduced the day’s first presentation.

Presentation 7: Process Baron/Ken Nolen and Allen Ray
[Optimize your mechanical draft fans and boiler draft systems](#)

Presentation 8: Dresser-Rand/Jim Nixon
Trip throttle 101/Improvements and upgrades

Presentation 9: Carlson Small Power Consultants/Bill Carlson
[Status and opportunities in the electrical generation industry](#)

Presentation 10: Bay Valve Service Inc./Steve Teeter
[Safety valves-EVE, repair rebuild and performance specifications](#)

Presentation 11: The Avogadro Group, LLC/Craig Thiry
[Carbon credits and new air regulations, affects on your plant](#)

Tours were available to all attendees this afternoon for Seattle Steam Plant and/or Dresser Rand Valve shop. The tour to Seattle Steam Plant garnered the most attention. The tour was very interesting in that the plant was recently converted to “biomass” and was, significantly, changed from prior operations. It was very interesting to see how the logistics of a “biomass” plant in downtown Seattle were overcome. Thanks to the operations staff for putting up with the crowd.

After the tour(s), attendees boarded buses for, what turned out to be, an exceptional event at the Boeing Field Museum of Flight. Attendees were afforded the opportunity to tour the World War I and World War II exhibits including interactive simulators. I should mention here, from what I witnessed of our folks on the simulators, that we are, extremely, fortunate that we weren’t flying back then. Seriously though, this was a fascinating look back at some, absolutely, amazing and unique aspects of aviation history. A superb dinner was served at tables placed in and around the World War II exhibit. This was a very successful and well-received event.

Thursday, March 18th

Thursday began with another great breakfast and time to meet with each other and visit with the vendors. Robin called the meeting to order and announced that the Steering Committee meeting would be held at the end of the conference. Robin pre-empted the day's first presentation by introducing Kristen Webster from Washington State University who presented information related to incentive funds available for qualifying energy efficiency projects. Eligible projects include those with energy and cost savings in steam, process heat, compressed air, pumps, fans, motors, lighting or other industrial processes. Resources and funding are available through the WSU Extension Energy Program. To find out if your project qualifies or for further information contact Chris Love at (360) 956-2172 or lovec@energy.wsu.edu. Robin then introduced the first presentation.

Presentation 12: NALCO/John Zorra
[Kiln performance improvement via water treatment](#)

Presentation 13: Weschem Inc./Mark Plafcan
[Zero blowdown cooling tower operation](#)

Presentation 14: Matrix Northwest Inc./Paul Ballard
[System performance benefits from permanent venturi steam traps](#)

Presentation 15: Superheat FGH/Gary Lewis
[Cost savings and performance improvements in field heat treatment of critical components](#)

Presentations 16a-16b: Haldor Topsoe-FERCo/Wayne Jones and Larry Muzio
[FERCo - SNCR Performance and Optimization Wood Fired Boilers](#)
[Haldor Topsoe - Operating Experience with SCR Firing Biomass Fuels](#)

After the final presentation, various Vendors held raffles for prizes to show their appreciation to the attendees. The Association's grand prize raffle was held and John Gardner from Sierra Pacific Industries was the winner of a nice five piece, 18 volt, power tool set. Robin expressed the Associations gratitude to all the Vendors and attendees for their participation and support and invited everyone to look forward to next year's conference. Robin adjourned the conference at 12:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Ron Gaston

Approved by: WRBA Steering Committee Members (thanks Ron for all all your hard work!)