We had a fantastic meeting last month with our own President-Elect and Membership Promotion Chair Richard Brooks discussing the changes with the FPL Rebates. There are a lot of great changes that affect many of us in the industry, so hopefully you were able to make it to learn about these changes.

We are very excited and honored to have ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Lew Harriman for this month’s meeting. We are also having a joint meeting with AIA (American Institute of Architects), so we hope to have a packed house! Please RSVP to Richard.Brooks@fpl.com as soon as possible and no later than Friday, February 5th.

Last month we had several volunteers for our FIRST Lego League Tournament as well as our FIRST Tech Challenge. Thank you to Richard Brooks, Isaac Lima, James Martin, Gena Knight, Heath Caulfield, and Bill Malphus for volunteering your time. The parents, coaches, and kids really appreciate it! There are still more opportunities to volunteer including the STEMtastic event that will be held at the HarborBside Events Center on Saturday, February 13th. Stay tuned for more info.

Planning is ongoing for the SWFL CRC, which will be held from August 3rd through August 6th at the Hyatt Regency at Coconut Point. It’s only February, but before you know it, May and June sneak up on us. Don’t forget to Reserve your Hotel for this year’s CRC! Rooms are first come, first serve and you will NOT be charged until the day of the event, so book now and get it out of the way! The Hyatt Regency at Coconut Point is an amazing location and we are very excited to be having the event here. We are looking for sponsors for this event. See the CRC Sponsorship Flyer later in the Newsletter. We will be uploading sponsor logos to the CRC, Chapter, and Regional websites as we get commitments, so let Kathleen know ASAP if you would like to sponsor so we can get your company logo uploaded!

It brings deep sorrow to bring you the news of one of our Regional Members recently passing. Mr. Bob Baker passed away on Sunday, January 10th. Bob was our CTTC Regional Vice Chair for Region XII as well as a part of many Technical Committees. Many of you know Mr. Baker as he was very involved with ASHRAE at a local, regional, and society level. Formal announcements have not been sent out, but will be forwarded once available.

**Upcoming Events**

**February 10, 2016**

- Lew Harriman

**March 9, 2016**

- Jerry Spies
Refrigeration Update – James Martin

Guidance on Low-GWP Refrigerants Presented at ASHRAE Winter Conference

Countries with hot climates are seeking next-generation low global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants. The challenges of hot countries to find refrigerant alternatives for the widely used HCFC-22 in residential air-conditioning will be discussed in a seminar at the 2016 ASHRAE Winter Conference. Countries with high dependency on refrigeration and air-conditioning applications are mainly located in the Middle East and particularly in the Gulf region. Those countries have traditionally been recipients of globally proven refrigeration technologies. "This trend is witnessing a change lately with movement of regional industry to enhance its research and selection capacities, but it remains framed with what is commercially available worldwide in terms of the raw materials," said seminar chair Walid Chakroun, Ph.D., Fellow ASHRAE. The seminar, "Evaluating Low-GWP Refrigerants for Air-Conditioning Industry in High Ambient Temperature Countries," is part of the Conference's Technical Program, which features eight tracks and some 100 sessions. The Conference will be held Jan. 23–27 in Orlando, Fla.

- Article by eSociety@ashrae.org E Society Monthly News - January 2016 Vol. 8, No. 1

Research Promotion Update – Ashley Fernandez

The new year is upon us and I am happy to report we are well on our way to meet our RP goal. Attached is an updated RP fund thermometer, we are currently 54% of our goal, which has us right on target for the year. Look out for our Fishing tournament to come in April 2016 and as always thank you for your support!!!!!
Goal Amount: $15,500

Current Amount: $8,493

Goal Achievement: 54%

ASHRAE SWFL RP Fund
January 2016 Meeting and FL Lego League
January 2016 AHR EXPO

On January 26th, 2016 Tri-County Apprenticeship Academy with the generous help of ASHRAE and the Educational Committee of SWAACA made it possible for 36 HVAC Apprentices to attend the 2016 AHR Expo in Orlando Florida. The apprentices enjoy a day filled with vendors, manufactures and completions. Apprentices were given the opportunity to acquire credit towards classroom related instruction when they completed an event summary sheet. The assignment required that all apprentices would have to visit ten booths at the event and gather information about new technology, products and services to the HVAC industry. Anthony Tovar - HVAC Year 1 apprentice made comment; “I enjoyed every minute of the event and can’t wait to do it again.” Our apprentices were fascinated with all the new products and technology that will help them more efficient in their daily task, as well as allow them to provide better service to their customers. Many of the vendors were interested in providing donations to the academy of new technology, tools and equipment that the apprentices can work with during their lab instruction. Tri-County Apprenticeship Academy also had an HVAC Year 2 apprentice “Graydon Bullard” participate in The Hilmor Fastest Hands Challenge. It was nice seeing the apprentices cheer on their fellow classmate. This was TCAA’s first time taking our apprentices to an event like this and they had a great time. Several of our Participating Employers brought their apprentices to the event and seeing the contractors taking a hands-on approach to furthering their apprentices learning experience is what “Apprenticeship” is all about!