

New York State Building Officials Conference Central Chapter

January/February 2009 Newsletter

Newsletter 2009 Officers:

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You can now register online for our
4th Annual Educational Conference,
April 14-17, 2009 at www.nysboc.com

A word of thanks to outgoing chapter officers
Tim O'Neill, Gail Swistak and Ed Cusato.
They have provided outstanding service to the
chapter for many years and have played pivotal
roles in the establishment and support of our
annual educational conference.

NEXT MEETING:

Half Day Seminar

DATE: February 19th, 2009

Location: Barbagallo's

Time: 11:45 registration

12:15 Lunch-Training at 1:00.

Cost: \$35.00

Topic: N.Y.S. Multiple

Residence Law Inspections

Speaker: Captain Knickerbocker
Of the Cortland Fire Department

Credit: 3 hours

See attached registration form.

President's Column-Jan/Feb 2009

Our profession has numerous facets, none being more important than the preservation of lives by helping to promote fire safety. Whether passive, such as fire containment through proper construction practices, or active, by alerting occupants of a fire event, fire safety is a core responsibility that all of us takes very seriously.

For obvious reasons, the death of eight children and adults in the Town of Richland disturbed me greatly. How could this have happened? Once I realized that the home had no working smoke detectors and was exclusively heated by two solid fuel burning devices, I understood. No cause and origin has yet been determined as I write this column but it is safe to say that lack of smoke detectors in a wood stove heated structure is a deadly combination under any circumstances.

Particularly during difficult economic times, wood stove use increases as people seek alternatives to paying high utility bills. They find an old wood stove at a garage sale, not understanding that it's a potentially ticking bomb as it rests in the corner of their den or family room. Do they know that they need a building permit to install the device and that every stove has a specific installation and maintenance protocol to follow? I have no figures to support my theory but I venture to say that the vast majority of wood stoves are installed without a permit.

Tremendous strides have been made in educating the public regarding smoke detectors. These are vital and proven to save lives when properly located and maintained. Perhaps it is time to develop a similar campaign regarding wood stove "use and abuse".

Chapter resources will be utilized in the future to educate our members regarding wood stove safety so that they will be better equipped to deal with this issue within their individual jurisdictions. Mass market communication such as a chapter sponsored public service announcement (PSA) on television regarding wood stove safety would not be out of the question either.

We cannot change what occurred on that cold night in Richland but can honor the memory of the victims by doing our utmost to prevent this from ever happening again.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal J. Smith
President

Bi-Monthly newsletters will continue to be sent out. Meetings for 2009: 2/19, 6/18, 8/20, 10/15 & 12/17.

Our annual conference will be April 14-17. Please get your 2009 membership dues in as soon as possible so that you will receive a newsletter.

A Message from Tom Price

*Friends and colleagues,
I want to thank you for remembering me and my family during my Dad's passing by the donation to feeding the less fortunate. You are a great bunch of folks to be associated with.*

NYSBOC Scholarships Available

CENTRAL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP - JERRY ST.HILAIRE:

Is now available on our website at www.nysboc.com or contact Jim Conlon, jconlon@townofdewitt.com.

NYSBOC STATE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP:

Available at www.nysboc.org

If anyone has a change in address or email please let Cindy know as soon as possible

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