

MainLine



Proudly Serving the Elevator Industry for 58 years

May 2008

The 2008 Spring Educational Conference Was an Oasis of Sunshine, Ocean Breezes and Knowledge!

On April 12 - 15, 2008, over 215 elevator professionals gathered in Sarasota, Florida for the 2008 Educational Conference. Offering the perfect combination of education and networking the conference marked its highest attendance since 1993 when the conference was held in Tampa.

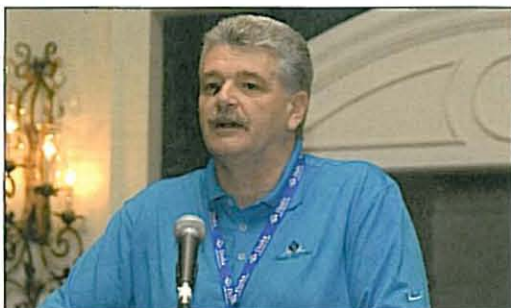
Conference Chair Arthur Steber of Elevator Maintenance and Repair welcomed attendees to the conference and to the Opening Breakfast. NAEC President Vincent Moscato gave his "State of the Association Address" reporting on the work of various committees encouraging members to say "Yes" when asked to serve on a committee. The NAEC Board of Directors met and selected their officers for the upcoming year. Phil Reid of Premier Elevator will serve as the incoming Vice President, Garry Moore of AMCO Elevators as Treasurer and Doug Gilman of Elite Elevator Cab as Secretary. Steven DeGrenier of Atlantic Elevator North will serve as President for the 2008 - 2009 year.

The core of this year's event was the Education. Sessions focusing on key management issues in this industry - to intense technical sessions - to

sessions specific to the Union Contractor, Merit Shop Contractor or Accessibility/Residential Contractor - education covered a broad range of topics offering something for everyone.

When guests weren't learning ways to propel their business forward or making new acquaintances, they were enjoying the indulgences of the Ritz Carlton or exploring the vibrant city of Sarasota. The conference kicked off with a Welcome Reception on the hotel lawn overlooking the Sarasota Bay. Attendees were immersed in bay breezes and plenty of laughter as they caught up with old friends. The grand finale of the conference was a Closing Dinner at the beach club. Attendees were greeted by rowdy pirates who treated guests to their loot, libations and a rip roaring good time.

Join NAEC next year at the Fairmont Southampton in Bermuda for the 2009 NAEC Educational Conference to be held March 21 - 24. Mark your calendars now, so you'll be sure to be there! Contact the NAEC office for more information at 770-760-9660, or visit the website at www.naec.org.



NAEC President, Vincent Moscato speaks at the Opening Breakfast



Conference Chairman, Arthur Steber, Welcomes Attendees



**NAEC Holiday Closing Schedule
Memorial Day:
May 26, 2008**

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Colley Elevator Company

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NAEC Member Since June 1971**



Colley Elevator Company founder, C.B. Colley, began working in the elevator business as an engineer for Otis Elevator prior to 1908.

After being involved in all aspects of the elevator business with Otis, he decided to make a go of it on his own establishing Colley Elevator Company in 1908 in Chicago. He remained involved in the business until the early 1940's. The company was involved in new construction, service, repair and maintenance in downtown Chicago. There were only a few elevator companies in the Chicago area in the early part of the century which allowed Colley to thrive and grow. Mr. C.B. Colley was also involved in other business ventures that included mechanical work such as boiler and heating repairs.

Arthur Colley (son of C.B. Colley) became involved in the business in the late 1930's and was promoted to the head administrator in the early 1940's. In 1957 Colley Elevator Company restructured their business and was formally incorporated. The new incorporation brought the election of Arthur Colley as President and Warren Colley as Vice President. Their nephew Ward Smidl was appointed Secretary and Treasurer. On May 1st of 1961 Arthur Colley passed away and Warren took over as President.

During the period up to the 1960's Colley was working mainly in downtown Chicago installing traction elevators, dumbwaiters and continuing to service and repair all types of elevator systems. At this time, Colley installed lifts for Chicago landmark firms and people such as Sara Lee, Dean Witter and the Cardinal of the Catholic Church in Chicago. In 1967 Warren Colley passed away and Ward Smidl was elected president, Erwin Ulm was Treasurer and Secretary.

The 1960's opened a new era of elevator technology with the hydraulic elevator. This technology complimented a building boom in Chicago's north side as well as moving west to the suburban areas with "4 plus 1's" being developed. The boom corresponded with Colley's incredible growth. From 1960-1985

Colley installed over 1500 elevators and employed hundreds of mechanics. Colley manufactured their own platforms, slings, freight doors, gates, power units, cabs, cylinders and other elevator components in their new facility in Franklin Park, Illinois.

The current president, Raymond Zomchek was born in a log cabin in Northern Wisconsin. He joined the military service touring overseas. When he came back to the States, he graduated with a mechanical engineering degree from IIT. Ray began his elevator career employed at Gallaher & Speck as a draftsman in 1959. He started at Colley in 1962 as a draftsman and engineer and in 1973 he was promoted to Vice President of Sales and Operations. Erwin Ulm and Ward Smidl retired in 1985 and 1987, respectfully, bringing Ray Zomchek's sole ownership of the company. In 1987 the company moved to a larger facility at their present location in Bensenville, Illinois.

Late last year Dennis Jedd and Craig Zomchek became partners in Colley. Dennis has 30 years in the business as a mechanic working on all phases of the business from installations to maintenance and is a State of Illinois licensed Elevator Inspector. Craig Zomchek began working at Colley in 1995 during the summers and went full time in 2000 while earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees from DePaul University. Craig has also attended electrical engineering school and electrical construction school to supplement his business background. Colley's core business is hydraulic elevators, approximately accounting for about 95% of their business. Colley's services run the gamut from new construction and modernization to service, repair and maintenance. They have just partnered with Inclinor of America to take advantage of the booming residential lift market in the Chicago area and have several traction modernization projects under contract. They still complete a few new construction projects each year and their goal is to become a one-stop source for all lift needs.

Moving forward brings an interesting time in the State of Illinois where all elevators need to comply with a minimum life / safety level, which takes an incredible amount of time and effort working with their core customer in condominiums with one elevator. Many buildings are occupied by senior citizens with a fixed income who possibly will be expected to spend anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and be without an elevator for 4-6 weeks.



Pam and Raymond Zomchek

They are proud to have been an independent contractor for the last 100 years, especially in a market full of multinational companies. They will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on June 26th and encourage their suppliers, customers and even competitors to come enjoy the event at White Pines Golf Course from 2:00-7:00 pm.