

## ***As Printed in HVAC Insider LA/MS, April 2011***

### **Welcome, SELA CACI, Incorporated!**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, with enormous challenges facing the HVAC industry in the Southeast Louisiana region, two dedicated leaders emerged to organize a broad-based effort to offer badly-needed education in the rebuilding effort. In 2007, Charley Leaumont of Acme Refrigeration and Tim Pierre of Jefferson Parish Code Enforcement initially rose to the task of gathering others in the industry together to form a Steering Committee with the object of "raising the bar" on the quality of HVAC installation in the area. Over the next few years, the Committee expanded and successfully offered numerous trainings, most notably and continuously by the highly-experienced "K&B Team" of Kenny Robert of Robert Refrigeration and Barry Couvillion of Lightning Fast Service.

Over the past year, recognizing the trend in the evolving Energy Codes toward "whole house" considerations, several RESNET-certified Energy (or HERS) Raters were included (Kenny Ripberger, Audrey Evans and Paul LaGrange), as well as Tony Laska of Conservation Services Group.

The objective of the organization is to continuously offer high-quality educational opportunities for any HVAC-related industry members, toward better appreciation and implementation of the basic Mechanical and Energy Codes. The group serves to complement, not compete, with existing organizations, and offers an optional "open door" without requiring membership dues to participants (although charges per meeting are often necessary to cover costs).

In February, the SE Louisiana Coalition of the Air-Conditioning Industry (SELA CACI) became officially incorporated with the State, and is now seeking Federal 501(c)(6) tax exempt status as a Trade Association. It welcomes your suggestions and participation. Anyone wishing to join the email listserv, to be directly notified of meetings, should email: [earthenergynola@gmail.com](mailto:earthenergynola@gmail.com). And, of course, look out in HVAC Insider for notices of upcoming meetings.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 26, there will be a panel discussion on Spray Foam Houses, identifying problems and how to avoid them, from an A/C industry perspective (Registration is required). On May 24, a similar program geared toward the consumer will be offered at no cost. These programs will attempt to address the rising number of potential health and other threats involving mold in tight houses as well as combustion appliances lacking proper ventilation.

Not included in the photo, but also serving on the Founding Board of Directors of SELA CACI are: Mark Roberts, Randy Noel, and Tommy Flick.

Submitted by Audrey Evans, 504-488-2412.

SELA CACI Founding Board members:

Frank Caminida, Duct Saddle, LLC  
Barry Couvillion, Lightning Fast Service  
Audrey Evans, Earth Energy NOLA  
Tommy Flick, Flick Distributing Co.  
Barry Hays, Joval Manufacturing  
Randy Noel, Reve Inc  
Kenny Ripberger, Delgado HVAC Instructor  
Kenny Robert, Robert Refrigeration  
Paul LaGrange, LaGrange Consulting  
Tony Laska, Conservation Services Group  
Charley Leaumont, Acme Refrigeration  
Tim Pierre, Jefferson Parish Code Enforcement  
Mark Roberts, International Energy Code Council