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April 2004

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Numerous House and Senate bills died when the General Assembly completed its 33rd legislative day, the deadline for bills to pass their House of origin. The General Assembly will likely adjourn sine die on the first week of April. A recap of key bill status is shown below.



### Bills that died at the deadline....

**SB 39** by Lamutt of Marietta would allow **plumbers and other building trades to apply for permits by mail**. Also gives local governments the option of taking permit applications electronically or by fax. Similar to HB 1598. Left on Senate General Calendar.

**SB 577** by Tate of Atlanta to change **licensing provisions for plumbers**, electrical contractors, conditioned air contractors, low voltage contractors, and utility contractors. Remained in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

**HB 35** by Noel of Atlanta, relating to enforcement of **minimum standards for gray water** recycling systems under the standard plumbing code. Remained in House Governmental Affairs Committee.

**HB 109** by Powell of Hartwell, would create a **State Licensing Board for Residential Contractors**. Remained in House Governmental Affairs Committee.

**HB 1045** by Noel of Atlanta would provide for comprehensive revision of laws relating to **licensing of plumbers**, electrical contractors, utility contractors, conditioned air contractors, and low voltage contractors. Would also require licensing of general contractors. Remained in House Governmental Affairs Committee.

**HB 628** by Hugley of Columbus, would change provisions relating to **occupational regulation** review; to provide for evaluation of businesses and professions; to change the composition of the Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council. Passed House in 2003 and now in Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities.

**HB 1205** by Purcell of Rincon, would **prohibit local governments from requiring connection with or use of water sup-**  
*Continued on page 3*

## REGISTER NOW FOR CONVENTION!

**112TH Annual Meeting**  
**Hilton Oceanfront Resort**  
**Hilton Head Island, SC**  
**June 17 - 20, 2004**



**May 12th is the Cutoff Date for Hotel Rooms at the Convention!**

***If you don't register by this date you may not get a room!!***

**Make Your Reservations Now!**

***See Inserts for a complete schedule of events and registration forms.***

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



### 2003 - 2004 President George Raburn

Rob Sumner, Mitzi Smith and myself have just returned from the National PHCC 8th Annual Legislative and Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. We spent two days that were packed with seminars, networking time, and roundtable discussions on issues facing our industry. We also spent one day visiting our Georgia representatives on Capital Hill.

On Thursday, March 25th, we were able to visit with staff members of Senator Zell Miller and Saxby Chambliss. We also met with a staff member of Congressman David Scott from the 13th District. I would like to thank their staff for taking time to meet with us.

We were able to meet personally with Congressman Johnny Isackson from the 6th District, Congressman Mac Collins from the 8th district, and Congressman John Linder from the 7th district. A huge thank you to these representatives for taking the time from their very busy schedule to personally meet with us.

This Legislative Conference was such a great experience for me. I just never realized how our government works everyday. I counted it an honor to meet with these elected officials and staff members to discuss the issues facing our industry representing our great association as your President.

Let me encourage you to get involved with the legislative happenings, not only in Georgia, but also in our great nation's capital in Washington. Let me urge you to be prepared to support your candidate or candidates in the upcoming November elections. Please don't say my vote doesn't count, because it does.

I would also like to thank the National PHCC Association for preparing the appointments with the representatives for over 150 contractors that attended this conference. We had contractors from 30 states. This is just one of the many benefits that national dues provides for us.

Why not make plans to attend next years' conference in Washington? If you are interested in getting involved locally, please contact Danny Richardson, our Legislative Committee Chairman, or the PMA office.

Let me also urge you to plan to attend the National PHCC Convention and ISH North America Trade Show in Boston, MA on Oct. 12-16, 2004. ISH North America is the largest trade show for the kitchen and bath, plumbing, PVF, heating and air conditioning industries. If you have any questions about the convention, please contact the PMA office.

Please don't forget to make your plans to attend our PMA State Convention at Hilton Head, SC on June 17-20, 2004. If you have never attended one of our state conventions let me personally invite you to attend this years convention. Pack up the family and come join us at the beach. I truly believe that once you attend our convention, you will return year after year.

This years' convention promises to be bigger and better than ever. As a contractor, you will be able to get CE credits, attend the business meeting of our association, hear great speakers, participate in our Industry Members' Table Top Display of new products, a reception, play golf, and the list goes on and on. There will still be lots of time to spend with your family. If you have any questions or need registration information, please contact the PMA office.

The Georgia State Inspectors Association will be holding their convention and training classes at Villas By the Sea, July 11-15. They have extended an open invitation to all contractors to attend. If you would like more information, please contact GSIA at (770) 784-7597.

Congratulations to Bryan Stansell for being elected a trustee of the Quality Service Contractors Peer Group of the National PHCC Association. Bryan was elected at the recent Power Meeting of QSC Contractors in Phoenix, AZ. We wish Bryan the very best as he represents our great state and association. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the national association peer groups, please call the PMA office or visit the website of National at <http://www.phccweb.org>.

Let me thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President. If I can help you in anyway, please give me a call.

*George*

## 2004 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

Approximately 170 state and local leaders, including PMA President, George Raburn, Executive Director, Robert Sumner, and board member Mitzi Smith gathered in Arlington, Va., March 26-27 for PHCC's 2004 Leadership Conference. "This conference is designed to provide state and local leaders with the information and tools they need to succeed as leaders and strengthen their chapters. I'm excited to see that we had so many first timers at this year's event," said PHCC President Steve Carder.

The general session program featured presentations on motivating volunteers, running an effective meeting and resources available from PHCC. A group roundtable gave attendees an opportunity to share ideas and best practices on member recruitment and retention, apprenticeship training, communication tools, non-dues revenue, convention ideas and leadership development. Topics of the breakout sessions included new president responsibilities, government relations, community service projects, communication tools and North American Technician Excellence testing.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

plied by a **public water system**, except when other water is unfit. Would prohibit local governments from requiring connection with or use of a public system to dispose of sewage or other waste products in certain cases. Remained in State Planning and Community Affairs.

**HB 1231** by Beasley-Teague of Red Oak, relating to imposition of development impact fees, to provide for the imposition of a **sewer connection, reconstruction, and improvement fee**. Remained in House Committee on State Planning and Community Affairs.

**HB 1313** by Buckner of Jonesboro, relating to the **enforcement of building codes**, so as to add a requirement for recipients of building permits to show proof of completion of a continuing education class in a field related to the construction they are undertaking. Remained in Governmental Affairs Committee.

**HB 1467** by Drenner of Avondale Estates would change certain provisions relating to requirements for **toilets, shower heads, and faucets** for water conservation purposes. Remained in House Governmental Affairs Committee.

### Bills still alive and well....

**SB 491** by Williams of Lyons to provide that it shall be illegal to knowingly coerce, induce, or threaten an individual falsely to declare himself to be an **independent contractor** or falsely claim that an employee is an independent contractor in order to avoid or evade the withholding and payment of taxes. Passed Senate and referred to House Ways & Means.

**SB 550** by Kemp of Athens would change state **minimum standard codes** for construction. Passed Senate with no floor amendments. Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee.

**SB 563** by Hamrick of Carrollton would amend **building standards** to provide for **alternative dispute resolution**, written notice of claim by claimant, written response by the contractor, and access to the building for inspection and repairs. Passed Senate and referred to House Public Utilities Committee.

**SB 599** by Price of Roswell would **prohibit the state other governmental entities from requiring contractors, sub-con-**

**tractors and suppliers to become party to any labor agreement** as a condition of bidding for or being awarded a public works contract. Passed Senate and referred to House Committee on State Institutions & Property.

**HB 1003** by Powell of Hartwell would provide for **state-wide licensing of general contractors**. Would become effective "only upon the effective date of an appropriation of funds for the purposes of this Act as expressed in a line item making specific reference to the full funding of the Act." Passed House and referred to Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities.

**HB 1195** by Dukes of Albany, to revise the **Georgia Prompt Pay Act** requiring timely payment of contractors and subcontractors in connection with real property improvements. Mandates payment of professional services provider within 10 days of receipt of payment request. Passed House and now in Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

**HB 1300** by Powell of Hartwell, would prohibit persons from contracting with any other person to perform **utility contracting** work unless such other person is properly licensed. Would require persons holding utility manager and utility foreman certificates to provide proof of safety training every two years. Passed House and now in Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

**HB 1352** by Wix of Smyrna would amend **"Call Before You Dig"** law. Passed House and now in Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

**HB 1408** by Watson of Decatur to provide for regulation of **removal, transport, and disposal of waste** from grease interceptors, sand traps, oil-water separators, or girt traps that are not connected to on-site sewage management systems. Passed House and favorably reported by Senate House Natural Resources.

**HB 1444** by Borders of Valdosta to provide that it shall be illegal to coerce, induce, or threaten an individual falsely to declare himself or herself to be an **independent contractor** or falsely to claim that an individual employed by such person is an independent contractor in order to avoid or evade the withholding and payment of income taxes. Passed House and

referred to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee.

**HB 1598** by Dodson of Lake City to allow plumbers and other building trades to **apply for permits by mail**. Also gives local governments the option of taking permit applications electronically or by fax. Passed House and scheduled for consideration Tuesday in the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

**HB 1620** by Smith of Nicholls would provide for a **two to one ratio of women's to men's toilets** in certain state, county, or city owned buildings and facilities. Favorably reported by House State Planning & Community Affairs Committee. Passed House and referred to Senate Rules Committee.

### House Judiciary Chairman relieved of duties.

Speaker of the House Terry Coleman yesterday removed Rep. Tom Bordeaux of Savannah as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and replaced him with Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver of Decatur. The change was apparently due to the Speaker's displeasure with the handling of the tort reform issue, and could lead to a break in the stalemate on that issue.

Originally appointed as Judiciary Committee Chairman by former Speaker Tom Murphy, Bordeaux has been a champion of labor unions and plaintiffs' lawyers throughout his career in the House. Oliver, like Bordeaux, is a plaintiff-oriented lawyer, but some observers regard hers as less strident and with a broader range of interests in public policy issues.

If you have any questions about legislation, please contact Danny Richardson, Legislative Chairman, [danny@richardsonplumbing.com](mailto:danny@richardsonplumbing.com); or Rob Sumner, Executive Director, [rsumner@plumbingpros.com](mailto:rsumner@plumbingpros.com).

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLES WEATHERBY



Plumbing in January 1975.

**PMA:** Could you give me a brief history of your company and how you got started in the business?

**WEATHERBY:** My father was a small contractor handling mostly service and add on work. I started working with him over the summer when I was 15. I went off to college after high school and after that joined up with the Seabees. I then started Professional

**PMA:** If someone were interested in getting into the plumbing trade...what would you advise them?

**WEATHERBY:** Join a trade association like PMA and hone their business skills. One of the problems we have is that we have good tradesmen and foreman, but they are lacking in business skills. You need to seek advice from people who know how to effectively run a business and try to learn from them what they need to know about business basics.

**PMA:** How did you come to be involved in PMA?

**WEATHERBY:** Through Less Wysong. I met Less at Stasco and he encouraged me to join the Atlanta Metro Area chapter. At that time Pete Scoggins and Tommy Stansell were very active. And then he encouraged me to join PMA. I was going to join anyway because I knew all the successful contractors belonged. I wanted to know what they knew.

**PMA:** How Many Years in Business?

**WEATHERBY:** We've been in business for 29 years.

**PMA:** What do you think is the greatest challenge to the plumbing profession today?

**WEATHERBY:** It would be that not enough young people are coming into the industry or seeking it out as a profession. I think it's due in part to the culture of what counselors are telling young people in school. The focus is that you have to get a degree and not learn a trade. I'm not saying don't get a college education, you should get a degree and learn the trade. The trend is changing and being a plumber can be a source of opportunity for young people.

secret to success...

**"The secret to my success is taking advantage of the blessings that God has put in my way."**

**PMA:** Why did you stay involved in PMA?

**WEATHERBY:** It's because PMA stays on the cutting edge of what's happening in our industry.

**PMA:** If someone were interested in joining PMA...what would you advise them?

**WEATHERBY:** I would tell them joining is as necessary for their company as insurance is. This should be on top of the list of

things all owners needs to do. It doesn't mean you'll be successful but it is one of the greatest advantages they will get on the road to success.

**PMA:** What is the secret to your success?

**WEATHERBY:** I'm reminded of the story of the guy in a flood who eventually drowns after several attempts to save his life. Upon reaching heaven he asks God why he let him drown. God explains he sent the fireman, the life raft, the helicopter and the rope. The secret to my success is taking advantage of the blessings that God has put in my way.

**PMA:** Is there anything that we haven't covered that you would like included in this article?

**WEATHERBY:** Any non-PMA business owner reading this Hotline should know that this organization is not just for large companies. They should know that as a small company these guys will mentor you and teach you about the business.

### HELP NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR EPA HEARING

PHCC needs members' thoughts and experience to help prepare for testimony a PHCC member will give at an April 13 Environmental Protection Agency hearing. The hearing will explore market enhancement opportunities for water-efficient products for residential and commercial use. One issue discussed will be the need to consider the performance of products as part of the plumbing system. EPA is especially interested in a voluntary labeling program for water-efficient products like the ENERGY STAR program conducted by EPA and the Department of Energy. Contractor Charly Mitchel, Mitchel Plumbing in Tacoma, Wash., will represent PHCC at the Seattle hearing. Opinions from PHCC members are welcome to help Mitchel convey suggestions at the hearing. Please send your story to [naphcc@naphcc.org](mailto:naphcc@naphcc.org) as soon as possible to ensure that your interests are considered in this government initiative.

### HVAC TECHNICIAN JOB GROWTH PREDICTED

Employment growth for HVAC technicians and installers is projected to be the highest among any major construction-related group, according to a 2002-12 employment projection report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. By major occupation, BLS says growth will be more rapid among electricians (27 percent); plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters (23 percent) and installation, maintenance and repair occupations (23 percent), especially heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics and installers (37 percent).

Source: March 2004 issue of *Contracting Business*.

## BASS TOURNAMENT

**DEADLINE IS APRIL 16, 2004!**

The 2nd Annual Bass Fishing Tournament will be held on **Saturday April 24th**, at Southern Harbor Marina on West Point Lake. Registration for the event is \$75.00 per boat. Co-Chairs for this event are Wade Frame, Wade Plumbing and Julie Schaeffer, Kohler. The team is planning for this event to be bigger and better than last year. Our goal is to have over 100 boats this year and give away cash prizes to the top ten teams. Kohler has committed once again to the **top prize of \$2,000** for First Place. For registration and sponsorship opportunities contact Wade Frame or the PMA office.



## MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PHCC ZONE DIRECTOR TOM CALDWELL

Your national association is having meetings with the American Supply Association to plan for the 2005 convention. That will be our first "off-year" convention without the large trade show. Since we are able to start from scratch with this new convention concept, we want to represent your needs. You could have anything you wanted in a national convention. You could see our off year directed to family, we could have our regular meeting, move the date, have a one day table top show with some seminars and create family entertainment at some nice places all across the country, and this would make a great way to take a vacation and be able to write some of it off on your taxes. Please think about this and give us your ideas. We particularly need to hear from those who do not usually attend national conventions. Please call the National Office at 1-800-533-7694. Thank you for your input. Contact: Tom Caldwell, T.M. Caldwell Plumbing, Hickory, N.C., 828-327-0848, [tmcaldwell@twave.net](mailto:tmcaldwell@twave.net).

## PHCC TOOLBOX NOW ONLINE

P-h-c industry business management and technical manuals, videos, courses and pamphlets are now available for purchase on the Web through the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association's online catalog ([www.phccweb.org/bookstore](http://www.phccweb.org/bookstore)). The online bookstore features the products offered in the printed PHCC Toolbox catalog. Safety programs, PHCC apprenticeship/hvac training courses, a cross connection manual and the National Standard Plumbing Code are some examples of available products. Just go to [www.phccweb.org](http://www.phccweb.org), and click on "Catalog of Products" at left of page to begin shopping. Call PHCC at (800)533-7694 for more information.



## STANSELL ELECTED TO BOARD FOR QSC

**Bryan Stansell, Fulton Plumbing, Htg., A/C** and Past President of PMA was recently elected as a trustee on the Board for Quality Service Contractors "QSC". QSC is the leading international professional association serving an elite group of plumbing, heating and cooling contractors. QSC's mission statement is to "Provide the Quality Service Contractor with training, technology and professional development, resulting in superior client service and satisfaction." Congratulations, Bryan!



## CCA SPEAKER REVEALS "HOT" HOUSING MARKETS

*What U.S. housing markets are the "hottest" in activity?*

Nevada, Arizona and Florida have the highest market "hotness" ratings, a real estate expert told Construction Contractors' Alliance (CCA) members at a recent meeting in San Francisco. The ratings are based on housing permits per 1,000 residents. Jeff Meyers, CEO of Meyers Real Estate Information, also told CCA that 2004 will be a solid year for homebuilding. Interest rates, a limited supply of new homes and an improving economy will help make 2004 a good year.

CCA also heard from John Cairo, Delta Faucet Co.'s vice president of commercial/hospitality group, who talked about the "State of the Industry Through a Manufacturer's Eye." Tim Ross, director of tax consulting operations, Clifton Gunderson's Tax Efficiency Consulting Services, talked with the group about ways to identify their unknown tax and cash flow benefits.

The plumbing and mechanical new construction contractors also compared notes on several "hot topics" during roundtable discussions. The topics included "Recruiting and Retaining Manpower Ideas," "Quality Control Programs & Policies" and "Health Insurance." CCA, an enhanced service group of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association, serves larger plumbing and mechanical new construction contractors specializing in residential, industrial, commercial and institutional construction. For more information, call (800)533-7694, or go to <http://www.phccweb.org/servicegroups/index.cfm>. The next CCA meeting will be Sept. 15-17, 2004, at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

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## 2004 SPRING C.E. SCHEDULE

### April

Topic: **"Competent Person"**  
CE Credit: 8 Hours  
Date: Friday, May 7th, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Location: The Home Depot Supply  
(formerly Apex Supply) - Atlanta, GA  
Instructor: B.J. Anderson  
Cost: \$200 Per Person - \$150 for PMA Members  
(includes \$25 for card & materials)

Topic: **"Understanding Overhead"**  
CE Credit: 4 Hours  
Date: Saturday, April 10th, 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
Location: Hughes Supply - Brunswick, GA  
Instructor: Dave Runyan  
Cost: \$105 Per Person - \$85 for PMA Members  
(includes \$20 for materials)

### May

Topic: **"Sewer-Drain Camera Diagnostics"**  
CE Credit: 4 Hours  
Date: Saturday, May 8th, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Location: Hutchings Career Center School - Macon, GA  
Instructor: Dave Runyan  
Cost: \$85 Per Person - \$65 for PMA Members

## MEMBERS LOBBY FOR HEALTH PLANS

Approximately 150 PHCC members lobbied for association health plans during the March 25 PHCC Legislative Conference. Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO) opened a morning breakfast by saying the legislation has gone further in Congress this year than it's ever gone before, although he is not sure it will be passed this year. He explained that AHP's would be "sort of like a small business health plan co-op" that would give small business owners access to the type of programs now available to larger businesses. He said the main opposition to AHP's is Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which sees the program as competition.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2004

April 24 2nd Annual Bass Tournament  
May 19-20 B.O.S.S Training McDonough

**June 17-20**  
**PMA Annual Convention**  
**Hilton Oceanfront Resort**  
**Hilton Head Island, SC**

July 11-14 GSIA Conference  
Jekyll Island, GA  
October 12-16 PHCC Annual Convention & ISH  
North America Trade Show  
Boston, MA

## CEFGA UPDATE

### Volunteers Needed for Annual High School Construction Contest

The Home Depot and CEFGA team-up again this year to host the SkillsUSA VICA State Construction Competition on April 23 in Lawrenceville, GA. Ninety-two of the state's best high school construction students will compete in five areas including carpentry, electrical, masonry, plumbing and TeamWorks.

"We are particularly excited this year because the competitions will be under one roof," said Scott Shelar, executive director of CEFGA. "It will be exciting for the students and it will be a real showcase of the talent that is in Georgia's high school construction programs."

The Home Depot is providing \$8,000 worth of tools and materials for the competitions. CEFGA and its partners are responsible for managing the competitions and providing judges.

The public and particularly leaders in the construction industry are invited to attend. The competition will be in the Exhibit Hall at the George Buzbee International Center on the campus of Gwinnett Technical College. Directions: <http://www.gwinnett-technicalcollege.com/subpages/mapdirections/mapdirections.asp>

Competition times are Friday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Volunteer judges are needed for Friday, 9 - 3 p.m. for TeamWorks and Friday, 12-3 for all other competitions. For more information or to volunteer, please contact CEFGA at 770-685-1332.

### Legislature Restores Funding For Technical Education

The House of Representatives voted this session to restore \$5.8 million in funding for Career and Technical Education in the FY05 Budget. The Senate, meanwhile, voted to restore \$2.8 million. The budget now goes to Conference Committee where the two sides will hammer out differences.

Governor Sonny Perdue proposed a \$7.3 million cut to Career and Technical Education in his FY05 Budget Proposal earlier this year. CEFGA, in partnership with the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Educators (GACTE) and the Georgia Branch, Associated General Contractors (AGC) have worked hard this session to convince legislators to restore some or all of the Governor's proposed cuts.

CEFGA and the construction industry have an interest in this issue because we work closely with more than 200 high school construction programs in Georgia. Governor Perdue's drastic cuts would have a severe impact on Career and Technical Education, including the high school construction programs we have worked so hard to improve over the last six years.

For more information, see <http://www.cefga.org/FY05budget2.htm>. For more about CEFGA, visit [www.cefga.org](http://www.cefga.org).

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