

2017



Past
Tours

January Tour, Dell-EMC Data Center, Hopkinton



Our tour of the Dell/EMC data center began in the facility's Command Center where IT Guru Mike Hayes spoke about the origins, current state and future plans for the Data Center. Key to the present and future is *virtualization*, which allows the data center to operate vastly more efficiently. This is done by using

specialized software to convert one physical server into multiple virtual machines. Each virtual machine then acts as its own unique device.

From the discussion of the virtual world we were treated to a tour of the physical realm of the data center. From the Command Center, Mike led our group through the rows of servers that make up the actual data center.



From the Data Center, Ron Cote took over the tour, focusing on the mechanical aspects of the facility. We saw the multiple measures in place to maintain the environment necessary for the operation of the sophisticated equipment, and the elaborate power supply systems to make sure the electricity stays on, no matter what.

After completing the Data Center tour the AFE 74 members and guests went a short way down the road to the 110 Grill where we had our January chapter meeting.

As the first chapter meeting of the new year the first order of business was to review the events of 2016, and to recognize some of the stand-out events and chapter members of the previous year.

2017



Past Tours

February Tour, Union Station, Worcester



Our tour began in the rotunda and moved into the Grand Hall where our guide Rick Trifero introduced us to the background of Union Station. Rick spoke about its original design and construction through the massive restoration effort in the 1990's. Our guide detailed how the station was once utilized, and how today it serves as transportation hub, office building, gathering place, and event center.

After having an opportunity to see first-hand some of the challenges of maintaining such a facility, it is not hard to imagine the difficulties involved.



At the end of the day though, the ongoing improvements and plans for the future make you excited that Union Station will be a part of Worcester's skyline, and Worcester's identity, for a long time to come.

Following the tour we held the February Chapter meeting in Luciano's Cotton Club, located right in Union Station.

2017



Past
Tours

March Tour, Dynergy Powerplant, Milford



Our Tour began with a brief background presentation by Chris Teta. Chris, with some assistance from his boss Charlie Hill, gave some history of the facility, its current configuration and capabilities, and plans for future improvements.

Throughout the tour our guide described the methods of operation and the challenges of maintaining the plant to our group.

The tour concluded in the power plants control room. In the nerve center of the operation, our guide detailed the modernization project that will soon bring the plant's controls and monitoring systems into the 21st century!



Following the tour chapter members and guests gathered a short distance from the Dynergy power plant at Caffè Sorrento. The meeting began with an excellent & informative presentation on indoor air quality issues by Michael Grifone and Chris O'Korn of AirCare Environmental Services.

2017



Past Tours

April Tour, Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester

AFE 74 members and guests gathered in the beautiful atrium at St. Vincent Hospital, and that is where our tour got started. Tony Cammuso began by giving the group some historical background on St. Vincent Hospital (including prior incarnations).

After the background information, Tony went on to speak about the current facility's structure and many unique features. In just a

few minutes many of us learned a lot of things we never knew before like: how they change the light bulbs over one hundred feet above the atrium floor, there is such a thing as "clean dirt", the waterfall hides a train tunnel, and the real St. V's bell isn't in the lobby.



The tour then stopped atop the pillars housing the atrium's glass elevators. While the machinery moving the cars was of some interest, most took advantage of the lofty perch to take a few bird's eye photos of the atrium below!

Down from the top of the hospital our guide led us through a maze of mechanical, electrical, maintenance and storage rooms all vital to the daily operation of the hospital.



Following the tour the chapter held its monthly meeting right in one of the hospital's function rooms with and excellent meal (great hospital food!) and an excellent technical presentation on steam trap surveys, maintenance and repairs By Jim Krochune of American Plant Maintenance.

2017



Past
Tours

May Tour, National Grid Storm Room, Worcester

At National Grid's Worcester facility Patrick Cody, National Grid's Central Massachusetts Storm Room Coordinator, gave a detailed description of how National Grid prepares for severe weather outbreaks, and how outages are handled.



The presentation showed how storm and outage response has evolved, and how those changes influenced the design and renovation of the actual Storm Room. It was shown how it was possible to maximize the space available by using much of the space designated for storm operations for "normal business".

At the heart of the operation is the storm room itself. During weather emergencies, the Storm Room becomes the nerve center for National Grid's response. The numerous personnel here are able to manage the enormous volume of calls and new information.

Following the tour the attendees moved to J Anthony's in Auburn for the chapter meeting. Following the regular chapter business Ted Karavedas of Tighe & Bond provided the technical presentation at the meeting. Ted spoke with great knowledge and enthusiasm on a variety of topics concerning generators including generator types, operation, maintenance and safety. **Ted's presentation was voted 2017 Presentation of the Year!**



2017



Past Tours

September Tour, AIS Tucker Facility, Leominster



In September AFE 74 Members and friends had the opportunity to tour the outstanding AIS “Tucker” facility in Leominster. Built in the shell of a former plastics plant, the 650,000 square foot facility is part manufacturing plant, part headquarters, part warehouse, part showroom and part distribution center. A fantastic and modern facility in central Mass, the Tucker facility is the home of AIS, an award winning manufacturer of high quality office furniture.



The tour stretched the length and breadth of AIS’s operations from management and engineering spaces, to modern woodshop and assembly areas as well as the warehouse and distribution center. Throughout the tour attendees were able to see the extraordinary efficiency and the forward thinking of the facility design and operations.

Following the excellent tour the chapter meeting was hosted on-site by AIS. **This tour was voted 2017 Tour of the Year!**



2017



Past
Tours

October Tour, New Insulet Facility, Acton

In October AFE 74 had the opportunity to tour a facility that has been stripped bare, and is beginning its journey to becoming something new and exciting. A old Digital building in Acton is being transformed into the headquarters and manufacturing facility for cutting edge medical technology. The tour began with a demonstration of how cutting edge technology is being used to plan and organize the renovation and new construction.



From the virtual the tour moved to the reality of the 200,000 square foot building being transformed into a modern multi-purpose facility. When completed the reborn facility will

have areas dedicated to all facets of Insulet's operation. One of the largest undertakings of the project is the construction of a large "clean-room" manufacturing component, and the group was able to see the foundations of the new additions and the ongoing process of leveling the new section with the existing building.

Following the tour the attendees convened the Chapter meeting at the Red Raven Gastropub for a great meal, networking and the election of the chapter leadership for 2018.