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TECHNICIANS
ASSOCIATION**

2007 - 2008
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Date _____

Dear _____ (Educator)

I (we), _____ (parents) respectfully request an excused absence for our (son/daughter) _____ to attend the Refrigeration Engineers and Technicians Association's (RETA) 99th annual Conference in Hershey, PA during the week of **September 22 to 27, 2008.**

RETA is an organization that is focused on education and certification of professionals practicing in the industrial refrigeration arena. I (we) want to expose our child to the exciting career possibilities of this profession that processes, preserves, stores and delivers our nation's food supply in a safe, efficient and productive manner. This industry inspires and challenges individuals to be the best that they can be in roles ranging from registered professional engineers to highly skilled construction and repair technicians to trained and certified operating and maintenance engineers.

RETA's official motto is Education-Efficiency-Development. RETA's mission is to *enhance the professional development of industrial refrigeration operating and technical engineers.*

Hershey, PA is a family-oriented destination and RETA has developed a culturally enriched educational program especially for the sons and daughters of our members who will be attending this Conference.

There will be a training session on the science of refrigeration that has been developed especially for junior and senior high school age students. The Conference features a fully-equipped *trade show* that will be open to students (with parental supervision) where the latest state-of-the-art technology will be on display. The general atmosphere will be one of learning as Dad (or in some cases, Mom) attends professionally vetted Technical Sessions and Training Courses for Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and Professional Development Hours (PDH's) needed to maintain their ANSI-accredited RETA certification status.

Located in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country, there will be an optional tour to educate participants about the unique history and culture of this region. In harmonious counterpoint to the Amish traditions, an included feature for our student attendees is a guided tour of a working dairy farm including state-of-the art agro-engineering features such as a computerized milking parlor.

Another optional feature will be a guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield and town, fully explained each step of the way by a US Park Service certified historian illustrating the political, cultural and strategic significance of such major events as Pickett's charge, the Underground Railroad and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

An included feature for our junior attendees will involve Hershey's Zoo America with a planned educational session led by a trained zoologist and featuring live specimens.

Daily fare will include a *learning center* featuring lessons planned by a local licensed teacher on three grade levels utilizing high-quality packaged programs such as:

NOVA – Absolute Zero (ties in with Refrigeration Science lessons)

The History Channel (THC) - Underground Railroad (ties in with Gettysburg tour)

A&E Biography - Benjamin Franklin (Philadelphia is two hours East of Hershey)

THC - Candy, Modern Marvels (ties in with Hershey's Chocolate World educational exhibit)

THC - Great Monuments of Washington, DC (an optional two hour car ride away from Hershey)

THC - Hog Heaven - the Story of Harley-Davidson (with a tour of the factory in York, PA that was twice-visited by sitting U.S. Presidents)

Hershey - The Great American Chocolate Factory – Historical version

Hershey - The Great American Chocolate Factory – Modern version

Gettysburg - movie with Tom Berenger (ties in with Gettysburg tour)

Planet Earth - the complete set (ties in with the zoological demonstrations)

THC - Indian warriors of the Civil War (ties in with Gettysburg tour and the famous Carlisle Indian School, an optional 1-hour car ride away)

NOVA - Einstein's big idea ($E=MC^2$)

PBS - Johnstown Flood (an optional two hour car ride west of Hershey)

Documentary - The Amish (ties in with Amish Country tour)

THC - Independence Day - history of July 4th (Philadelphia is two-hours East of Hershey)

A&E Biography - Abraham Lincoln: Preserving the Union (ties in with Gettysburg tour)

On Display – Copies of documents such as the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, etc. posted in the Learning Center including a *fun* self-guided learning program.

For more information on this Conference please visit www.reta.com, category: Convention 2008.

We will of course see to it that our son/daughter studies and completes all make-up work, quizzes and tests as assigned by his/her teachers in conjunction with this excused absence.

We trust you will agree that this is an important, stimulating and enriching educational opportunity for our child. We thank you for your consideration in granting this excused absence.

With kindest regards,

_____ (Parents, and proud members of RETA)