



Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association
Volume 17, Issue 1 **January/February 2014**

"The goal of the Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association is to provide, promote, and support education, networking, professionalism, certification, and recognition of its membership."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from MBPTA
President - *Page 2*

Agenda - February 25
Meeting - *Page 3*

Meeting Dates & Updates
Page 3

Meeting Minutes - *Page 7-9*

Directions to
Upcoming Meeting - *Page 10*



Congratulations to Michele Engberg and her co-workers at
The Goodhue County Building Department they received AMBO's
"Building Department of the Year" award!

OFFICERS

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Congrats to Roger!

Roger Axel received the
"Al Kleinbeck Award" as the
"Code Official of the Year"!

*(As you can see he's a little
surprised...but there's no surprise of
Roger's support for the
build industry & MBPTA.)*



Annual MBPTA membership dues vary by size and type of your City and/or organization. Memberships start as low as \$50 per year. The 2014 Membership Application can be found at: WWW.MBPTA.ORG

Benefits of Membership Include:

- Quality Education and Training Opportunities
- Discounts on Seminar Rates
- Wide Variety of Networking Opportunities
- Scholarships for Higher Learning Programs for Members and Children of Members

Mail your completed membership form and check to:
Julie Hultman
City of Oak Park Heights
P.O. Box 2007
Oak Park Heights, MN
55082

Make checks payable to:
MBPTA

Message from the President



Hi all!

Well, we're off and running once again and I would like to dedicate my first letter to a couple of AMBO Award recipients.

I am pleased to announce our very own Michele Engberg and her co-workers at

The Goodhue County Building Department were announced as **"The Building Department of the Year"**!

I cannot tell you how delighted I am not only for the recognition her department so richly deserves but (I'm going to be a little self-ish here) for our organization as well. This is a prime example of how our profile as permit technicians gets not only noticed, it gets elevated. Congratulations to Goodhue County – you've set the bar... now, for the rest of us!

Another achievement by someone near and dear is Roger Axel collecting the **"Al Kleinbeck Award"** as the **"Code Official of the Year"**. Again, a richly deserved award by someone so dedicated to this industry, it's disturbing. OK, I'm kidding (a little). As one of MBPTA's biggest advocates, I couldn't be happier that he has received such an aptly-named award.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 25th at the Ramsey City Hall.

MBPTA President,

Regular Meetings typically include a business meeting, an educational/informational component, and refreshments.

MBPTA Members: The meeting fee is included in the annual membership dues.

Guests are welcome to attend: \$20.00 at the door.

Please RSVP pdillon@cottage-grove.org

RSVP Patti Dillon at
pdillon@cottage-grove.org

if you are attending the February 25th meeting in City of Ramsey.



MBPTA MEETINGS ARE THE LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY OTHER MONTH AT 9:30 A.M., UNLESS NOTIFIED OTHERWISE.

Next Meeting: Tuesday. February 25, 2014 City of Ramsey @ 9:30 a.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes: ABM, November 19, 2013 (Otsego)
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports
 - a. **Education Committee**
 1. U of M & Region III – Michele Engberg
 - b. **Communications Committee** –May Vang / Barb Williams
6. General Business
 - c. Announce 2014 MBPTA Officers and Bylaws Vote
 - d. Proposed 2014 Budget
 - e. 2014 Meeting Dates & Locations
 - f. Scholarship's
 - g. cdpAccess – Rick Hauffe updating MBPTA 3-25-13 in Blaine
 - i. Open floor for Comments / Questions / Discussions
7. Adjournment
 - ◆ Immediately after the regular meeting Andy Schreder, Building Official with the City of St. Francis, will give a presentation on Roofs and Wind Loads.
 - ◆ The Education Committee will meet after the education session.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Youth First Community of Promise (Youth First) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization developed by the Northwest Anoka County Community Consortium (NWACCC), a collaboration of Anoka-Hennepin School District 11, Anoka County, and the cities of Andover, Anoka, and Ramsey. Actively serving youth since 1999, Youth First's mission is to actively engage youth, their families, and the community to ensure youth have the five fundamental resources they need to succeed: safe places with structured and unstructured activities; ongoing relationships with caring adults; an effective education; opportunities to give back through community service; and a healthy start and future. Youth First is the only neighborhood-based, after school programming in the community. In creating Youth First, its founders recognized that youth are 5 to 10 times more likely to succeed as students, citizens, parents, and employees when they have the five specific promises that are at the cornerstone of the program.

Watch this YouTube link for more information on NWACC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ4qNkHcmjU>

MBPTA INFO & SOME FUN FACTS

2014 MBPTA MEETINGS:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Education/Topics</u>	
February 25th	Ramsey	Regular Meeting	Roofs & Wind Loads
March 25th	Blaine	Regular Meeting	TBD
May 20th	New Brighton	Regular Meeting	State Amendment 1309, Fire Sprinklers
July 29th	Cottage Grove	Regular Meeting	TBD
September 23	Anoka	Regular Meeting	TBD
Thursday, Oct. 2	Minnetonka	Annual Fall Education	
December 2nd	Otsego	Annual Business Meeting	

This is the only time you see this phenomenon in your life.

Calendar August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August will have 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays.

This happens only once every 823 years.

VISIT US AT WWW.MBPTA.ORG

Things you can find when visiting:

- ◆ Links to ICC, AMBO...etc
- ◆ Links to other Permit Tech websites
- ◆ Study Guides and Materials
- ◆ Upcoming Events and Education
- ◆ MBPTA's Lending Library
- ◆ Links to MN Dept of Labor & Industry
- ◆ Building Code Resources
- ◆ MBPTA 2014 Events Calendar

PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHY HOUSE

Written by *Fred Patch, Andover Building Official*

Remember when you were told to “Never put a plastic bag over your head?” Well...if your home was built after the 1970’s “Energy Crisis”, you’re probably living in a plastic bag. The plastic is behind the sheetrock doesn’t allow water as a gas (water vapor) to move through the walls and ceilings. The result is high indoor humidity. As the humidity builds, condensation eventually occurs in the coolest areas. Wherever condensation occurs mold and mildew will grow. That’s the black, white, green or grey stuff growing around windows, in the basement or in other cool damp areas. It smells musty and its dusty spore offspring float around your house, invading everything including your sinuses and lungs, making you sneeze, allergic, asthmatic or worse.

Because Minnesota State Building and Energy Codes continue to require that you to live in a plastic bag, you must take defensive measures. You must either:

Change the way you live to reduce the water vapor in your home ... much less cooking, shower or bathe once a week. *(That’s not realistic.)*

OR

Ventilate your plastic lined home by letting the air in and out, either continuously or at regular intervals. Now, you may skip to the description that best fits your house, but keep in mind that you may live in an updated/hybrid home:

Machine Ventilated Homes Built after the Year 2000 – These homes have expensive, complicated, energy consuming machines that exchange wet inside air with fresh, dry outside air. If that air-to-air ventilation machine is maintained quarterly or more often, you’ll probably be in good shape for the winter. Before winter, be sure to wash and change or clean your air-to-air ventilator filters, and clean the wasp nests, spider webs and filth out of the intake louver and screen. More likely than not humidification is unnecessary, but if you have a humidifier, set the humidistat to about 40% maximum.

Fan-Blowing-Out-Only Homes Built after the Year 2000 – Many homes have a continuously operating exhaust fan, similar to a bathroom exhaust fan, centrally located in the house to exhaust air at a regular rate. The exhausted air is replaced by air that comes in through cracks and joints in your house or through openings made specifically to let air into your house. If the fan runs continuously or at scheduled intervals, is maintained at least annually, and if the screened openings for outside air are cleaned out, you’ll probably be in good shape for the winter. More likely than not humidification is unnecessary, but if you have a humidifier, set the humidistat to about 40% maximum.

Unventilated Homes Built Between the Mid-70’s and 2000 – The vast majority of these homes were lined with plastic behind the sheetrock and need to be manually ventilated. When the wind is blowing hard, you might want to close the windows and doors tightly, but the rest of the time you should keep one window cracked open in the lower part of your house and one cracked open in the upper part of your house. The warmest, wettest air rises to the top of your house. Let it out at a continuous, moderate rate to keep your house dry and mold free. If your kitchen fan exhausts to the outside, use it when you cook. Use your bath fan and leave it on until the bathroom is dried out, or install a countdown timer switch so you can leave for work. Don’t be afraid to let the warm, wet air out. The cost of the fuel is tiny by comparison to the damage caused by rot, mold and mildew. Show others in your family how to use bath and kitchen fans, and tell them what you are doing when you open the windows, or you’ll be defeated in your efforts to maintain a healthy house.

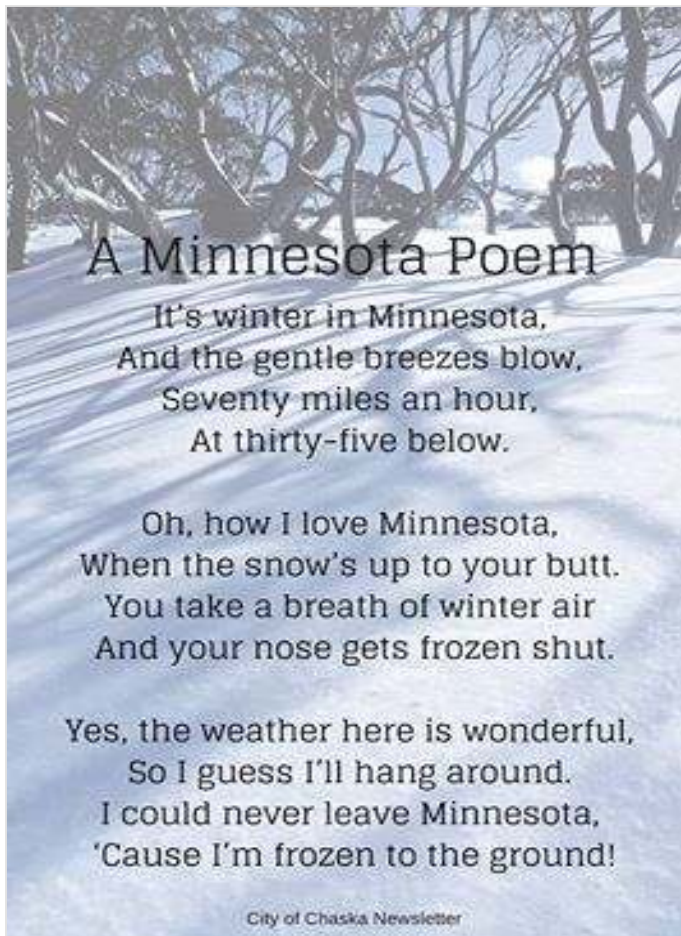
Unventilated Homes Built Prior to the Mid-70’s – Generally if these homes were well built from the start, they’re in pretty good shape as far as ventilation goes. They’re unlikely to have plastic behind the sheetrock or plaster and lathe. The water vapor inside the house moves out through walls and ceilings, and the wet interior air is exchanged with dry outside air entering through cracks and joints in the construction. Keep in mind that lifestyles have changed since the ‘60s. People bathe more often, eat differently and have often replaced the leaky old wood windows. If your family creates a lot of steamy air, you may want to install a humidistat and increase ventilation when the humidity approaches 50 percent by turning on bath and kitchen fans and opening windows to keep your indoor humidity below 40 percent. Installation and use of countdown timer switches on bath fans will make a big difference for better indoor air quality.

Thank you City of Andover for sharing this article! Submitted by Britt Pease.

SOME PUNS & FUN...

PUNS...

- ◆ I TRIED TO CATCH SOME FOG. I MIST.
- ◆ WHEN CHEMISTS DIES, THEY BARIUM.
- ◆ JOKES ABOUT GERMAN SAUSAGES ARE THE WURST.
- ◆ A SOLDIER WHO SURVIVED MUSTARD GAS AND PEPPER SPRAY IS NOW A SEASONED VETERAN.
- ◆ HOW DOES MOSES BREW HIS TEA? HEBREWS IT.
- ◆ I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TO SEE WHERE THE SUN WENT. THAN IT DAWNED ON ME.
- ◆ I'M READING A BOOK ABOUT ANTI-GRAVITY. I CAN'T PUT IT DOWN.
- ◆ THEY TOLD ME I HAD TYPE A BLOOD, BUT IT WAS A TYPE O.
- ◆ WHY WERE THE INDIANS HERE FIRST? THEY HAS RESERVATIONS.
- ◆ ENERGIZER BUNNY ARRESTED. CHARGED WITH BATTERY.
- ◆ I DIDN'T LIKE MY BEARD AT FIRST. THEN I GREW ON ME.
- ◆ WHAT DO CALL A DINOSAUR WITH AN EXTENSIVE VOCABULARY? A THESAURUS.
- ◆ WHEN YOU GET BLADDER INFECTION, URINE TROUBLE.
- ◆ WHAT DOES A CLOCK DO WHEN IT'S HUNGRY?
IT GOES BACK TO FOUR SECONDS.
- ◆ I WONDERED WHY THE BASEBALL WAS GETTING BIGGER. THEN IT HIT ME!



Updated Residential Building Code Moves One Step Closer to Adoption

The controversial code revisions would require fire sprinklers in new single-family homes larger than 4,500 square feet. *(Published Feb 14, 2014)*

The [2012 Minnesota Residential Code](#) moved one step closer to adoption when an administrative law judge (ALJ) recommended that the proposed rules containing the revisions to the State Building Code (SBC) be adopted. The [Department of Labor and Industry](#) (DLI), which administers the State Building Code, must submit a notice of final adoption within 180 days of the ALJ's report, issued on Feb. 7.

The Minnesota Residential Code is one component of the SBC and based on the model International Residential Code (IRC). The IRC is generally revised every three years, and the State of Minnesota undergoes rulemaking to amend and adopt the IRC as the Minnesota Residential Code.

Fire sprinkler controversy

Due to the housing market downturn, Minnesota did not revise the code in 2009, and adoption of the 2012 residential code has been delayed, in large part over the controversial fire-sprinkler provisions. The IRC recommended that automatic fire sprinklers be required in all new single-family homes. The Residential Building Code Advisory Committee, which reviews and makes non-binding recommendations to DLI on the IRC, recommended that the fire sprinkler requirement not be included in the Minnesota Residential Code.

The Legislature has also weighed in on the fire sprinkler issue, twice passing legislation that would prohibit DLI from including the sprinkler requirement in the SBC. Both bills were vetoed by Gov. Dayton. The current proposed rule, which only applies to new single-family homes larger than 4,500 square feet, is seen as an attempt at compromise with opponents, including builders and some affordable housing advocates, who worry that the sprinkler mandate will hurt the housing recovery and make it more difficult to finance the construction of single-family homes. The modified proposal is not, however, supported by opposition groups, and public campaigns to stop the sprinkler mandate have already begun. It is likely that the issue will again be debated by the Legislature.

The League of Minnesota Cities does not have a position on whether a fire sprinkler requirement should be part of the Minnesota Residential Code. League policy calls for the issue to be debated through the code adoption process, not the Legislature. Any new code change should take into account the need to train building officials to meet the code requirements.



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DRAFT MINUTES - Thursday, December 19, 2013 - City of Otsego

Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 19, 2013
Otsego

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

The following officers were present: President, Barb Williams; Vice-President, Michele Engberg; Secretary, May Vang and Treasurer, Julie Hultman.

The following members and guests were present: Jeanne Witczek, Britt Pease, Katy Hauan, Megan Bonnema, Debi Close, and Marilyn Martin.

Introductions took place.

Minutes

President Williams asked the members if there were any comments on the September 24, 2013 minutes. There were none.

Member Hauan made a motion, seconded by Member Witczek, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hultman gave the Treasurer's Report for September 2013 to December 17, 2013. She reported a beginning balance of \$10,152.60 with total expenses of \$2,910.19. She added that there were deposits made in the amount of \$2,636.27 for an ending balance of \$9,636.27. After the report, Member Bonnema made a motion, seconded by Member Vang to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education - Annual Institute - U of MN

Vice President Engberg and Member Hauan gave a brief overview of the courses and the instructors of the course for the Annual Institute for January 13 through January 17, 2014.

The overview of the courses being offered at the Annual Institute are as follow:

Monday, January 13, 2014 – "What is it, what does it do, and what do I do with it?"

~ Russell Thornburg

"CCLD Licensing & Enforcement Update"

~ Charlie Durenberger

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 – Four Part Series: Scott McKown & Matt Simoneau

1) "Building Department Fees"

2) "Ethics for the Building Department"

3) "Building Department Basics"

4) "Future of the Building Permit Technician & Building Department"

DRAFT MINUTES - Thursday, December 19, 2013 - City of Otsego

Region III

President Williams gave a brief overview of the ICC Upper Great Plains Region II, February 3-7, 2014 courses. The overview of the Professional Development Track being offered at the Region III is as follows:

Monday, February 2, 2014 - "Code Administration in the Digital Age"

~ Pat Parsley, City of Fairmont & Ron Piester, State of New York

Wednesday, February 4, 2014 – Legal Aspects & Ethics for Building Departments

~ Steve Thomas, Colorado Code Consulting

Thursday, February 5, 2014 - Communications for Code Administration

~ Terrell Stripling, IIC Instructor

Communications Committee

There was a discussion regarding the MBPTA Newsletter. After some discussions, Treasurer Hultman has agreed to work on future newsletters. Secretary Vang will still help when needed.

Membership Committee

After some discussions regarding the new MBPTA pin, it was determined that once Treasurer Hultman receives the registrations and payment she will forward the lists to Secretary Vang and Membership Committee Chair Bonnema. Then Member Bonnema will send an email to 2014 members with the welcome letter and a voucher to redeem the new MBPTA pin. Members must bring the voucher to redeem the pin at the first meeting of the year.

To increase memberships, Secretary Vang will email contacts from 2011 to Treasurer Hultman and Membership Committee Chair Bonnema so everyone has the most current contact list.

General Business

Approval of Region III Membership & Rep

President Williams will be the Representative for MBPTA for 2014. According to previous years, the membership fee for Region III has been \$5.00 per member as a chapter membership of ICC Upper Great Plains Region III. Treasurer Hultman will write a check for payment for 50 members at \$5.00 per member.

2014 Meeting Dates & Locations

Vice President Engberg passed out a planning sheet for 2014 meeting dates and time for MBPTA's regular meetings and trainings. They are as Followed:

February 25th	Ramsey	Regular Meeting
March 25th	Blaine	Regular Meeting
May 20th	New Brighton	Regular Meeting
July 29th	Cottage Grove	Regular Meeting
September 23	Anoka	Regular Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 2	Minnetonka	Annual Fall Education
December 2nd	Otsego	Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

DRAFT MINUTES - Thursday, December 19, 2013 - City of Otsego

Officers & Committee Members Meeting

The Executive Board stated that an Officers and Committee members meeting will be scheduled prior to the February 25th's Meeting. After some discussion, this meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at Ruby Tuesday located in Inver Grove Heights.

Proposed 2014 Budget

After some discussions the following were the changes to the proposed 2014 budget:

Expenses	Proposed	Changes
Item 3 – Awards for ABM	\$100.00	\$200.00
Item 6 – ICC Conference	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
Item 7 – Region III	\$300.00	\$250.00
Item 8 – Media & Advertising	\$1,300.00	\$500.00
Item 12 – Caring for Our Community	\$600.00	MBPTA to match up to \$100.00/meeting

Changes were made and the revised proposed 2014 budget will be presented at the February 25, 2014 meeting for approval.

Announcement of 2014 MBPTA Officers and Bylaws

President	Barb Williams, City of Otsego
Vice President	Michele Engberg, Goodhue County
Secretary	May Vang, City of New Brighton
Treasurer	Julie Hultman, City of Oak Park Heights

Congratulations to our 2014 Officers!

Bylaws Changes

After some discussion, the following items were proposed changes to the 2014 Bylaws:

- ◆ Removal of the year from the last page
- ◆ Removal of the signature page at the end that requires a notary and signatures of MBPTA Officers
- ◆ Removal of the first sentence of the last page at the end of the last page

Vice President Engberg will make the changes and have the 2014 Bylaws to reflect these changes.

Treasurer Hultman made a motion, seconded by Secretary Vang to incorporate the changes to 2014 Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Floor Comments/Questions

2014 Committee Roster

Vice President Engberg will update the 2014 Committee Roster and will email to the committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Treasurer Hultman made a motion, seconded by Member Witczek to adjourn the meeting 1:43 p.m.

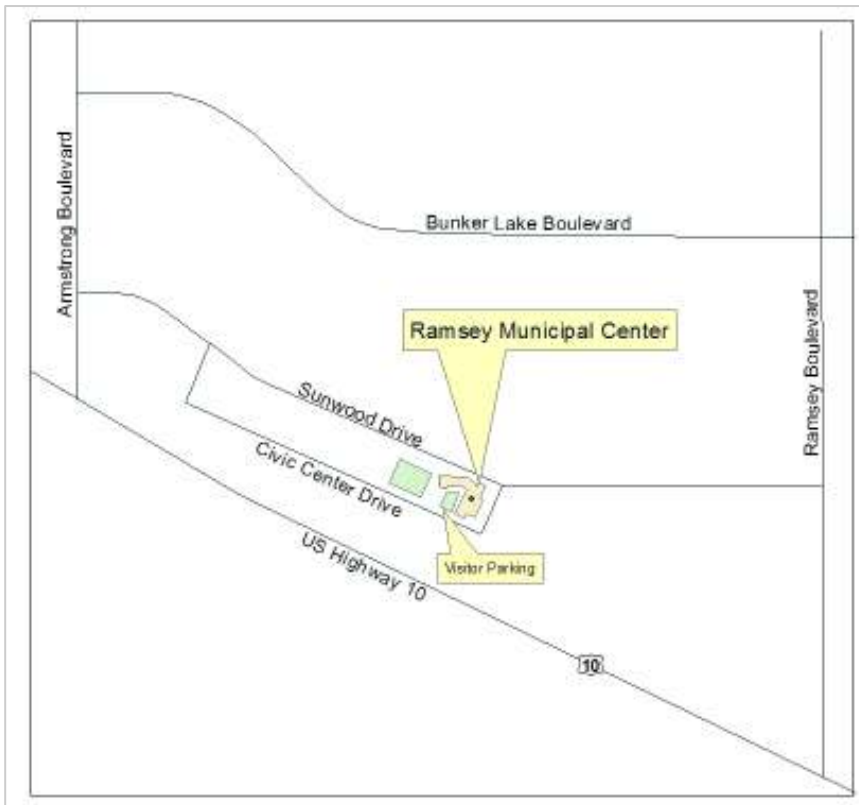
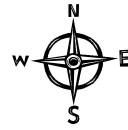
Respectfully Submitted,

May Vang, MBPTA Secretary



Directions to City of Ramsey

7550 Sunwood Dr NW
Ramsey, MN 55303



NEWSLETTER EDITOR INFORMATION

As always, please make sure you send RSVP's to Patti Dillon for meetings and mailing list information to May Vang. You only need to RSVP if you are coming to the meeting. You need not respond if you will not be able to make it (unless you are an officer).

If your e-mail address changes or if you change places of employment, please let us know so that we can update our e-mail list! Thank you!!

We would love to receive articles for this newsletter! If you have any information, ideas or tidbits you would like to share, let us know.

May Vang, Secretary

Phone (651) 638-2050

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