

New York State Building Officials Conference Central Chapter

November 2009 Newsletter

Newsletter 2009 Officers:

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We are please to announce

NYSBOC Central Chapter

5th Annual Educational

Conference April 20-23, 2010

(Tues.-Friday)

Holiday Inn, Liverpool, New York.

24 Hour of In-service Training provided.

With attendance of three and 1/2 days -

Cost \$350.00

Registration Information will be sent

Out within the next couple of weeks.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN NOVEMBER 2009

Having just returned from the International Code Council (ICC) Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in Baltimore, Maryland, I can report that the ICC continues to be the standard bearer for quality code development, implementation and support. At the same time, I noted a certain angst and concern over the integrity of this very process.

The source of this discomfort was the adverse publicity reported at the residential sprinkler approval process at the 2008 ABM in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both sides of the argument, both for and against the amendment, were criticized for improper conduct. Essentially both sides pointed the finger at each other for alleged irregularities and comments from the news media that “special interests” were at work.

The term “special interests” has strong negative connotations due to the widespread perception that these groups unfairly influence the outcome of various decisions, be they political or administrative. But to be fair, “special interests” could be considered not as a negative but merely as the collective opinion of an organization or group presented by a spokesperson or spokespersons, such as lobbyists.

With regard to the sprinkler controversy, the Home Builders Association has its opinions and the fire service/code community has its own. Each side forcefully argues its case regarding the need for residential sprinklers. This debate is intrinsic to the development protocol and is a necessary component of all code enactment.

It's unclear whether either side “crossed the line” in Minneapolis in an attempt to unduly influence events. What is clear is that for the first time in the short history of the ICC, its system of open discussion and transparency has been questioned and that the word “unfair” has been applied by certain observers to its rule making, whether deservedly or not.

In response, no doubt the Board of Directors and membership have reflected upon this event, hopefully concluding that maintaining the ICC's preeminent role in code development goes hand in hand with constant vigilance and monitoring of the process to ensure its integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal J. Smith
President

Ron Piester Re-elected to ICC Board of Directors

Ron Piester, Director of the New York State Department of State, Division of Code Enforcement and Administration, was reelected to the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors in Baltimore, Maryland on November 3, 2009. Director Piester will serve three years in this capacity.

Annual Holiday Business & Election of Officers Meeting

@ Holiday Inn on December 17th
441 Electronics Parkway
Liverpool, N.Y.
2009-Central Chapter members and elected officials may attend free of charge.
Guest Cost – \$25.00
Time: 12:00- Cash Bar 1:00- Dinner
Please submit your reservation and guest payment by 12/11/09.
cheid@townofclay.org , fax 315-622-7209 or mail to
Checks payable to:

NYSBOC Central Chapter Inc.
P.O. Box 5065
Syracuse, New York 13220

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