

FSPA members promote pool pump rebates

By Dino Muggeo, Fun State Pool Service, and Paul Roth, Roll-A-Way Protective Pool Fence

For several months, members of the FSPA Energy and Sustainability Committee have been working on a strong and informative presentation promoting variable speed pumps and pool pump rebate programs.

The committee chose to bring this important message to the home energy auditors since they meet directly with homeowners who want to make their properties more energy efficient. Utility companies that have Energy Audit Departments are looking for quality energy efficient products to possibly recommend to customers that are interested in lowering their electric usage and monthly bill.

The Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) is an Orlando-based, joint-action agency owned by 30 municipal utilities in the state of Florida. FMPA provides power generation and related services to those utilities in an attempt to help them provide the best possible services to their utility customers. At their bi-annual gathering in Orlando last month, FSPA members Fred Horowitz, Pentair; Dino Muggeo, Fun State Pool Service; Paul Roth, Roll-A-Way Protective Pool Fence; and Adrian Sanchez, Zodiac Pool Systems; along with Steve Elliot, GRU, and Rodney McCall, Pentair, introduced variable and multi-speed pumps to the auditors.

After an introduction of our group and purpose, Rodney McCall compared the current electrical demands of a single-speed pool pump and the energy savings by switching to a multi-speed or variable-speed unit. The City of Gainesville, through Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), has had a pool pump rebate program in place for two years. Steve Elliot, GRU, spoke on the reasons they chose to lead the way in pool energy savings, the better than expected customer response and why other state utilities should follow their lead.

The 40-minute presentation included a market snapshot featuring Ocala, some third party study information and a question and answer session. During this session, a short but powerful demonstration was made using a fully functional, closed loop variable-speed display model that was “dialed” up and down through different flow rates showing a direct impact to the power demands of the unit. All the FSPA members spoke one-on-one with participants answering many questions about Gainesville’s rebate program and the availability of the energy-saving pool pumps.

We exceeded our allotted time but no one seemed to mind since they were getting some valuable information. The auditors felt that they had enough information to bring back and make recommendations to their customers and to start the process of developing a rebate program. The

feedback was very positive and FMPA Member Services Coordinator Sharon Samuels advised us that if these auditors perceived this presentation as a sales pitch, they would not have been so enthusiastic. The cities of Lakeland, Lake Worth, Ocala, Orlando and Gainesville participated in this meeting. Contact information was exchanged and follow-ups are planned.

The information and presentation was developed by the entire group with the aid of Jeff Farlow, Pentair and the APSP/ANSI 15 writing committee, and John Seglem, Hayward. The FSPA group felt this was a successful model for similar presentations to be made in the future before other energy groups.