

# The Checklist

The quarterly newsletter of the Building Commissioning Association



## BCA Forum Builds Leadership

Special Edition  
May 2007

May 1, 2007 – Chicago, IL

The Building Commissioning Association Forum provides an important opportunity for the association's chapter and committee members to meet face-to-face to discuss the year's goals. This year's forum took place in Chicago directly before the National Conference on Building Commissioning.

BCA President Carl Lundstrom began the forum by introducing the first speaker, PECE Executive Director Phil Welker, who has sat on the BCA Board for the past four years. Welker talked about the similarities between the energy efficiency industry and the commissioning industry, and discussed the importance of embracing the sustainability movement for the advancement of commissioning. Welker characterized the popularity of sustainability as a social movement, and cited the increased exposure of LEED® and the USGBC and the evolving role of commissioning providers in high performance buildings as important indicators of the movement. He urged the audience to be patient with what they may identify as analytical "softness" in the sustainability industry and to not overlook how the sustainability concept has made the invisible benefits of energy efficiency and commissioning more tangible to owners and customers. Welker explained how the increased attention given to sustainability in the past few years can be a boon for the commissioning industry at large. "We are at a critical point in time to embrace the movement," he said. He urged the audience to use their commissioning knowledge to assure the quality of the commissioning product. "We need to actively help this new industry create solutions to quality and performance problems," he said. "In the end we need the sustainability movement to help grow the commissioning industry and the sustainability movement needs its leading edge and showcase projects to actually work." By harnessing the power of the social movement, Welker explained, the BCA can increase the demand for commissioning services and deliver long term benefits with quality work.

Following that, Lundstrom introduced some BCA Chapter and Committee Chairs to discuss how they are working to meet the association's 2007 goals, which were established at the board retreat earlier this year. The 2007 association goals include: improving training programs, facilitating

chapter relations and development, offering more certification options, and solidifying the BCA's relationship with USGBC.

Ben Coe, BCA board member and chair of the Chapter Development Committee, discussed the efforts of each of the chapter chairs to recruit more members and hold more member events. Jeff Connor, chair of the Professional Development Committee, discussed the "living, breathing, dynamic plan" for fundamentally developing the BCA's training and educational opportunities for owners, providers, and other industry players. The plan includes supporting chapters with their educational events, developing a pool of speakers to represent the BCA at industry events, and collaborating with outside groups like the University of Wisconsin, ASHRAE, and the USGBC to further the mission of commissioning education.

The idea of forwarding commissioning education was reinforced again by BCA Vice President and Standards and Best Practices Committee Board Liaison Larry Ross, when he spoke about the association's efforts to address the need for standard commissioning documents to produce a high level of service in the industry. Then, Mark Miller, chair of the Retrocommissioning Standards Subcommittee, gave an update on the association's work to research industry standards and develop a "Best Practices" document to define the purpose and goals of the retrocommissioning process. To do this the committee collected more than 20 retrocommissioning guides, standards, and program documents and reviewed them through the lens of their professional experience to come up with a best practices document that will be ready for member review in the fall. At the close of the meeting Association Manager Liz Fischer gave an overview of the upcoming BCA Convention and Exposition, the association's largest event to-date, which will take place in Jacksonville, Florida on October 14-16, 2007. The call for abstracts has gone out, and this year, papers should be focused on the themes of Commissioning Tools and Technology and The Business Side of Commissioning. Abstracts are due May 24. For more information on the event, visit the website at <http://www.bcxa.org/events/expo2007/>.

## BCA Awarded 2007 Benner Award

May 2, 2007 – Chicago, IL

The Building Commissioning Association was awarded the 2007 Benner Award for outstanding achievement in the advancement of commissioning by an organization.



BCA Executive Committee members pose with the past two presidents and the Benner Award

The award is presented annually at the National Conference on Building Commissioning. Created in memory of Nancy Benner, whose professional mission was to establish commissioning as standard practice in the commercial buildings industry, it recognizes organizations and

individuals who have made significant progress in making commissioning “business as usual.” Recipients are selected by a committee of industry experts from around the United States, who examine nominees’ proven success in increasing commissioning activities at the community, regional, and national levels.

The award committee honored the BCA’s investment in the promotion, advancement, and education of the commissioning process, and their open membership policy. It also expressed particular appreciation for the organization’s educational activities and materials.

The BCA has also received extensive recognition for its Commissioning Certification Program, which involves a comprehensive exam geared toward professionals in the commercial building industry. In addition to the events and resources it sponsors, the organization works with associations such as ASHRAE and the U.S. Green Building Council to “establish a benchmark for high-quality, ethical commissioning procedures.”

In presenting the award to the BCA, Hannah Friedman, a member of conference-sponsor Portland Energy Conservation, Inc., noted, “This organization has worked tirelessly to promote commissioning education and standardize commissioning definitions and practices.”

“Congratulations to all our members for helping make this an award-winning association,” said Association Manager Liz Fischer. “Our success is due to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers.”

## BCA Members Represent at NCBC

This year, the BCA was seen and heard at the National Conference on Building Commissioning, both in the well-trafficked BCA exhibitor booth and the record number of member speakers. The 15th annual conference featured four specified tracks on the Fundamentals of Commissioning, the Business of Commissioning, Building-Specific Commissioning and Advanced Technical material. BCA members spoke in all four tracks. For full downloadable papers and presentations, visit <http://www.peci.org/ncbc/proceedings/2007/index.htm>.

**Trey Austin** of Geo-Energy Services presented on the increasingly popular system of ground source heat pump technology.

**Kent Barber** of Keithly Barber Associates Inc. and **Douglas R. Chamberlin** of Cogent Energy, Inc. spoke on the need for comprehensive design-phase controls logic and integration.

**George Bourassa** of Carter & Burgess Inc., presented his experiences with the unique challenges of commissioning museum facilities.

**Bradley Brooks** of Glumac discussed the key aspects and the benefits of training building operators after commissioning projects.

In the Commissioning Fundamentals track, **Michael Della Barba** of Environmental Health & Engineering Inc. presented an overview of commissioning and its definitions, structure, and expectations.

**Charles Dorgan** of the University of Wisconsin - Madison presented on the scope and the use of ASHRAE’s “HVAC&R Technical Requirements for The Commissioning Process.”

Past BCA President **Michael C. English** presented a case study on the New York Times Headquarters, a model commissioning project for Underfloor Air Distribution in a Commercial High Rise.

**Roy Feinzig** of EYP Mission Critical Facilities presented on the important topic of commissioning humidity control systems in Critical Environments such as data centers and laboratories.

**Bob Hopkins** of RTKL gave accounts of power outages and spoke on the importance of functionally testing buildings’ electrical systems.

**David Jump** of Quantum Energy Services & Technologies Inc. discussed measurement and verification techniques and project results in commissioning projects at two University of California campuses.

In the international commissioning session, **Peter Keithly** of Keithly Barber Associates Inc. presented on the retro-commissioning of three high-rise buildings in Shanghai, China.

**Rick Lasser** of Arup presented two case studies for buildings that underwent the LEED® rating system and discussed the cost-effectiveness of the projects.

**Kimberlie A. Lenihan** of NYSERDA presented the results of a retrocommissioning program to reduce peak electric demand in New York City.

**Doug Maddox** of the Weidt Group presented on the critical needs of healthcare facilities and their specialized commissioning needs.

**Jim Magee** of Facility Commissioning Group discussed the increasing need for trained technicians to participate in commissioning processes.

**Bill McMullen** of EMC Engineers compared commissioning projects in laboratory buildings.

**Edward P. Rafter** of Tier IV Consulting Group gave a presentation on commissioning datacenters and their special challenges and changing performance standards.

Board members **Larry Ross** of Erickson Retirement Communities and **Ed Faircloth** of Gilbane Building Company presented on the complex world of contracting for and specifying commissioning projects.

**David Sellers** of Facility Dynamics Engineering Inc. gave the mechanical engineer's perspective on commissioning electrical systems.

**Kenneth Toombs** of Toombs & Assoc. Engineering Specialists Inc. discussed the unique commissioning process for a hospital project.

**Michael L. Weiss** of WorkingBuildings spoke on the growing trend of using commissioning in the study, programming, and implementation of threat/risk analysis and mitigation programs.

**Ron Wilkinson** of the Dome-Tech Group presented a case study on the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a campus that has led the way in bringing commissioning to campuses throughout the state.



*BCA members  
congregate in the  
NCBC Exhibit Hall*

### **BCA Convention & Expo**

This year's BCA Convention & Exposition is already shaping up to be one of the most important industry events on the 2007 calendar. From October 14-16 in Jacksonville, Florida at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk, commissioning providers, building operators, facility managers, and construction professionals will come together for this exceptional occasion. Look for more details coming soon on the [BCA website](#). The committee is still looking for volunteers to help set the agenda and design the event. If interested, email [eventscommittee@bcxa.org](mailto:eventscommittee@bcxa.org).

### **Exhibitor Opportunities**

For information on exhibiting at this year's BCA Convention and Exposition, please visit the [website](#), email [Info@bcxa.org](mailto:Info@bcxa.org), or call the BCA hotline at 1-877-666-BCXA (2292).





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