The combined Southern California Plumbing and Mechanical Chapters of IAPMO met on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 with 23 members and guests present. Shane Peters Chapter Chairman called the meeting to order and also led the salute to the flag. This was followed by the self-introduction of members and guest.

Ed Saltzberg, Chapter Secretary, read the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Jerry Plank, Chapter Treasurer reported that we have $1541.67 prior to today’s meeting.

New and Old Business

1. Jerry Plank asked how cities are handling T&P Relief valve discharge on water heater replacements on upper floors of buildings. He also asked if the watts #210 could be used in lieu of the T&P relief value.
generated considerable discussion. Some questioned the voiding of the manufactures warranty, if the T&P is not installed. Others allowed the watts #210 with a letter having owner accepting full responsibility and relieving the city of any liability. Some said that HOA requirements are not the cities problem. There was also a discussion of the requirements for electric water heaters.

2. Shane Peters asked for volunteers for this year’s chapter nomination committee. There were no volunteers so Shane selected Larry Soskin of Ace Duraflo as Chairman & Jim Fry of L.A. County as member of the nomination committee. The committee is to report back with a slate of officers next month.

**Technical Program**

Our speaker for the day was Mr. Carlos P. Marquez, Program Manager of the California Contractors State License Board, Statewide Investigation Fraud Team (SWIFT). Carlos said that his unit is involved in Investigating unlicensed contractors, workman’s compensation violators (licensed/unlicensed), various types of fraud, and health & safety issues. The unit routinely conducts stings, sweeps, and investigates lead referrals.

Carlos said that any person performing construction work in excess of $500.00 or more must have a valid licensed contractor. To obtain a license an applicant is required to have 4 years' journeyman level experience to apply to take the test for a contractor’s license.

Carlos indicated the CSLB oversees approximately 320,000 licensed contractors. He said that there are 3 swift units thru out California
He commented that the lack of workman’s compensation by licensed and unlicensed contractors is on the rise and carries large civil penalties.

Carlos stated that the construction industry and Building Department are his unit’s best informants for good lead referrals.

Carlos stated the Contractor License Board is a financially self-supported State agency from contractor licensing fees, but they are currently under a Statewide hiring freeze and this has created many vacancies affecting enforcement.

Carlos spoke about “B” General Building Contractors requiring two trades. This generated considerable discussion as to why the State allows unqualified/certified people to do technical work and the bad work done by many “B” general building contractors and many owner builders. Some people indicated that Oregon and Washington State have the requirement for a State wide plumbing license certification. Carlos stated that California has a certification requirement for journeyman electricians; in addition a “B” general building contractor can undertake a project that involves two or more trades, so long as the two trades does not include carpentry or framing, they can perform plumbing and electrical work without having the specialty license. “B” contractors can only contract solely for roofing if they have a C-16 roofing license or subcontract the work to a C-16.

Carlos stated that the State has received assistance from industry in developing test exam questions. He also indicated the CSLB has an informative website for consumers and contractors or anyone can go to
the website and find out if someone has a valid license or the type of classification they hold.

Carlos said the State of California has special consumer prosecution laws to protect senior citizens and defendant adults 65 years and older from scammers and fraudulent acts. The CSLB regularly performs outreach to consumers and industry.

Carlos said the SWIFT conducts approximately 70 stings a year and several sweeps each month with a high percentage referred to criminal prosecutions. Last week they did a “Statewide Sting Blitz” issued 113 citations to unlicensed people. They check and use phone books, Craig’s list, newspapers and business cards to call out unlicensed contractors to stings. Carlos passed out a booklet on preparing a proper contract and showed a video of few stings from news clips. After all the questions from attendees were answered that concluded our technical program.

The $10.00 door prize was won by Larry Soskin of Ace Duraflo with Laura Biggie’s ticket, Jerry Tulker of Santa Monica won a sizing calculator. Bob Bailey of UPPA of Long Beach won a code, Dan Freleaux of LA County won a code. With that we concluded our meeting

The chapter wishes to thank Carlos P. Marquez of Contractors State License Board for his very informative and timely presentation.

Respectively submitted
Edward Saltzberg

Chapter Secretary