

History of
Capitol Mechanical, Inc.

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Dave Stockland, P.E. (dstockland@capitolmechanical.com) is the founder and President of Capitol Mechanical in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. CMI is a mechanical contractor in the HVAC sheet metal, piping, automation/controls, and preventive maintenance fields.

Dave graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1964 with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering. He was hired by the Trane Company. After spending 6 months in La Crosse in sales engineer training, and 6 months in further training in the Trane office in Omaha, Nebraska, he spent 5 years as a Trane sales engineer in Omaha. Dave then joined Steg & Nelson Refrigeration in Omaha, as Vice President.

In 1971 Dave was recruited as an owner/dealer for the Trane air conditioning program and Capitol Trane Air Conditioning was formed. It operated under that name until 1976 when the name was changed to Capitol Air Systems, Inc. In 1977 CAS purchased land at its current location in Sun Prairie. Capitol Air Systems became a distributor for American Auto-Matrix in 1996. In 2000 the company name was changed to Capitol Mechanical, Inc., to reflect its increasing capabilities, although the service division still retains the Capitol Air Systems name.

Jamie Wagner is a registered HVAC designer, Vice President, and partial owner of Capitol Mechanical. Michael Pharo, P.E. has been an estimator and project manager since the early 90's. Al Zeller (azeller@capitolmechanical.com) joined the company in 1996 selling mechanical systems to end users.

Dave, Jamie, and Al have been members of the local ASHRAE chapter for many years and Capitol Mechanical has been a frequent contributor to ASHRAE Research. Al is a past president of the local chapter and has served as chair of the Resource Promotion committee the last two years.

Capitol Mechanical currently maintains an extensive collection of manufacturers' equipment catalogs and engineering manuals, ASHRAE handbooks and standards, as well as state and national building and fire codes. The importance of training and education for its employees is demonstrated thru participation in apprenticeships run by Associated Building Contractors, training developed and

implemented by Excellence Commitment, Inc. of Louisville Kentucky, and factory training and seminars from a variety of sources.

Today, Capitol Mechanical employs approximately eighty-five employees and utilizes three buildings enclosing 40,000 square feet. Younger talent includes Kevin O'Toole project superintendent; Pat Stockland, operations manager; Wayne Yocum, sales manager, Randy Van Tassel, manager of Capitol Air Systems; Phil Willborn, manager of the controls division; and Sean Doering Shop Foreman.

Projects completed in recent years have been a blend of design/build and bid/spec; with the majority of projects falling in the former category, but revenues often similar in both categories.

Projects can be referenced throughout south central Wisconsin in the hospitality industry, including indoor water park facilities; larger multi-family and senior housing developments; new, retrofit and expansions in biotechnology and manufacturing facilities, offices, churches, municipal facilities, and schools.

I would like to thank Dave Stockland and Al Zeller for the interview and tour of Capitol Mechanical that they provided me on September 1, 2004; and for reviewing and editing this history. I would also like to thank Al for helping me through the ASHRAE chapter officer cycle and getting me more involved in the Madison chapter.

Jeffrey G. Boldt, P.E.
Chapter Historian
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