

## OVERVIEW: NCPWB TECHNICAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

### Purpose

The NCPWB Technical Committee has been in existence since early 1944. The primary agenda items that dominated the early years of the Pipe Welding Bureau Technical Committee meetings were the creation, review, and approval of welding and brazing procedures. Other major agenda items included reports on code activities.

During the late 1990s to early 2000s, the NCPWB agenda was dominated by topics related to the joint welder certification program. At this time, we had also opened the meeting up to the UA, allowing ATRs and Coordinators to participate in the meeting. Basically, to help in discussions on the topics involving ironing out technical and procedural issues that existed among local UA, NCPWB chapters, and member contractors. The committee had a full agenda during that period, as in previous decades.

By the mid-2000s, agenda topics were broadened to cover topics more representative to all the attendees (1/3 Contractors/Technical Representatives, 1/3 Chapter Secretaries/Executives, and 1/3 UA ATRs/Coordinators). To ensure that we provide substantive material for meeting participants, in 2006, we began to have presentations by vendors of welding products and other institutions and gradually changed the name of the NCPWB Technical Committee to Technical Conference/committee meeting. A portion of the two-half-day meeting continues to be dedicated to issues related to the technical committee.

### Technical Committee

- Resolution of technical issues related to welding.
- Discussion of ASME B31code activities
- Address local chapter inquiries about chapter operation.
- Election of members to the Board

### Conference

- The objective is to assemble proficient speakers who specialize in various subjects related to pipe welding, encompassing New Technologies, Processes, Products/Materials, Productivity, Automation, Fabrication, Testing, Tools and Equipment, and standards.

### Structure & Leadership

The technical committee comprises one representative from each NCPWB chapter headed by the conference/committee chair whom the NCPWB Board of Trustees appoints. This individual also serves as the vice-chairman on the Board of Trustees and brings to the board any action taken by the Technical Committee.

The committee is led by the Chairman and member involvement is overseen by an MCAA Staff Liaison Nick Nikpourfard.

## **Expectations & Responsibilities**

Committee members are expected to:

- Review and approve for distribution of new and updated welding and brazing procedures.
- Inform members of any code change that adversely impacts the industry.
- Submit reports through the chairman to the Board of Trusses summarizing important topics discussed and questions raised at the technical committee.
- Vote on nomination/re-nomination of members to the Board of Trusses.

Committee member responsibilities are broadly described below.

- Assists local chapter members with welding-related issues.
- Attends annual conference/committee meetings.
- Votes on issues at conference/committee meetings.
- Elects members to the Board of Trustees.

## **Terms & Time Commitments**

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*Note: Volunteers on all national committees are technically appointed annually, for a single one-year term. Renewal each year is contingent upon MCAA Executive Committee review and approval. Term durations described below are committee leadership's recommendation to the Executive Committee.*

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- Each year, NCPWB local chapters appoint volunteers to serve on NCPWB Technical committees for a one-year term. The renewal of their appointment is subject to review and approval by the NCPWB local affiliates.
- One meeting a year. Occasional Conference call on pressing matters that occur and need to be addressed before the Annual Technical Committee meeting.

## **MCAA Reimbursement Policy:**

1. Unless otherwise stated, MCAA reimburses expenses for committee members only, partners, spouses and other family members are not covered.
2. Private Auto – IRS approved rate plus parking and tolls.
3. Taxis/Uber – cost from home or office to airport, airport to hotel or meeting location and return.
4. Auto Rental – may be used when cost effective.
5. Airfare – Round trip, non-refundable, 21-day advance purchase (if possible) coach airfare including baggage fees. If purchasing upgraded airfare, please document the cost of the coach fare for that trip to provide reimbursement for the coach portion.
6. Lodging – Room rate plus tax for the designated duration of the meeting. The number of nights allowed will be clearly conveyed by the staff liaison. If the meeting is in conjunction with an MCAA event or conference, the rooms may or may not be reimbursable. The staff liaison will communicate what is covered. Travel considerations for extenuating travel circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. Meals – During trip and travel if not provided by MCAA.
8. Tips – Bellman, skycap, maid, etc.

**Antitrust:**

All MCAA Committees are committed to fostering an open, competitive market, adhering to all anti-trust laws and regulations. As members, we pledge to avoid any actions or discussions that may infringe upon these principles, including but not limited to discussions about price fixing, bid rigging, market allocation, or any other conduct that could potentially restrict competition. Our interactions, both within the committee and externally, will be transparent, fair, and promote healthy competition. We recognize that any breach of these anti-trust policies could result in severe legal and reputational consequences for both the individual, the committee and MCAA as a whole.