



Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association

Volume 13, Issue 2

March/April 2010

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Treasurer II

Position Vacant



Past MBPTA
Officer Britt Pease
shows off her award of
appreciation and recognition
which was presented to her
at the February 23, 2010
MBPTA meeting. Thanks,
Britt, for your dedication
and support to
MBPTA!

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



“I want to be a member of MBPTA...
But I’m not a Permit Tech”

MBPTA members’ job titles range from building secretary, administrative assistant, secretary, etc. If you work with homeowners, builders, building inspectors and officials, we would love to have you join MBPTA. Also, you do not have to be ‘certified’ in order to join our organization. If you have any questions, please contact an MBPTA officer or write us at admin@mbpta.org





Annual MBPTA membership dues vary by size and type of your City or organization. Memberships start as low as \$50 per year. The 2010 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 Net Working Opportunities
- Scholarships for Higher Learning Programs for Members and Children of Members

Mail your completed membership form and check to:

Patti Wasmund – Inspectron, Inc.
 15120 Chippendale Ave S.
 Rosemount, MN 55068
 651-322-6626 * fax 651-322-7580
pwasmund@inspectroninc.com

**Make checks payable to:
 MBPTA**

MBPTA Committees:

**EDUCATION PLANNING
 BYLAWS
 COMMUNICATIONS**

Message from your President.....



Hi all!

Spring has most assuredly sprung! Here in Otsego, we already had hail on the 11th.

(Fortunately, they were pebble-sized and it didn't last long.)

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Larry Wasmund from Inspectron, Inc. He came and spoke about the state appeal process at last month's meeting in Minnetonka. Based on the complaints we hear about from our residents regarding their contractors, I was surprised to find out that hardly any cases actually make it to the appeals board. Also, a big thanks to Jeanne Witczek for hosting the meeting – it's always appreciated. The attendance was down quite a bit and I hope this is not going to be the case throughout the year – we need our members to attend if at all possible. I realize there are travel restrictions, shortened hours, etc. so please do what you have to in order to make it.

This year, ICC has announced that the entire month of May will be 'Building Safety Month'. You can find out more as well as order your city's promotional items online at the ICC Foundation's website. Please let us know what your city does to promote building safety so we can pass ideas along to all of our members.



You won't want to miss our next meeting. Loren Kohlen from Metro West Inspections will be speaking at the Mounds View City Hall on March 30th about the state's involvement in the municipal building departments and code cycle changes. His company is currently the building official in 34 municipalities so you might say he's 'been around the block'. Through his experiences he's gained a unique perspective and should provide us with some awareness as well as a few laughs.

Hope to see you all there!!

Baib Williams

MBPTA President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: MBPTA currently has openings on several committees. Just e-mail an officer if you are interested. (Nearly all communications are done through e-mail!) (Get Involved. Volunteer today!)



Attention MBPTA Members:
If you would like serve on one of our Committees, please contact any MBPTA Officer. Volunteers are needed.

Thank You!

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

Contact Barb Benesch at: 763-717-4028 or barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us if you are planning to attend the meeting. Please RSVP by:

Friday, March 19

Reminder!

MBPTA meetings are the LAST Tuesday of every other month at 9:30 a.m., unless notified otherwise.

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 30, 2010
City of Mounds View 9:30 a.m.*

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes: February 23, 2010
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports -
 - A. Education Committee
 - i. U of M – Michele Engberg
 - ii. Region III – Roger Axel
 - B. Communications Committee
 - i. Website – Barb Williams
 - ii. Newsletter - Barb Benesch
 - C. State Advisory Board – Linda Singer/Michele Engberg
6. General Business
 - A. Permit Tech Questions and Review
 - B. Volunteer Event(s)
 - i. Ronald McDonald House - Patti Wasmund
 - C. Open Floor for Comments/Questions/Discussions
7. Adjournment
 - ◆ Meeting Education: Loren Kohnen, owner of Metro West Inspections, will be discussing the State's involvement with regards to building-including code cycle changes.
 - ◆ Caring for Our Community: Cash or check donations for food to "Hunger Solutions of MN". Please make your checks payable to "Hunger Solutions of MN" and thanks for giving.

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER NEWS!!



INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE
FIRE SPRINKLER COALITION

2012 International Residential Code
Will Retain Fire Sprinklers for New Homes

For More Information go to: <http://www.ircfiresprinkler.org/>

~ MBPTA EDUCATION ~

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

- 2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
- 2006 International Zoning Code
- 2002 Legal Aspects
- Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing
- You Can Build It has been removed from the exam

Additional Study Material

- ICC Study CD and ICC Permit Technician Study Companion
- Flashcards

Exam Details and Fees

- \$180.00 computerized
- 60 multiple-choice questions—
- Open Book—2hour limit
- General Administration 39%
- Legal Aspects 22%
- Plans and Documents 25%
- Zoning and Site Development 14%

For more information go to www.mbpta.org



“MBPTA LENDING LIBRARY”

MBPTA has the official books available to loan to members to study for the ICC Permit Technician exam. The books can be borrowed for up to two months. It is suggested that you purchase the “2006 Permit Technician Study Companion” from ICC. This guide provides practice and test questions that are used with the other books to

assist you in preparing for the test. There are only 13 certified permit technicians in Minnesota. Our goal in 2010 is to see this number increase significantly. By providing these books to members, we hope to encourage you to take the exam and become a certified permit technician. The books available for check out are: 2006 IBC, 2006 International, Zoning Code, 2002 Legal Aspects, Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing and the 2006 Permit Technician Study Guide. Contact the MBPTA Secretary I, Barb Benesch, for more information at barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us.



Permit Technician Program



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. Or you can check out our website at www.MBPTA.org

2010 Meeting Locations:

- March 30 – Mounds View
- May 18 – New Brighton
- July 27 – New Hope
- September 28 – Maple Grove
- October 28 – TBD (Annual Fall Education)
- November 23 (ABM) – Otsego

ICC Contacts: 1-888-ICC-SAFE, (422-7233)

ICC eNews

Web address:

www.iccsafe.org



Do you have an idea for a meeting topic???? Do you know of someone who would like to speak at one of our meetings? Please contact an MBPTA officer with your suggestions. We will appreciate your ideas!



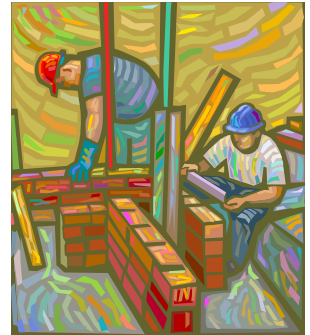
February permit numbers hold hope for Twin Cities home builders

March 1, 2010 - Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal - by [Jim Hammerand](#) Staff Writer

More new home construction permits were issued in the Twin Cities this February than the same month a year ago, the "Builders Association of the Twin Cities" said on Monday.

There were 177 permits issued for 202 metro-area units in February. That's a 65-percent increase in permits from February 2009, and the sixth consecutive month that saw higher permit numbers than one year earlier.

"Last February marked the low point for residential permits and units in recent memory" Builders Association of the Twin Cities President Gary Aulik said in the release. "But since late last summer, we've seen traditional, single-family homes showing signs of strengthening.



Cities like Farmington, Lakeville, Shakopee and Maple Grove saw the most action last month.

1. The plain view doctrine is another _____ to the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement.
 - A. Correction
 - B. Addition
 - C. Ruling
 - D. Exception

Ref. Legal Aspects of Code Administration (pg. 65)

2. In construction classification, there are _____ construction types.
 - A. Four
 - B. Six
 - C. Five
 - D. Ten

Ref. IBC 602.1*

3. A Building Official is the officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or a duly authorized _____.
 - A. Representative
 - B. Official
 - C. Administrator
 - D. Clerk

*Ref. IBC * Chapter 2, Definitions*

4. Can a detached building have a basement or crawl space?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

Ref. IBC 104.5*

5. According to the *International Zoning Code*, a street is any throughfare or public way not less than _____ feet in width which has been dedicated.
 - A. 12
 - B. 16
 - C. 24
 - D. 35

*Ref. IZC*** Chapter 2, Definitions*

IBC = International Building Code, *IZC = International Zoning Code*

**Permit Tech
Test Questions
March 30, 2010**

DRAFT MINUTES - Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - Minnetonka City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am. The following officers were present: President, Barb Williams; Vice-President, Michele Engberg; Secretary I, Barb Benesch; Secretary II, May Vang (arrived at 9:55 a.m.); Treasurer I, Patti Wasmund. The following members and guests were present: Jeanne Witczek, Debi Close, Gail Keykal, Jan Rosemeyer, Patricia Boysen, Katie Schlundt and Robbie Hiltz.

Introductions took place.

Member Boysen made a motion, seconded by Member Keykal, to approve the minutes of November 24, 2010, with no corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer I, Wasmund, gave the Treasurer's Report for December 2009 and January 2010. She reported a beginning balance in the account of \$6,752.54 with total expenses of \$315.21, deposits of \$822.90 with an ending balance of \$7,080.23. January reported a beginning balance of the \$7,080.23, expenses totaling \$115 and deposits of \$2,051.64 with an ending balance of \$9,016.87. Member Pease made a motion, seconded by Member Witczek, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education

U of M and Region III – Vice-President Engberg briefly talked about the success of the U of M education in January. Discussion ensued among members present about the positive responses to the classes and instructors. Member Engberg expressed her concern with the lack of permit technician participation in the education and questioned whether it was due to topics or the economy and the cities' cutting their expenses. She added that attendance numbers overall at the education appeared comparable to previous years.

Vice-President Engberg informed members that she received word that the Region III education program is financially sound and that they would be signing another contract with the Northland Inn where the institute is currently held.

Communications Committee

President Williams commended Secretary I Benesch on the latest newsletter. She asked the members to e-mail her with any ideas or articles they had for the next newsletter. President Williams noted that she was having trouble with the MBPTA website. She added that she is working on resolving the problem and that the website is up but she is not able to make changes at this time. She added that if you have anything for the website as well, to notify her.

State Advisory Board

Member Engberg reported that colleges are discussing the suspension of the BIT A.A.S. degree due to low placement. Member Engberg indicated that the State does not require a degree to be a Building Official so students are not as interested in a full degree program. She added that they are looking at incorporating the BIT curriculum into the Construction Management program. She added that the certificate program would not be affected.

General Business

At this time, President Williams announced that Rick Breezee, Building Official for MAC (Metropolitan Airports Commission), has been awarded the 2009 Brent Snyder Education Award presented by the ICC Upper Great Plains Region III.

Continued on next page....

February 23, 2010 Minutes (continued)

2010 MBPTA Officers – President Williams welcomed the new board members. She also reminded members that we have an open officer position; Treasurer II and asked if there were any volunteers. Treasurer I Wasmund commented that she is handling the treasurer position fine at present on her own but if duties become more demanding we will need to definitely fill the position.

Committee Volunteers Needed – President Williams also solicited volunteers for the committees. Discussion ensued about making the duties of the position more specific to the members so that they are better informed as to what specifically the duties would be and how much time would be involved. Some discussion ensued at this time about having committee meetings in the evening for those that cannot get away from work. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent to member to see if this would be of interest to anyone.

Volunteer Event – Treasurer I Wasmund recapped our last volunteer event at the Ronald McDonald House and what a good turn out there was. Those members present that participated commented on what a good experience it was. It was suggested that if there was an even bigger group volunteering for this fall's event that perhaps we could schedule two evenings at the Ronald McDonald House. Wasmund informed members that Member Witczek would be co-chair for this event. Members were informed that they would check on some available dates and send out an e-mail.

Review Membership Application – Wasmund reported that she had some trouble with membership renewal fees this year explaining that the renewals forms show the fee that was paid the previous year and if the membership status changed, the membership fee that is sent in is not correct. She decided that this process is working fine and if she does get a check with an amount that is too high, she will refund the difference. Wasmund also noted that the application provides for those members that have retired and allows them a free membership. She suggested that the application be revised to reference those that are laid off as well. It was noted that a change would need to be made to the bylaws for 2011.

Award Presentation to Past President Britt Pease – President Williams presented Member Britt Pease with a plaque for her past service as Treasurer from 1999 to 2003, Vice-President in 2007 and President from 2008 to 2009.

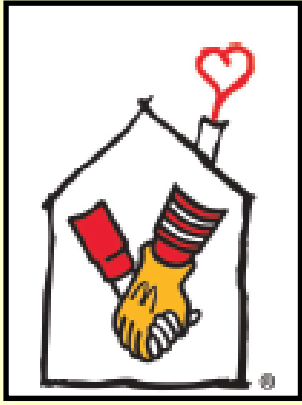
Permit Tech Questions

President Williams reviewed the Permit Tech questions and answers that were in our January/February newsletter.

Open Floor for Comments/Questions/Discussions – Member Debi Close questioned the group on how they handled license verification for state licensed contractors. The majority of the group checked a contractor's license with each permit application with only a small few that accepted a copy of the state license. It was mentioned that the CCLD (Construction Codes and Licensing Division) published a quarterly newsletter that contains contractors that have had their state license revoked. It was noted that this information is also on the CCLD website. A brief discussed also took place on how to look up state licensed plumbers.

Adjournment

There was a motion by Member Hiltz, seconded by Member Witczek, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.



Ronald Mc Donald House Cooks for Kids Volunteer Event

The metro area has a number of the world's most advanced medical treatment centers for pediatric critical care. Families travel to the Twin Cities from all over the United States and the world for their children to receive specialized care at our hospitals. The Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Minneapolis, which can accommodate 48 families on any given night, provides lodging and a community atmosphere of care, support and encouragement while reducing the costs of daily living. RMH provides a home-away-from home for families facing critical pediatric illness. One of several volunteer opportunities at RMH is called Cook for Kids.

After a long and often exhausting day at the hospital, families look forward to coming back to the House for a home –cooked meal.

Last year, MBPTA volunteers prepared and served a meal for approximately 90 to 95 people and it was so much fun we are going to do it again! Volunteers should plan on arriving between 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm to unload food and get set up to serve the meal. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm every evening and usually lasts about an hour. They suggest a group of 4 -12 serve the meal. Spouses are welcome to participate – last year we discovered that having Katie Schlundt's husband around to help lift the heavy stuff and wipe off tables was great! We also have to pick up the kitchen and store the uneaten food in sealable containers in the refrigerator's) after the meal is over. We finished the clean up by 7:30 pm. Due to the illnesses the children have, volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and not have or been exposed to communicable diseases.

Each volunteer is assigned food to prepare or purchase. The food is prepared at home and heated up at the Ronald Mc Donald House. Each volunteer brings their assigned item and we put it all together in the large Ronald Mc Donald kitchen and serve it to the families. Volunteers are reimbursed for the cost of the food by MBPTA.

If you are interested in helping in any way can send an email to me at: pwasmund@inspectroninc.com. Tell me how you want to help and I will start a list of volunteers. If we have more volunteers than required for one event, we will add a second event. At present, there are open dates in July through December to volunteer. I'll firm up the dates once we have a list of volunteers.



State Contractor License Period To Extend to Two Years

By June 30, 2011, the license period for all boiler licenses, plumbing licenses, and residential contractor license will be extended from one year to two years. The 2009 Minnesota Legislature doubled the length of these licenses to reduce the frequency that each licensee must renew their license.

Another objective was improved customer service from DOLI by spreading the agency's license renewal workload during two years. Implementation of the two-year licenses will occur from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

License holders will pay the license fees for the two-year period when obtaining or renewing a license.



Code Of Honor Scholarship Applications Opened Friday, March 5th

The ICC Foundation Code of Honor (COH) application database went live on Friday, March 5th at 10 a.m. EST and remain open until Friday, March 26th at 5 p.m. EST.

Online <http://www.icc-foundation.org/newsStory&ID=12>

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 your e-mail address changes or if you changes 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.

Barb Benesch, Secretary I
Fax (763) 717-4019
Phone (763) 717-4028



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Commemorating a
30-year Legacy of Leadership



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FOUNDATION

MAY 2010

Directions:

Mounds View City Hall

From South: I-694 to I-35W north to County Road 10 (not Highway 10) to Edgewood Drive, take right and then left into parking lot (across the street from Walgreens).

From North: I-35W south to County Road 1 exit, take left (west) to Edgewood Drive to City Hall on right (across from Walgreens).

Answers to Permit Tech Questions (page 5):

- 1) D. Exception
- 2) C. Five
- 3) A. Representative
- 4) B. No
- 5) B. 16



10,000 LAKES CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

<http://www.10klakes.org/>

