



Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association 10-Year Anniversary 1997-2007

Volume 10, Issue 4

July 2007

“The goals of the Minnesota Building Permits Technicians Association is to provide, promote, and support education, networking, professionalism, certification, and recognition of its membership.”

President

Cecy Lukoskie – City of Shoreview
4600 Victoria Street North
Shoreview, MN 55126
651-490-4683 * 651-490-4750 (fax)
clukoskie@ci.shoreview.mn.us

Vice President

Britt Pease - City of Andover
1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW
Andover MN 55304
763-767-5122
Bpease@ci.andover.mn.us

Secretary

Barb Benesch – City of Mounds View
2401 County Highway 10
Mounds View, MN 55112
763-717-4028 * 651-765-1660 (fax)
barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us

Treasurer I

Jennifer Harmer – City of Elk River
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330
763-635-1062 * 763-635-1090 (fax)
jharmer@ci.elk-river.mn.us

Treasurer II

Lisa Kelleher – City of Elk River
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330
763-635-1063 * 763-635-1090 (fax)
lKelleher@ci.elk-river.mn.us

The Minnesota Building Permit Technicians

**PRESENTS:
LEGAL STRATEGIES
FOR EFFECTIVE
CODE
ADMINISTRATION**



October 23rd, 2007

**The Mermaid Event Center
& American - Mounds View**

(see page 5 for further information)

Adoption of the Minnesota Building & Fire Codes

NOTICE: Effective Tuesday, July 10, 2007, the 2007 Minnesota State Building Codes (including sprinkler requirements) has been adopted and will be in effect.

**For more information on specific changes, go to
www.doli.state.mn.us/buildingcodes.html**



'PIECES' FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hello everyone,

Summer is in full swing and I'm sure everyone is very busy. Hang in there! We had our May meeting at the City of New Hope with over 30 members in attendance. WOW! Thank you *Gail Keykal* and *Roger Axel* for hosting the meeting. We had two speakers from the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry, Robin Roscoe and Charlie Durenberger. Robin's demonstration of the online surcharge report was helpful and so useful. Charlie helped our group with a question and answer session on issues with contractor licensing, how it relates to foreclosure and bankruptcy. We had so many questions and not enough time that I would like to invite Charlie back sometime to participate in full day session. Charlie had some incredible and helpful information. Thank you both for your help and participation.



Robin Roscoe



Charlie Durenberger

Our July 24th meeting is scheduled at the City of Elk River where Steve Nelson, Building Official City of Shoreview, will be doing a presentation on "The Fundamentals on Roofing, Siding and Windows". Doug Morem, Goodhue County Building Official, is scheduled to speak at our September meeting in Blaine and is doing a presentation on Code changes. Our fall seminar is scheduled for October 23rd at the Mermaid Event Center in Mounds View. Our speaker is Linda Pieczynski, an ICC instructor, who will be presenting "Legal Strategies for Effective Code Administration". At this point we are working on marketing and promoting our seminar and brochure.

MBPTA members voted for a new pin in celebration of our 10-year anniversary. We hope to have them soon and get them out to our members at our next meeting. Also, a motion was made and passed to send an MBPTA representative to the ICC ABM in Reno.

ICC Contacts

1-888-ICC-SAFE
(422-7233)

Web address: www.iccsafe.org

ICC eNews:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/news/eNews/subscribe.html>

ICC Chapter eNews

<http://www.iccsafe.org/membership/chapters/eNewsletter/eNew-subscribe.html>



It's an exciting year for Minnesota in Reno! **ICC is coming to Minnesota in 2008** and the Minnesota chapters are hosting a promotional event "2008 Fall Fest In The Land of 10,000 Lakes" in Reno this year. Planning for the 2008 ABM has begun and your assistance is needed. We will need the help and participation of all Region III chapters to help make the 2008 ABM a huge success. If you're interested in helping please call me or send me an email at cluksokie@ci.shoreview.mn.us.

Region III had their teleconference meeting on March 27th. In this newsletter there are "draft minutes" of what was discussed. Our next teleconference meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 14th at 2:00pm. If anyone has any questions or would like to attend the meeting feel free to call me for instructions.

Hope to see everyone at Elk River on Tuesday, July 24th.

Take care,
Cecy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A big thank you to **Gail Keykal, Roger Axel** and the City of New Hope for hosting the May meeting!



Another huge thank goes out to **Robin Roscoe & Charlie Durenberger**, from the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry for their presentations. Robin demonstrated the online surcharge report and Charlie answered numerous questions regarding contractor licensing and issues involving bankruptcy of contractors and how that relates to new construction foreclosures. They were both very informative. We hope to meet with Charlie at least once a year to keep us informed of any licensing changes.

Minnesota State Fair Booth Volunteers Needed

The State Fair is quickly approaching. Minnesota Building Official Chapters could use our support helping to man the Chapter information booths. If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours or even a day, please contact Richard Lockrem at 651-284-5868 or Kelly Denno at 651-284-5845. The deadline date for priority registration was June 28th. So it is now general enrollment for any open dates still available.



**2007 Minnesota
State Fair**

August 23—September 3

Just For Fun



★ **Cut a 5-Pointed Star in One Snip** ★

George Washington's original pencil sketch for the American flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred.

Betsy Ross, however, recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it skillfully, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. This seeming feat of magic so impressed her audience that they readily agreed to her suggestion.

How is this done? <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagstar.html>

NEWSLETTER EDITOR INFORMATION



As always, please make sure you send all RSVP's and mailing list information to Barb Benesch. 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 you are currently receiving a hard copy through the mail, and you have access to e-mail, please let me know and I will put you on the e-mail list.

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.

Barb Benesch, Secretary * Fax (651) 765-1660 * Phone (763) 717-4028
barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us

Celebrating 10 Years... M.B.P.T.A. 1997 to 2007

**NEXT MEETING AGENDA: Tuesday, July 24, 2007
9:30 a.m., City of Elk River**

If you are interested in becoming a member of MBPTA, further information is available on our website.

Attention MBPTA

Members:

If you would like serve on an MBPTA Committee, please contact any MBPTA Officer. Volunteers are needed--thank you!

We're on the web...visit us at
www.MBPTA.org

If you would like information regarding the Building Permit Technician program, you can obtain information by visiting the Inver Hills Community College website at www.inverhills.edu or the North Hennepin Community College website at www.nhcc.edu/schedule/. The courses are under "Building Permit Technology."

Please contact Barb Benesch at 763-717-4028 or barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us by Friday, July 20, 2007, only if you are planning to attend.

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes for May 22nd, Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports
 - Education/Planning - Cecy Lukoskie
 - Annual School - Michele Engberg
 - By-Laws - Carri Levitski
 - Communication Committee - Barb Benesch/Barb Williams
 - 10K Lakes Representative - Aaron Broken
 - State Advisory Board - Carri Levitski
5. General Business
 - Region III - Cecy Lukoskie
 - Combining Education/Annual School Committees-Discussion
 - 2007 ICC ABM - Cecy Lukoskie
 - Caring for our community - Aaron Borken
 - Nominations for officer's - Cecy Lukoskie
 - Open Floor for Comments/Questions/Discussions
6. Adjourn

Education/Training- Steve Nelson, Building Official City of Shoreview will be doing a presentation on "The Fundamentals on Roofing, Siding and Windows".

Next Meeting:

City of Blaine: Where Doug Morem, Goodhue County Building Official is doing a presentation on Code changes.

Bring a non-perishable food item for the Minnesota food shelf. Or donate cash, \$1.00 will buy \$9.00 worth of food for the Minnesota food shelf.

MBPTA EDUCATION

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

- 2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
- 2006 IZC
- 2002 Legal Aspects
- Basic Code Enforcement 18th printing
- You Can Build It has been removed from the exam

Additional Study Material

- ICC Study CD
- ICC Permit Technician Study Companion

Exam Details and Fees

- \$170.00 computerized
- 60 multiple-choice questions—
- Open Book—2hour limit
- General Administration 39%
- Legal Aspects 22%
- Plans and Documents 25%
- Zoning and Site Development 14%

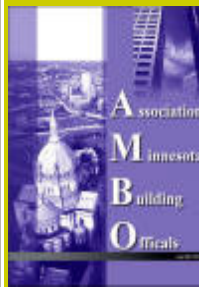
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Mark your calendars!

52nd Annual Institute for Building Officials

January 9-18, 2008: Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

The Institute program brochure and registration information will be available in November 2007.



Region III Institute

February 4-8, 2008, Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Basic Plan Review and Fundamentals of Code Administration; and Data Practices and Contractor Licensing are a couple of highlights for the institute.

Again, registration information should be available in November.

October 23rd, 2007

The Mermaid Event Center & AmericInn, Mounds View

**ICC Instructor:
Linda Pieczynski**

Description: Provides guidelines for administering the legal aspects of codes with regard to enforcement, prosecution and maintenance.



Objectives: Upon completion, participants will be better able to:

- Describe the historical consequences of ignoring the regulation of building construction and materials.
- Interpret and apply local government, state and federal legislative laws as they apply to the administration and enforcement of a building code.
- Establish or document rules of procedure used before a board of building code appeals.
- Interpret and apply certain provisions of constitutional law and property law concepts as they apply to the administration and enforcement of a building code.
- Examine theories of legal liability.
- Interpret basic principles of negligence and civil rights acts and examine possible defenses and immunities.

2007 MBPTA Membership

Annual MBPTA membership dues varies by size and type of your City or organization. The membership period is January 1 through December 31 of each year. The 2007 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**
- Continuing Education Credits for ICC Certification**
- Scholarships for Higher Learning Programs for Members and Children of Members**

Mail your check and completed membership form to:

Jennifer Harmer

City of Elk River
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330

**Make checks payable to:
MBPTA**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MBPTA currently has openings on the followings committees:

- Bylaws Committee

Contact any MBPTA officer for further information.

I-CODES ADOPTED IN ALL 50 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

With adoptions of the International Codes in Hawaii, I-Codes will soon safeguard Americans in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle signed legislation adopting the 2006 International Building Code statewide, effective July 1, and establishing a state building code council.

"ICC is proud to have achieved its original mission of providing a single set of codes for use across the country," said International Code Council President Wally Bailey. "I-Code adoptions in all 50 states make building design, construction and code enforcement easier for the entire building industry. Consumers are the big winners. The economic benefits of building to the latest codes can include improved safety, reduced maintenance costs, energy savings and lower insurance premiums."

The state of California adopted the 2006 International Building Code and International Fire Code. The new California codes take effect in January 2008.

"When communities adopt and enforce current building safety and fire prevention codes, public safety moves to a higher level," said Code Council CEO Rick Weiland. "Building stronger and safer can save lives and can reduce property damage when a disaster strikes."

The states of Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Utah recently updated their codes to the 2006 I-Codes. Around the country, more than 21,000 jurisdictions enforce the International Codes.

Recent I-Code adoptions and updates include: Cedar Bluff and Gardendale, Alabama; Phoenix, Gila County, the Golder Ranch Fire District, Taylor and the Arizona Department of Health Services; the Colorado communities of Lakewood, Northglenn, Pagosa Springs, Parker, Westminster and the Windsor Severance Fire Protection District; Jerome County, Idaho; Altoona, Cedar Falls, Clinton and La Mars, Iowa; in Illinois, the Apple Canyon Lake Property Owners Association Bellwood, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Du Page County, Lindenhurst, Montgomery, Normal, North Chicago, Palatine, Palos Heights Romeoville, Round Lake and Troy; Andover, Garden City, Mulvane, and Pittsburgh, Kansas; Kentucky's Nelson County; in Maryland, Cambridge, Hartford County, Howard County and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, which covers Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; Worthington, Minn.; Madison, Gulfport and Hancock County, Miss.; the Boles and Nixa Fire Protection Fire Protection Districts, Highlandville, St. Joseph and St. Peters in Missouri; Nevada's Boulder City, Churchill County, Henderson and Las Vegas; Tuftonboro, N.H.; Del City and Sallisaw, Oklahoma; Plains Township, Penn.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Tennessee's Anderson and Blount Counties; Cibolo, Leon Valley, Liberty Hill, Prosper, San Antonio, , use the I-Codes. For a complete list of I-Code adoptions, visit www.iccsafe.org. adopt codes choose the International Codes developed by the International Code Council.

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The International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that

Universal City, Uvalde and Waller in Texas; and Bridgeport, W.V. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and numerous federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Prisons, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that adopt codes choose the International Codes developed by the International Code Council.

eNews - The International Code Council's award-winning electronic newsletter, distributed monthly, keeps members and interested parties up to with International Code Council programs and relevant industry activities.

Read the current issue as www.iccsafe.org/news.



MBPTA MEETINGS—Just a reminder that if you are not a current member of MBPTA, the fee to attend a meeting is \$20. Thanks!

ICC Membership Ad Hoc Committee Board seeks feedback on Membership issues

The International Code Council Board of Directors has established a Membership Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is tasked with collecting feedback from the membership regarding member benefits and services. The committee will evaluate the feedback and make recommendations to the Board regarding additions and improvements to the benefits and services members currently receive. The committee, headed by ICC Vice President Steven Shapiro, wants to add your input and feedback to what it has collected.

Please provide your feedback. Be as specific as possible. Include a reason why you think the current benefit/service should be changed, improved or eliminated or why you think a new benefit/service should be added.

The committee continues to strongly encourage the membership and stakeholders to provide their feedback concerning ICC's governance structure. Please let your voice be heard at the Members' Forum or e-mail the committee at www.iccsafe.org/membership/governance.

DRAFT MINUTES—Tuesday, May 22, 2007— New Hope City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The following officers were present at this meeting: President Cecy Lukoskie, Vice-President Britt Pease, Secretary Barb Benesch; Treasurer I Jennifer Harmer and Treasurer II Lisa Kelleher. The following members and guests were present: Connie Duellman, Eileen Ottney, Jackie Freppert, Jeanne Witczek, Michelle Engberg, Robin Roscoe, Roger Axel, Jan Rosemeyer, Patty Boysen, JoAnne Beckes, Tammy Siemsen, Carol Tempesta, Carri Levitski, Suzy Miller, Jennifer Bushee, Debra Hegedus, Gail Keykal, Sandy Rickerl, Steve Nelson, Aaron Borken, Karen Zach, Julie Hultmann, Brandy Blauert, Tisha Winfield, Tori Leonhardt, Jen Lavandowska, Tina Beckfeld and Charlie Durenberger.

Before introductions took place, President Lukoskie explained that we had two different styles of MBPTA pins, celebrating 10 years, and that she would pass the samples around the room to view and we would vote on them later in the meeting. She also indicated that all members would be mailed a new pin and that they would also be available at our October seminar.

Introductions took place.

Treasurer I Harmer gave the Treasurer's Reports for April 2007, noting that expenditures for April were \$53.02 with no deposits, and May had no expenditures and a deposit of \$100. She also reported the balance in our account (copy of the reports are attached).

Michele Engberg made a motion, seconded by Jeanne Witczek, to approve the March 27, 2007, minutes without corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Education/Planning - President Lukoskie reported that the MBPTA fall seminar location and class content has been arranged. The education is scheduled for October 23rd. She mentioned that the speaker, Linda Pieczynski, comes highly recommended. She added that her seminar, "Legal Strategies for Effective Code Administration", would appeal to not only permit technicians, but building officials and inspectors as well. She also added that Ms. Pieczynski would tailor the class to our needs and to our registrants. President Lukoskie mentioned that Ms. Pieczynski has written other books that are available for purchase. The books are entitled, "The Property Inspector's Guide: Codes, Forms and Complaints" and also, "The Building Official's and Inspector's Guide: Codes, Forms and Complaints".

There was some discussion regarding the books for our fall seminar and whether or not they would be free of charge. MBPTA has been informed that they are free to ICC "members", but it is unclear who qualifies as a "member".

President Lukoskie reminded members that Shoreview Building Official, Steve Nelson, would be providing our education for the July meeting at the City of Elk River with a presentation on the fundamentals of Roofing, Siding and Windows. Also, Doug Morem, Building Official at Goodhue County, will be at the City of Blaine for our September meeting. The education topic for this meeting has yet to be determined. President Lukoskie suggested that perhaps Met Council could provide education regarding S.A.C. charges at an upcoming meeting.

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Annual School - Member Michele Engberg reminded members that the U of M education will be held January 17 and 18, 2008, and indicated that Steve Burger of ICC would be the speaker for the MBPTA education. She gave a brief description of the content of the class and informed members that books for the class are available at the U of M bookstore and will also be available at the seminar. There are five books needed for the class at a total cost of approximately \$200. The books needed are 2006 IBC, 2006 IRC, 2006 IZC, Legal Aspects of Code Administration, and Basic Code Enforcement. She also added that there were courses on Wednesday, January 16th pertaining to "career development day" that included writing, reporting, etc. We also discussed possibly having a booth at the education again next year.

Member Engberg continued with the Region III education update. She stated that a meeting was held on May 14th and that the committee had received a copy of our recent survey results regarding what permit techs would like to see for education at the February 2008 Institute. She mentioned that contractor licensing and data practices are possible topics. She reminded members that our top choice from the survey was plan review, so that topic may be explored; however it was a concern as to whether or not we could utilize a full day on this topic.

Member Axel suggested that perhaps having a half-day seminar on one topic and another half-day with another topic. He also reported that the classes at the institute next year would be broken down in to one and two-day seminars to make it easier for people to attend. He added that there will again be a trade show and that a booth space would be available for MBPTA. President Lukoskie added that Joe Ryan, Chair for the Region III education committee, is asking for suggestions from us for education topics.

Bylaws - President Lukoskie recapped a discussion from the last meeting regarding combining all of the education committees into one. She suggested continuing the discussion at our July meeting. Member Levitski inquired as to whether or not the State Advisory Committee should also be included in the overall committee. She suggested having one "core" committee and then sub-committees or separate "chairs" for State Advisory, U of M, Region III and MBPTA's education.

Communications Committee - Secretary Benesch indicated that we need to work on updating our website. President Lukoskie added that she would like to get a photo of the board and various meeting photos and place them on the website.

10K Lakes - Member Borken informed members that the 10K Lakes Chapter is again accepting applications for \$1,000 scholarships. This opportunity is open to anyone involved in a BIT program. Member Axel added that two scholarships were awarded to individuals in BIT programs last year. Mr. Borken also mentioned that 10K Lakes road-side cleanup that is scheduled and also they are constructing a ramp for a person in need this evening. He mentioned that the 10K meeting next month would address the July Code adoptions. He noted that anyone who is interested in a scholarship application, he had some with him today.

State Advisory Board - Member Levitski attended the last committee meeting and reported that they had interviewed three instructors and that some of the BIT classes had been restructured. The board discussed whether or not class prerequisites should be required when registering for certain classes. She added that by fall semester, all BIT classes will be available on-line, and added that there will also be some web-enhanced classes offered. They are also considering offering summer BIT classes for 2008, which would be on-line only. She asked that anyone having concerns with the on-line classes to contact her or Ron Sonnek.

Member Borken commented that he thought surveys/evaluations should be mandatory in all classes. Member Levitski stated that she would bring up his concern at the next State Advisory meeting.

General Business - Region III - A question was raised as to who made up the Region III board. Member Axel informed the group that the Region III board members consisted of building officials, fire department staff and permit technicians. An inquiry was made as to when meetings were held, and it was suggested that Region III meeting dates be placed in the newsletter.

Mr. Axel reminded members that the ABM will be held in Minnesota in 2008, and that they are desperately looking for people to help with the event. Vice-President Pease asked if Mr. Axel could explain to new members and guests what ABM is. He explained that ABM is ICC's Annual Business Meeting where they discuss the business and managerial aspects, code development processes, and educational offerings of ICC. He added that people from all over the world would be in attendance. Mr. Axel stressed the need for people to assist with the event. President Lukoskie added that there will be a meeting at this year's 2007 ICC Annual Educational Conference in Reno, Nevada, this fall to discuss scheduling a meeting for permit technician organizations at the upcoming ABM. Member Axel suggested that someone representing MBPTA attend this conference.

Roger Axel made a motion, seconded by Suzy Miller, to approve sending an MBPTA representative to the ICC annual education conference in Reno to promote the 2008 ABM here in Minnesota. Motion passed unanimously.

MBPTA Pin - President Lukoskie took a vote on which pin the members wanted. The pin with the gold banner at the bottom received an overwhelming majority and an order will be placed for the pins as soon as possible.

Combining Education/Annual School Committees - this item discussed previously in the meeting.

Caring for the Community - Member Borken indicated he had not received any feedback regarding the survey that was distributed to members regarding this item. President Lukoskie explained that the majority of members who replied to the survey indicated that they would prefer to donate food or money to the food shelf and "Toys for Tots" in November. It was again suggested that a donation box be placed at each meeting for those that wish to donate money and that any amount received would be recorded in the newsletter.

Steve Nelson, Shoreview Building Official, again reminded members that 10K Lakes would be constructing a ramp for an individual in Fridley/Columbia Heights this evening and invited all to join them.

Open Floor - Member Levitski informed members that Don Sivigny from the Department of Labor and Industry is inviting MBPTA to join them at the State Fair booth again this year August 23rd through September 3rd. Shifts would run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ms. Levitski has volunteered the last two or three years and is asking others to join in since she will not be able to participate this year. Members can contact her for further information.

Member Jeanne Witczek from the City of Minnetonka announced that long-time colleague and affiliate of MBPTA, Sue Northernstold of the City of Minnetonka, will be retiring. Ms. Witczek invited members to attend a reception for her on May 31 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall.

Carri Levitski made a motion, seconded by Gail Keykal, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Immediately following the meeting Robin Roscoe and Charlie Durenberger, from the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry provided education to the Members. Robin demonstrated how the on the online surcharge report functions, and Charlie held a question and answer session regarding contractor licensing.