

The BACnet community mourns the death of William O. Swan

Dortmund, June 8th, 2011. – William O. Swan, vice president and honorary member of the BACnet Interest Group Europe (BIG-EU), passed away on June 4th in California after a short and serious illness. He was taken suddenly and unexpectedly from among the community of BACnet developers and users. Just in May he opened the BACnet Plugfest in Saarbrücken, and in April he represented the BIG-EU at the BACnet Forum in London. As an omnipresent BACnet pioneer, he was always an ambassador for open communications standards in building services engineering and a mediator between the North American and European progress in the implementation and dissemination of the standard.

William O. Swan, also known as Bill Swan or "BACnet Bill", had been active in the BIG-EU since 2003. Because of his outstanding technical skills and his dedicated manner in proclaiming the BACnet standard, he was made an honorary member in 2005 and included in the advisory board. His election to vice president followed in 2007. From 2004 to 2008 he was also chairman of the American BACnet standards body SSPC 135 of ASHRAE. During this period the number of working groups, which develop new application areas, increased to eleven. With this came success even in the integration of areas that go far beyond heating, air conditioning and ventilation technology, such as lighting and elevator control, access control and web services.

Swan was one of the founders and designers of the international BACnet community. Among the experts, he was known as a prolific author and for his weblog "The BAC-Cave" (<http://bacnetbill.blogspot.com/>). As one of the first engineers at Alerton he was charged with the development of building automation through BACnet. His influence on BACnet dates back to 1995, when his boss confronted him with the then widely unknown standard. With this initial task he quickly developed a passion that motivated him right to the end, and which makes him an irreplaceable person.

With all his technical capabilities and his determination, "BACnet Bill" will remain as a cosmopolitan and cheerful person in the minds of the BIG-EU members, and his sudden



death leaves a large void not only in the BACnet world. William O. Swan is survived by his wife Kathleen and two daughters.

About the BIG-EU:

The BACnet Interest Group Europe e. V. (BIG-EU) promotes the application of the worldwide BACnet communication protocol ISO 16484-5 in European building automation and safety engineering. It was founded in 1998 by 18 companies dealing with building automation. Today it has 90 members from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. Goals of the BIG-EU include representing European interests in the development of BACnet standards and the exchange of information with the permanent BACnet committee SSPC 135 of ASHRAE and with the American BACnet Manufacturer Association (BMA). Additional goals include common marketing, qualification offers and the collective formulation of technical guidelines. For further information please visit: www.big-eu.org.

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