The combined Southern California Plumbing and Mechanical Chapters of IAPMO met on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 with 21 members, and guests present. Shane Peters, Chapter Chairman, called the meeting to order. Bob Bailey of UPPA of Long Beach led the salute to the flag. This was followed by the self-introduction of members and guest.

Ed Saltzberg, Chapter Secretary, could not read the minutes of April 19, 2011 meeting because he left them at his office. The minutes will be read next month.

Jerry Plank, Chapter Treasurer reported that we have $1858.73 prior to today's meeting.

New and Old Business

1. Bob Bailey of UPPA of Long Beach announced that they had 49 people at their Sweetheart breakfast.

2. Trini Mendoza of Ventura Co. said that the speaker at their forthcoming Channel Island meeting would be talking about grease interceptors. Trini also thanked Ed Saltzberg for his interesting presentation last month.

3. Larry Soskin of Ace-Duraflo said that he, Bob Biley & Paul Bonner saw Mario Fala recently. He said Mario can’t talk due to a stroke but responded to items and seemed to understand. Larry said Mario is 90. Shane said to invite Paul Bonner to a meeting. Shane would pick him up and drive him.

4. Marie Anderson, Marketing coordinator for Normac, displayed, demonstrated and told about the IAPMO listed gas riser assembly for making plastic to metal gas joints above grade. She said they have been making these assemblies since 1980 and they are good up to 125 # pressure. She then answered all questions and pasted out literature.
5. Allen Wald, director of membership for IAPMO, spoke about the student essay contest and the three prizes. He also spoke about membership recognition and the benefits. Allen said that IAPMO now has 69 chapters. He told about the chapter membership contest and that our chapter is currently in 3rd place. Allen told that IAPMO has only 17 life members and 3 of them are in this chapter. They are Jim Fry of L.A. County, Bob Bailey of UPPA of Long Beach and Edward Saltzberg of Edward Saltzberg Forensic Mechanical Engineers. He said a life member is awarded in recognition of age and service to IAPMO. Allen awarded Edward Saltzberg with his Life Membership pin.

**Technical Program**

Our speaker of the day was Richard Ponce of GPW Sales regarding Navien Tankless Water Heaters. Richard stated that in Europe and Asia tankless water heater is the only type of water heater sold. He then told of the history of tankless heaters. Richard used a power point presentation and an actual heater. He said that the Navien name comes from Navigating energy and environment. Richard explained why to use tankless and the benefits. He spoke about recovery periods of tank type water heaters. He explained that filling a large tub can totally deplete the hot water from a storage type water heater. He told of the space saving using tankless heaters.

Richard showed the market growth of tankless heaters which currently sell about 500,000 unit/year. He said that Navien is a condensing type heater, 98% efficient. He explained that non condensing heaters requires S.S. venting. Condensing types can use PVC venting. He showed the different type of burner in their heater as opposed to other types of heaters.

Richard explained that with all tankless there is an 8-12 sec delay between water flow and heater ignition. This can create a condition called a “cold water sandwich”. To eliminate this, Navien installs a small storage tank within the heater and a small circulating pump so that hot water is always delivered.

Richard said that their heater will start to fire with a 1/10 of a gal flow rate which is much faster firing than with other manufacturers. Richard said that they have a S.S. heat exchanger and explained the benefits of this. Richard showed the remote thermostat which is 24 hour programmable in 1° increments and can be “on-demand” type operation.
Richard told about typical problems with tankless heaters and why they require periodic servicing. He explained that with the S.S. heat exchanger Navien doesn’t lime up as much as other heaters. Richard said that Navien has a built in leak detector to shut-off the water if a leak occurs.

Richard spoke about venting limitations and said that the intake and exhaust must be at least 12” apart except if their special fitting is used. Richard told about the problem with the condensate discharge and the quantity of discharge. He said that they can provide a Neutralizer which should be replaced every 2 years. This would be part of regular servicing of the heater.

Richard showed the type of piping connections that they recommend. He said the heater comes with a pressure relief valve only because there is a temp relief inside the heater. The heater comes also with Freeze Protection. Richard then showed photos of residential and commercial installations including common venting.

Richard spoke about gas sizing problems and gas meter sizing. He said that the heater requires a “good earth ground”. Richard explained that with most installations PVC venting is fine. However, in Canada and some high temp installations such as hydronics or solar, high temp plastic venting is required.

Richard explained that there is a pressure drop thru the heater. Therefore there can be a difference in pressure between the hot water & cold water systems and this can cause problems. Also if the water pressure is low or the project has old galvanized water piping Richard doesn’t recommend tankless heaters. Richard said that the heater requires 10 ½” gas pressure.

After answering questions from the attendees and distributing CD’s, that concluded our technical presentation.

The $10.00 door prize was won by Ray Castellano of L.A. Country. Pete Sandoval of Culver City won a bottle of wine and cheese donated by ED Waas of Spears Manufacturing. Ted Haynes of Long Beach Gas Co won a code CD. With that we concluded our meeting.

The chapter wishes to thank Richard Ponce of GPW Sales for his informative and timely presentation and display.
Respectively submitted
Edward Saltzberg
Chapter Secretary.