

Central Florida RETA Chapter

Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes



Date: October 19, 2017 **Time:** 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: Polk State Corporate College - ATC **Subject:** Committee Meeting #5

Attendees:

Ernie Leavell	Central Florida RETA Chapter	Committee Chair	
Jeff Cincotta	Kelly Refrigeration Services	Chapter Board Member	
Richard Butt	Tanner Industries	Chapter Board Member	
Sam Hale	Polk State Corporate College	Coordinator	Absent
Garry Grafton	Polk State Corporate College	Facilitator/Minutes	
Ed Noland	Florida Beef	Committee Member	Absent
Doug Lillie	Burris Logistics	Committee Member	Absent
Richard Turner	Gordon Food Services	Committee Member	
Randy Stanton	Kelley Refrigeration Services	Committee Member	Absent
Jehrad Crews	Pepsi Company	Committee Member	Absent
Andy Purvis	Florida's Natural Growers	Chapter Board Member	

Discussion:

1. Breakfast was provided by Ernie Leavell (Central Florida RETA Chapter)
2. Sign in sheet was passed around for all attendees to sign.
3. Central Florida RETA Chapter Update
 - The next chapter meeting will be held immediately following this Steering Committee Meeting. Jeff Cincotta has lined up Jordon Noles with the EPA to speak and will share with us what the EPA is looking for when they audit an ammonia refrigeration facility.
4. RETA Chapter Career Path Brochure
 - Ernie and Garry have been working on a Central Florida RETA Chapter brochure in preparation of the possible future job/career fairs. The attached brochure was distributed to all attendees. All attendees were pleased with the brochure. Andy Purvis requested additional copies to pass out at local schools.

4. Career Source Polk

- Garry and Ernie met with Angie Hibbard (CareerSource Polk) on Wednesday, September 6 to discuss the possibility of participating in job fairs because the committee is interested in giving the industry exposure for awareness that this industry has jobs for those who may not know this type of work exists.
- Angie pointed out there is a job fair today at Lake Mirror Auditorium. It is for the first 55 employers that sign up. They will each have a booth and will be prepared to offer jobs. They do not allow colleges and organizations such as Polk State and RETA to participate since they do not directly hire. Angie stated “if they let RETA and Polk State attend, they would have to let others participate”.
- Angie recommended a few possibilities such as RETA seeing if they could be part of “First Friday”, held in Lakeland. Also Bartow and Winter Haven have similar versions. These do not need to be fancy full size booths. Just something that will catch the attention of patrons by showing the salaries, career paths and value. This may bring in some people that never new about a career in Ammonia Refrigeration.
- Angie also requested the Ammonia Refrigeration Flyer, brochure and Polk State Ammonia Refrigeration class schedule with costs. She has volunteered to make the other employees at CareerSource Polk aware that it is a possibility that if someone is already working in a cold storage facility moving product for \$10 an hour, they can attend Polk State Corporate College and get certified (CARO/CIRO) to possibly move into ammonia refrigeration as a natural progression.

5. Technical Colleges

- Erwin Status, Traviss Status, and Ridge Status. All were visited and the career path process was discussed.
- Students in the Tech Colleges wanted to see an Industrial System. Ernie to arrange working with Doug Lillie and Burris.

6. Committee Direction

- It was decided to hold Steering Committee Meetings directly prior to the Central Florida RETA Chapter Meetings every other month. In lieu of every six weeks, the committee will meet every other month. The next steering committee meeting will be in January. All agreed this makes more sense.

7. Apprenticeship program

- National RETA announced an apprenticeship program roll out, no details were given. E Leavell will call National and see how the chapter can make use of the National apprenticeship program to benefit member end users.

8. Richard to provide name of Polk County Schools for student career development.

- James Gallman with Polk County Schools was contacted by Ernie, Holidays slowed discussion. We agreed to contact again after holidays.

7. Break prior to start of Central Florida RETA Chapter Meeting starting at noon.

Next Meeting:

January, 2018 at Polk State Corporate College – ATC, Clear Springs Campus. Exact date and time, announcement to be made with Chapter Meeting Notice for Jan 18, 2018.



RETA Mission Statement

To enhance the professional development of industrial refrigeration operating and technical engineers.

What is RETA?

The Refrigerating Engineers & Technicians Association (RETA) was founded in 1910, is an international society of individuals and companies involved in the design, operation and service of industrial refrigeration systems. Its purpose is to provide education and training, as well as networking benefits, to both experienced operators and those who have recently entered this rapidly expanding field.

Ammonia has a number of benefits, which has been proven by many decades of application of ammonia refrigeration systems

- **Energy efficiency** - a flooded ammonia system would be 15-20 % more efficient than a DX R404A counterpart.
- **Environment** - Ammonia is the most environmentally friendly refrigerant. It belongs to the group of so called "natural" refrigerants, and it has both GWP (Global Warming Potential) and ODP (Ozone Depletion Potential) equal to zero. NH₃ is naturally occurring & produced in the body by humans.
- **Safety** - Ammonia is toxic in high concentrations and flammable within a range of 15 % to 28% (150,000 to 280,000 PPM). Ammonia systems are safe when properly designed using RAGAGEP (Recognized and Generally Accepted Good Engineering Practices), proper materials and operated correctly.
- **Better heat transfer** -565 btu's/lb
- **Smaller pipe sizes**
- **Refrigerant price** - NH₃ is the most efficient and least expensive refrigerant.

RETA Central Florida Chapter

*A CAREER PATH TO
EMPLOYMENT IN AMMONIA
INDUSTRIAL
REFRIGERATION*





A Path to Certification and Employment

The Central Florida Chapter is working on ways to bring young people into the industry. We have formed a "Steering Committee" that is exploring ways to establish apprentice programs that make it easier to join the industry. We will post resumes of individuals interested in the field on our website, reta-cfc.com

Certification – The RETA certification is the only ANSI accredited program of its kind in the country.

- **CARO** – Certified Assistant Refrigeration Operator
- **CIRO** – Certified Industrial Refrigeration Operator
- **CRES** – Certified Refrigeration Energy Specialist

Where is Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration Used?

- Meat Plants
- Juice Plants
- Food Processing
- Beverage Plants
- Cold Storage Facilities
- Food Service Distributors
- Seafood Processors
- Dairy Plants
- Ice Cream Plants
- Ice Plants
- Chemical Industry

Why choose a career in Industrial Refrigeration?

- It is a rewarding field
- Salaries range from \$30K to \$50K
- Experienced individuals can make \$90K/yr
- It is an interesting field that is constantly evolving
- There is a large demand for operators and technicians



Interesting facts about Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration

- Ammonia is one of the most efficient refrigerants.
- Ammonia is a natural refrigerant, does not contribute to global warming or ozone depletion and is non-polluting.
- Ammonia is a refrigerant of choice for the vast majority of large industrial systems.
- Ammonia systems are easy to operate and easily adapted.
- Ammonia systems are less expensive to operate.
- Ammonia is toxic in high concentrations and must be well managed.

Contact Us

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