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Would you like to suggest a topic for The Checklist?
E-mail tpurser@bcxa.org
Greetings,

I would like to extend congratulations to all the newly elected chapter and international board officers! It is quite gratifying to have such a quality group of candidates and board members interested in advancing the commissioning industry by actively participating in a leadership role with the BCA. The BCA has much to do to assimilate our new board members and prepare for the upcoming BCA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 2 to 4. The Leadership Conference again this year will bring together members of the international board, chapter executive leadership and committee chairs, to help establish priorities for the coming year and ensure alignment between chapters, committees and the international board. A special focus at this year’s conference will be on volunteer recruitment, which will be facilitated by an outside consultant that specializes in this topic.

The BCA can celebrate some major accomplishments over the past few months. The BCA’s Best Practices for New Construction has been approved by the BCA board and is available for both members and the public at large. A dedicated group of volunteers has worked hard over the past couple of years to create this best practice document, and I would like to thank the committee co-chairs Bruce Pitts and Karl Stum, and all of those involved on the committee. This document, coupled with the Best Practices in Commissioning Existing Buildings, gives providers, owners and others clear, concise guidance on the essential elements contained within a best-practice approach to both new and existing building commissioning. A unique and valuable aspect of this newly released document is to identify several of the most common issues, pitfalls and challenges that BCA members see in the industry related to the practice of commissioning new construction and major renovation projects. Our hope is that by highlighting these challenges and identifying proven strategies for overcoming them we will heighten awareness and understanding and lead the industry to overcome these problems.

Another major accomplishment is the BCA Existing Building Commissioning (EBCx) training under way in New York City in support of the city’s Greener, Greater Buildings Plan. As some of you may be aware, New York City has passed some of the most progressive sustainability legislation in the nation. Local Laws 84, 87 and 88 mandate that all buildings (public and private), subject to size requirements, need to be benchmarked using the EPA’s Energy Star Portfolio Manager, undergo an energy audit and perform retro-commissioning on base building systems and upgrade lighting and install sub-metering for large tenant spaces. The potential impact of this legislation is huge and ultimately nearly 250 million square feet of building space will need to undergo the retro-commissioning process. The BCA has received support from both the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the city to provide training to commissioning providers and building operators on EBCx and the local law requirements. The EBCx training is based upon the BCA’s EBCx best practices and taught by BCA provider firms with instructors from the BCA’s speaker bureau. The three-day class is held at various locations throughout the city, including New York University, the City University of New York and others. The BCA has already held one course, and courses will continue to be offered monthly into the summer of 2012.

Enjoy this edition of The Checklist, and check out the 2012 NCBC announcement on page 5. We had a great time in Cincinnati at the 2011 NCBC and look forward to co-producing NCBC 2012.

Sincerely,

Mark F. Miller, PE, CCP, CEM
BCA President
USGBC States Goal at Greenbuild: Become Obsolete

By Catherine Craglow

Approximately 23,000 green building and sustainability professionals converged on Toronto, Canada, in October for the annual Greenbuild International Conference and Expo.

The event focused on upcoming trends and innovative ideas in the green building industry. But the CEO and president of the U.S. Green Building Council, which hosted the event, said he envisioned a day when such a conference would be unnecessary, because all buildings would be considered green.

Attendees from more than 100 countries gathered from Oct. 4 to 7. They learned about the latest industry developments and connected with colleagues. They also celebrated the tenth anniversary of the event.

The BCA was well represented with a booth, and by the many association members who were in attendance or exhibiting for their companies.

The topic of commissioning made the conference agenda this year, and BCA member Michael Tiffe was one of the concurrent session speakers on the topic: Canadian Building Commission—How Does It Impact Your Igloo?

The theme of the conference, Greenbuild NEXT, focused on the future. Keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Thomas Friedman, of The New York Times, challenged attendees to “take back the green revolution” and strive to work toward the day when green buildings are simply called buildings, because the highest levels of efficiency have been achieved.

Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and president of the USGBC, echoed these sentiments in his thought-provoking and heart-felt presentation. Fedrizzi asked his audience to flash forward to the year 2036 and imagine a story on the front page of The New York Times announcing the closure of the USGBC. The reason: The organization’s mission had been fulfilled, and all buildings were considered green.

“What’s NEXT?” echoed throughout the conference, and the closing plenary offered insight to that question through a panel of green building experts, pioneers in their own right. Panelists Robert Swan, Lisa Strausfeld, John Picard and Natalie Jeremijenko shared their stories and left the audience with the feeling that anything was possible.

Traffic at the BCA booth was brisk, with several people inquiring about the new Associate Commissioning Professional certification and the Canadian commissioning standards. Many of the owners, architects and project managers who stopped by the booth had heard of commissioning, but didn’t fully understand the process or how to find a qualified commissioning provider. But after talking with members and previewing the corporate provider directory and the documents and templates offered on the BCA website, they left the booth armed with information and a new appreciation for the energy savings realized by the commissioning process.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to staff the booth and spread the word about commissioning, many of them from the Eastern Canadian Chapter: Ian Ball, Marty Cole, Liviu Craiu-Botan, Mike Eardley, Andrew Gledhill, Craig Hatch, Herb Hunter, Reza Likhani, Bill McCartney, Tony Rocco, Scott Rouse, Steve Taylor, Michael Tiffe and Bob Young.

Catherine Craglow, CMP, is a member of the BCA staff and a manager of the National Conference on Building Commissioning.
CCP™ Updates

The BCA congratulates the following individuals on achieving the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP) designation:

Dominic Paone III, LEED AP, CCP
Integrated Design Solutions
Troy, MI

Michael Walsh, PE, CCP
Consulting Engineering Services, Inc.
Middletown, CT

John Dombrowski, PE, HFDP, CPMP, LEED AP, CCP
H. F. Lenz Company
Erie, PA

Michael W. Hardy, PE, LEED AP, CCP
Eaton Corporation
Alpharetta, GA

Jay Wilson, LEED AP, CCP
KLG Jones, LLC
Greer, SC

Jeff Flogel, PE, CCP
McKinstry
Seattle, WA

Vimal Ramabhadran Nair, PE, LEED AP, CCP
Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Fort Worth, TX

Daniel Bryant, CCP, PMP
Eaton Energy Solutions
Raleigh, NC

Charles B. Porter, EIT, CCM, MBA, CCP
Hill International, Inc.
Large, PA

These individuals join the ranks of some of the most qualified commissioning providers in the industry. Way to go!

The CCP exam is online and available at more than 200 testing sites. To apply, review the Candidate Bulletin and download the application at www.bit.ly/bcxacertification.

Not sure if you are qualified? Send us your questions at certification@bcxa.org or call the BCA Hotline at (877) 666-2292.

Dates Announced

The 20th annual National Conference on Building Commissioning is scheduled for May 15 to 16 in Nashville, Tenn.

For the second year in a row, the BCA is co-producing this conference with PECI, and if previous years are any indication, this event is a must-attend.

Although the co-location last year with GovEnergy in August was successful, the conference is returning to the spring season with May dates. Also returning, the popular NCBC Exhibit Show!

The call for abstracts is open until Dec. 30. Submit your abstract today.

Interested in speaking or sponsoring? Check out the 2012 Sponsorship and Exhibitor Prospectus.

Join us for this 20th anniversary event! Details and updates posted at www.peci.org/ncbc.
Member Spotlight

with Mike Eardley

Home city and state: Eliot, Maine

Employer: Cannon Design

Position: Director of Commissioning Services

BCA member since: 2009

Years practicing commissioning: 7

Volunteer positions held with BCA:
• Director in the Northeast Chapter
• President of Building Commissioning Certification Board
• Chair of Northeast Chapter Scholarship Committee

Before we discuss your work with the BCCB, let’s talk about how you got involved with commissioning. What drew you to this line of work?

I started out in HVAC design. I got introduced to building systems there and got my PE, but I wanted more variety. I also wanted to go into energy and go to grad school, so I took a job part time in a commissioning group while I worked on my masters. I liked the field experience and the challenge of making complex systems work, so I’ve been doing that ever since.

What’s your biggest accomplishment in the field?

I was doing functional performance testing at a school in Chicago. I always like working at schools, because they are generally feel-good places. It’s fun to see kids running around and teachers teaching. The main AHU had us baffled, because it was running at 100 percent, regardless of load. It took us all afternoon chasing things around, but we finally realized that two air pressure reading tubes had been switched. The domino effect was that the system was always trying to ramp up, and because of the nature of the problem, I knew it wouldn’t have been uncovered by others, and the system probably would have run maxed out for the life of the building. There are certainly projects that are more high-profile and more complex, but I always come back to that day as a great example of what I do and why I do it.

For those who don’t know, what is the BCCB and what does it do?

It’s the Building Commissioning Certification Board. It’s a volunteer board of those interested in advancing the Cx industry, and its certification requirements. The BCCB oversees the Certified Commissioning Professional designation, which was developed by the BCA.

What’s the connection between the BCA and the BCCB?

The BCA created the BCCB as an independent organization to oversee the CCP. Right now, it exists as a separate organization from the BCA.

The BCA recently launched a new certification—the Associate Commissioning Professional (ACP). First, what is this certification, and how is it different from the BCA’s other certification, the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP)?

The intent of the ACP is that it puts individuals on the path to the CCP. The certification process for the ACP is to complete the application and take the exam. Currently, the ACP exam is the same as the CCP exam, and the exam is intended to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the commissioning process and industry. The application mainly looks to document education and work experience. The amount of work experience required varies with the level of education—but for example, one year of building-related experience is needed with a four-year degree in a building related field. What is not required for the ACP is the experience leading the Cx process on a number of projects. Once you have an ACP, and then get the required experience, you can apply for the CCP.

Why is the BCA launching the ACP now?

I feel the ACP should have been launched a while ago—the need was already there. It’s really that the board was finally able to keep on pushing from develop-
ment to refinement to launch. I’ve been really impressed by the passion and commitment the board members have shown on this issue, in addition to all the other things going on in our “day jobs.”

What’s your response to people who say there are too many commissioning certifications?
I have to say I agree with that. It’s a source of confusion for providers, owners and everyone else. But that wasn’t a reason to nix the launch of the ACP. I think the ACP/CCP process does it right. To get to CCP, you’re required to document experience, get references, test, generally prove yourself in a professional manner. From what I can tell, the CCP stands alone there. It’s a prestigious thing to have achieved, but also rigorous and that’s the point. I see the ACP as being a stepping stone and not a separate certification.

What kind of certifications do you think will be available to providers in 10 years? Do you think the situation will be significantly different from the way it is today?
I think there will be some consolidation, and there will be more breadth in certification as a result. I think that will make the industry better. But I don’t see significant difference in the span of 10 years.

What are the short-term and long-term goals of the BCCB?
Short-term is to launch a firm certification. That will fill a gap in certifying the professional level of firm commissioning practice that the BCA stands for. Long-term is to increase the level of recognition of the CCP and ACP so that it is specified in RFPs, organizational standards in procuring commissioning services, etc.

Thanks for talking with The Checklist. One last question—What’s the weirdest thing you’ve ever found in a building?
Construction documents in a project specified that a CO2 sensor reading above setpoint will send an alarm to the building automation system. I found the controls contractor wiring this sensor to a fire alarm-type horn and strobe. I politely steered him in a different direction—that’s not what we wanted to do.

The BCA is Proud to Announce Its New Corporate Members

- Alderson and Associates, Inc.
- Allen & Shariff Engineering, LLC
- Architectural Energy Corporation
- BAU S.A.
- Building Momentum Group
- Custom Designed Controls, LLC
- Dome-Tech
- Engineered Systems & Energy Solutions
- Environmental Building Strategies
- Fitzemeyer & Tocci Associates, Inc.
- HH Angus

In addition to the many benefits BCA members receive, corporate members also receive two individual memberships and listing on the Corporate Member Directory, accessible to building representatives in their search for commissioning services.
2012 Election Results

You cast your ballot, and the votes have been counted. Meet your international and regional chapter board members, who will take the reins beginning January:

INTERNATIONAL (Terms through 2014):

Ed Faircloth, LEED AP  
Gilbane Building Company  
Mark Miller, PE, CCP  
Strategic Building Solutions  
Dave Conner, LEED AP  
Holder Construction Company  
William (Bill) McCartney  
Isotherm Engineering Ltd

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE — NORTHEAST

Michael Chelednik, AIA  
URS Corp  

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE — SOUTHWEST:

Jonathan Vaughan, CEM, LEED AP  
PageSoutherlandPage, LLP

CHAPTERS (Terms through 2013)

CENTRAL
Jim Boyanchek, PE, LEED AP BD+C  
KJWW Engineering Consultants  
Kevin Griesemer, PE, LEED AP, CPMP  
G&W Engineering Corporation  
Dave Guberud  
Ring & DuChateau Consulting Engineers

EASTERN CANADA
Aboubakeur Bensikhelifa  
Dessau  
R.Crawford Brewer, B.SC.EE, P.Eng  
TACE Technical Services Ltd.

David Overton, LEED AP BD+C  
Stantec Performance Engineering  
Stephen M. Taylor, QCxp, RPA, CEM, LEED AP  
Hidi Rae Consulting Engineers  
Herb Hunter  
Hunter Facilities Management, Inc.

NATIONAL CAPITAL
Tracey Jumper  
Keystone Commissioning Group Ltd.  
John A Runkle, PE  
Architectural Testing  
William A Wright, LEED AP  
Bruce E. Brooks & Associates

NORTHEAST
Michael Dooley  
AKF Group, LLC  
Brad Jones  
Sebesta Blomberg

NORTHWEST (Term through 2014)
Ed Simpson  
TestComm, LLC  
Geremy Wolff  
McKinstry  
Jeffrey Len Yirak, PE, LEED AP BD+C  
Wood Harbinger, Inc.

SOUTHEAST
Darren Draper, EIT, QCxp, LEED AP BD+C  
The Epstein Group, Inc.  
Robert Knoedler, PE, CxA  
Hanson Professional Services, Inc.  
Tom Foster, PE  
Commissioning WorCx  
Richard Dutro  
Total System Commissioning

SOUTHWEST
Steve Alschuler, PE, MBA  
Bath Commissioning Group  
Richard Belanger, PMP, CPMP, LEED AP, QCxp  
Sundt Construction, Inc.  
Jeffrey Bowick  
MKK Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
(special appointment through 2012)

Tom Poeling, PE, CCP, CEM, LEED AP  
Eaton Corporation  
Todd Rindlisbaker, PE, QCxp, LEED AP, HBDCP  
Rindlisbaker Commissioning, Inc.

TEXAS
Scott M. Wells, CxA, LEED AP BD+C  
Alderson and Associates, Inc.  
Chip Henderson  
Contacts
Jeffrey Bowick is the commissioning manager for MKK Consulting Engineering Inc. He has over 30 years of experience in the HVAC, energy and commissioning fields. During Jeffrey’s tenure, he exhibited a depth of knowledge associated with optimizing energy efficiencies through project sequence of operations and validating these sequences through functional performance testing. His commissioning and operations experience includes healthcare, education, laboratory operations, power plants and nuclear weapons facilities.

R. Crawford Brewer, P. Eng., is an electrical engineer who, after retiring from over 30 years of teaching in electronics, computer and alternate energy engineering, joined a consulting firm as commissioning manager. He has been the lead commissioning agent on a range of projects in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Michael Chelednik, AIA with URS Corp, is an extension of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey staff as the program manager responsible for the terminal and sustainable design on the LaGuardia Airport Terminal Redevelopment Program. Michael is the BCA’s representative to the AIA working on the AIA’s Technical Design for Building Performance Knowledge Community.

Michael J. Dooley, PE, LEED AP, is the North East commissioning manager for AKF Group. Mike has 22 years of experience in the mechanical and commissioning industry. He manages commissioning projects in the health care, higher education and commercial market sectors from New York to Boston.

Darren Draper, EIT, LEED AP BD+C, serves as the commissioning department manager for Epsten Group, Inc. He is a mechanical engineer with 13 years of experience in the building industry, including six years as a commissioning agent. His commissioning experience includes laboratories, healthcare, mission-critical, institutional, government and office buildings.

Richard Dutro, CxA, CPMP, CPD, LEED AP BD+C, president of TScx, has 40 years of professional experience. Dick has been involved in the design, construction and commissioning of HVAC, plumbing, piping and electrical systems for laboratories and a variety of aviation, commercial, corporate, educational, government and healthcare facilities.

Ed Faircloth, LEED AP BD+C, has been involved with the BCA since 2003. He is a charter member of the Southwest Chapter and the first elected president of the chapter. He has also served previously on the BCA’s International Board of Directors, first as secretary and later for three years as president.

Tom Foster, PE, LEED AP BD+C, CxA, CBCP, owns Commissioning WorCx, which he founded nine years ago to provide full commissioning, retrocommissioning and LEED consulting services. He serves as chair of the Piedmont Triad NC Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, and has been involved in the North Carolina State Commissioning Committee helping review laws that require commissioning on all state buildings over 20,000 square feet.

continued on p. 12
The Oregon Convention Center already has national stature. It is the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, with meeting rooms, exhibit space and two ballrooms totaling approximately one million square feet. It was the world’s first to be certified in the LEED Existing Buildings 1.0 category, as well as the only to recertify at a higher level LEED Silver in LEED EB 2.0. The decision to continuously improve sustainability and minimize the carbon footprint of the building sets the center apart. For the past decade, the center, located in Portland, Ore., has aimed for increasingly higher sustainability goals to improve energy performance and operational efficiency. It is currently working to achieve LEED EBOM certification.

**ACHIEVING LEED CERTIFICATION**

To help provide retro-commissioning services as part of the certification process, the convention center recruited Glumac, an engineering consulting company with 10 offices in the western United States and Shanghai.

“We have already determined the easily identifiable improvements in our facility,” said Ryan Thorpe, director of operations at the center. “We hired Glumac to help analyze the more difficult or hard-to-find energy savings measures.”

Glumac’s facility optimization team provides expertise in energy modeling, MEP systems commissioning and design and construction management as the center continues to identify and implement sustainability upgrades.

During the first phase of the project, the team reviewed the building’s utility bills and created energy models to simulate existing lighting and mechanical equipment loads. Temporary electric and flow measuring equipment was installed to identify operating characteristics, measure where energy was being used and provide a baseline to measure future changes. Temperature, pressure and flow sensors in the facility’s automated control system were examined and calibrated. Through the development and execution of functional test procedures from design and operations and maintenance documentation, and input from facility operators and vendors, Glumac also checked to ensure that the controls system data was being logged correctly and identified equipment that was not operating properly with respect to the original sequences of operation.

The second phase of the retro-commissioning project included detailed energy analysis of mechanical equipment operation over a full range of seasonal load types and operating schedules. Because the center was able to provide exceptionally detailed and comprehensive records of prior energy use, including separate energy numbers used specifically for heating, the retro-commissioning team was able to calibrate the eQuest energy modeling and subsequent savings estimates to a high level of accuracy.
numbers used specifically for heating, the team was able to calibrate the eQuest energy modeling and subsequent savings estimates to a level of accuracy that is not always possible on existing building projects.

The team worked with Energy Trust of Oregon to document support for the energy saving improvements, totaling more than $120,000 in possible incentive awards to be paid directly by the trust to facility representatives. Glumac’s construction management staff worked with other team members to detail the conceptual scopes of various efficiency measures and refine pricing for associated capital improvement options. The output of this approach allowed for clear financial evaluation of the return on investment for competing alternatives so that the center could better plan its budgets over several years.

INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY
The team discovered that the convention center’s Variable Air Volume (VAV) terminal units were out of calibration due to an accumulation of dust and dirt in the flow sensors that had not been previously identified as a maintenance item. Center maintenance staff installed factory-provided filters to eliminate the particles. After a final recalibration, the air systems showed accurate flow readings, and the overall precision of the VAV units was vastly improved.

Upgrades for the center included no- and low-cost measures that could be implemented quickly. One suggestion was rebalancing the boilers and heating pump systems to operate with one pump instead of two. The team also suggested swapping out the current boilers for condensing boilers that recover latent heat at rates of up to 98 percent thermal efficiency to reduce heat loss throughout the building as the existing equipment reaches retirement age.

The facility optimization group is currently conducting an investigation of the chilled water system during the project’s third phase. To date, this work has included dedicated instrumentation and review of controls device and software upgrades to enhance operation and energy usage as deemed achievable with the controls contractor who services the equipment and facility operators. Operators are looking forward to having more capability to better manage the system performance.

The center expects to complete its retro-commissioning project and sustainability upgrades in July, 2013.

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Todd McGuire, PE, LEED AP O&M, CEM, CCP, is a mechanical engineer. He is an associate principal at Glumac and a regional manager of the Facility Optimization Services group in the company’s Portland and Seattle branch offices.

Louisa Gaylord is a freelance writer and communications specialist.

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<th>Proposed energy efficiency measure and savings</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Air handling unit replacement: convert constant volume units to variable volume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reduce chilled water system pressure set point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Install three-way control valves and variable flow pumping on the heating water system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reprogram and upgrade air handling unit control sequences to have a larger dead band.</td>
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<table>
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<th>Measure</th>
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<th>Gas energy savings (therms/yr)</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>$42,855</td>
<td>5.9 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<td>$47,356</td>
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Kevin Griesemer possesses diverse experience in the mechanical and electrical engineering field with deep experience in system installation and commissioning. His design and installation projects include commercial, institutional, industrial, educational and retail facilities. His skills include MEPFP system design, installation, troubleshooting and analysis, commissioning, performance testing, TAB and LEED compliance.

Dave Guberud has over 25 years of experience in design, installation and commissioning of HVAC control systems, with more than five of those years expressly tied to the craft of commissioning in various facilities throughout the country. Dave has been a BCA member since 2007. He served on the Central Chapter board for the last two years, and last year was nominated by the board to be its secretary.

Chip Henderson, AIA, CEM, LEED-Faculty, is an architect and environmental consultant. With over 25 years of design, construction and forensic experience, Chip works full-time with residential and commercial project teams helping them design, build and operate high-performance homes and buildings.

Tracey Jumper has more than three years experience leading the BCA as a board member of the National Capital Chapter and Central Chapter. She has taken on roles as webmaster and social networking administrator. Recently, she was honored by the nation’s top engineering societies as one of 14 individuals in the New Faces of Engineering Class of 2011, for her work in commissioning and its resulting impact on society. Tracey led commissioning projects for a top-500 architectural firm in the Midwest before becoming general manager of commissioning projects at Keystone Group Commissioning, Ltd in Wilkes-Barre.

Robert Knoedler is a vice president with Hanson Professional Services, a national engineering and architectural firm, and serves as principal-in-charge for commissioning and energy-related services. With degrees in both mechanical and electrical engineering, he has worked in private practice for over 30 years providing design, consulting and commissioning services.

William (Bill) McCartney is a certified refrigeration/air conditioning mechanic with 45 years experience in the HVAC&R industry. He worked throughout Ontario, chaired numerous HVAC&R industry associations, started HVAC Commissioners Inc. in 1989, and returned to Toronto in 1997 to Isotherm as commissioning authority. Bill had been an ASHRAE member since 1974, and is a Commissioning Process Management Professional (CPMP). He is also a founding board member of the Eastern Canada Chapter.

Mark Miller is presently serving as president of the BCA. He is past chair of the New & Existing Building Commissioning Best Practices Committee of the BCA, and also serves as a BCA board liaison to ASHRAE.
The BCA International Board of Directors has granted a permanent charter to the California chapter of the BCA. The chapter began operating provisionally in 2010, and the board voted unanimously on Nov. 22 to approve the chapter's request to become permanent.

There are now three chapters within the southwest region: Texas, California and the Southwest chapter, which comprises members within Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Jonathan Vaughan, as southwest regional representative, represents these chapters on the International Board of Directors.

Provisional board members of the California chapter include Bradley Brooks, president; Harold Hougham, vice president; Bill Carmody, treasurer; and Ciro Russo, secretary. More than 75 BCA members reside in the state.

For more information, or to get involved with the new chapter, e-mail the chapter at california@bcxa.org.

CONGRATULATIONS,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER!
What’s Next for the BCA? You Decide!

Each year, the leadership of the BCA meets to review its strategic plan and reevaluate programs and priorities. As members, you are the life blood of the organization, and your needs are paramount to the association’s success.

You are the future of the BCA, and your ideas help to define what’s next for the association. The International Board of Directors is asking for input from you through a survey on how the association is doing and what the BCA should focus on in the future.

The board of directors has developed a five-year strategic plan designed to fulfill its mission.

The Building Commissioning Association’s mission is to guide the building commissioning industry through advancing best practices, education, and promoting the benefits of building commissioning.

Three overarching goals address this mission:

1. Provide opportunities to educate the industry on the BCA’s best practices, technical advancements and initiatives within the building industry.
2. Develop a comprehensive whole-building comprehensive manual based on the BCA’s best practices to improve the consistency and quality of commissioning industry.
3. Assemble and refine the BCA’s commissioning portfolio of marketing materials, and demonstrate the value of commissioning to the building industry stakeholders.

Some of the BCA’s recent accomplishments include:

- Development of Best Practices for New Construction and Existing Buildings
- Successful biannual webinar series
- Presentations at many major conferences and forums, member-written articles for leading publications
- Partnerships with other major industry associations
- Chapter expansion: California, Texas and Western Canada
- Development of the Associate Commissioning Professional (ACP) certification

What’s next for the association? You decide. Fill out the survey and give us your feedback. You should be able to complete this survey in 10 minutes or less. Please take the time to help this association move forward by providing your input. The survey is now open and will close on Jan. 6.

Liz Fischer, association manager

Renew your BCA Membership in December

Don’t risk missing out on any part of 2012 — from networking and educational events at the chapter level, to discounts on trainings, such as BCA’s EBCx training and webinars.

We’ll be adding new tools and templates to the website, publishing best practices and interacting in BCA’s social community.

A renewal invoice has been sent, but you can renew quickly and easily online at www.bcxa.org/members. All you need is your member number and password.

Need assistance? Call the hotline at (877) 666-BCXA (2292) or e-mail us at info@bcxa.org, and we’ll be happy to help.
BCA Offers EBCx Trainings in New York City in 2012

In today’s economy, more and more owners are utilizing commissioning to increase efficiency in existing building inventory rather than developing new structures.

Municipalities are focusing on commissioning by integrating it into building codes. In New York City, Local Law 87 mandates retro-commissioning of all commercial buildings greater than 50,000 square feet by providers who hold a commissioning certification.

To meet this need, the BCA and NYSERDA, in coordination with the New York City mayor’s office, is offering a comprehensive existing building training program for commissioning professionals. The program is three days in length and is taught by commissioning professionals with extensive industry experience. Space is still available in the January, February and April sessions.

For more information, or to register, visit the BCA website.

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE:

• Comprehensive instruction on each phase of the existing building commissioning process, based on the BCA’s Best Practices
• A useful handbook that includes presentation handouts, BCA Best Practices and templates for use in the field
• Credit toward the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP) certification; the class counts as one qualified project
• 18 AIA/CES Learning Units

AN IDEAL TRAINING FOR:

• Those who have building experience but are looking to enter the commissioning field
• Junior level commissioning providers
• Those who live or regularly work within the New York State SBC service territory

Cost: $1,200
Those who live or regularly work within the New York State SBC service territory are eligible for a $400 discount from NYSERDA.

www.bcxa.org
Unlocking the Potential of Performance Tracking

By Nick Carter

The bottom-line benefits of building performance tracking are clear: A more efficient building costs less energy and money to run. Specifically for commissioning professionals, performance tracking helps ensure the persistence of energy savings created by a project.

At performance tracking’s inception, a litany of tools and techniques flooded the marketplace to help building owners, managers and commissioning professionals capitalize on the benefits. However, with no clear way to know which tool or set of tools was ideal, strategies and tactics began to vary widely from business to business. In short, instead of making it easier to dive into performance tracking, the influx of tools did the opposite, created a sense of confusion and informality.

A 2010 study by the California Commissioning Collaborative on the state of energy performance tracking found that “even after a performance tracking strategy was adopted and investments were made, end-users typically underutilized the capability of their system.” The problem was a lack of education. “The information available was very technology-centric and not focused on the end-user. The literature available described the capability of the specific performance tracking tool but did not address the management or operational components.”

In an effort to create clarity and optimize the use of performance tracking tools, the California Commission Collaborative recently released The Building Performance Tracking Handbook. The handbook, available as a free download, describes how to continually manage a building’s energy and system performance, explains the complex array of available tracking tools, and offers guidance for choosing the right strategy based on individual business needs and resources.

“The ideal future of building performance tracking as a core business function is in a competitive market, stakeholders of high performance buildings are seizing the advantage, and energy efficiency is increasingly recognized as a high-return investment. Building performance tracking is crucial to managing those investments, in providing meaningful and actionable information from the complex mass of data.”

Any business manager responsible for the bottom line of facility operational costs should read & consider the methods outlined in the BPT Handbook,” said Bryan Welsh, president of Welsh Commissioning Group.

The handbook also aims to inform a high-level strategy for using performance tracking as a core business function. In a competitive market, stakeholders of high performance buildings are seizing the advantage, and energy efficiency is increasingly recognized as a high-return investment. Building performance tracking is crucial to managing those investments, in providing meaningful and actionable information from the complex mass of data.

The ideal future of building performance tracking is one in which all building owners, managers and commissioning professionals understand how to use the available tools and software to their full potential. The handbook seeks to create that understanding, and represents the first step toward ensuring the highest possible energy savings now and into the future. ■

Nick Carter is an employee of PECI.
Whether you are interested in ensuring that your new building systems perform interactively in accordance with operational needs or identifying opportunities to improve conditions and achieve savings in an existing building, Eaton’s Energy Solutions group is focused on helping you manage the integrated, often complex process. We help administer a systematic commissioning approach that ensures the most efficient use of natural resources that can result in reduced operating costs and risks, improved work environments and productivity, increased traction with sustainability initiatives and compliance with energy legislation. These capabilities enable us to evaluate, guide and direct your decision-making processes to meet your objectives.

For more information, please visit Eaton.com/energysolutions.