

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER ICBO / ICC

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Annual Tri-Chapter Meeting in Santa Cruz Yields a Wealth of Information

The annual Tri-Chapter meeting of Peninsula, East Bay and Monterey Bay Chapters of ICC/ICBO was held on Friday June 6th at the Coast Santa Cruz Hotel. The meeting was highlighted with the presence of newly elected ICC Vice President Anne VonWeller (Chief Building Official of Murry, Utah), Kathleen Mihelich, ICC Vice President of Professional Development Services and ICC Director Fred Herman (Chief Building Official of Palo Alto, CA).

Also on tap were CALBO Director Sheila Lee (City of Santa Clara Building Official) and 2nd CALBO VP William Schock (San Leandro Building Official)

Daniel Kostelec and John LaTorra did an excellent job in comparing the International Residential Code (IRC) with the UBC. There are many sections that remain the same and many sections that are changed in the IRC. For example, ceiling heights in habitable spaces would be lowered to 7 feet, rather than 7 feet/six inches as now required by the UBC. Could be helpful in those tough granny units to get them to comply.

Kathleen Mihelich discussed in detail the partnering relationship of the ICC with local Chapters in presenting educational opportunities in the region. On Thurs-

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James L. Witt To Take Over As ICC CEO



FEMA Director James L. Witt will replace Bob Heinrich as the CEO of the International Code Council. Witt, a former cabinet member for President Clinton has more than 25 years of experience in the field of disaster management. Under his guidance FEMA matured into a well respected

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CALBO BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKE POSITION ON ADOPTION OF NEW CODES IN CALIFORNIA.

The California Building Officials Board of Directors has come out with a position paper urging that the California Building Standards Commission adopt the International Building and International Residential Code in California. In an open letter issued May 13, 2003, the Board discussed their response to requests from various organizations to provide an opinion. Up until now, CALBO has tried to remain as neutral as possible, realizing they represent a variety of interest in state codes.

In their letter, the Board cites two different philosophies in the development of codes. Specifically, the IBC and IRC process is based on the principal that governmental representatives should have the final say in what get incorporated into the codes while the rival process of the NFPA 5000 is based largely on decisions of private industry. The fundamental thinking of the I-Code process is that there is less chance of political or special interest influence in the development of codes when voting is limited to those professional members that generally have no monetary interests in the products or procedures recommended. In the NFPA process the "code

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and responsive agency and elevated the role building codes play in building safer communities. Witt founded his first company, a commercial and residential construction company at the age of 21. He has been a county judge six times and was the director of emergency operations in Arkansas prior to moving to Washington DC and taking over the leadership of FEMA.

The International Code Council has great confidence in Mr. Witt's ability to continue the strong growth and the ICC as a world class organization. His great skills will be an asset to the over 50,000 ICC members and hundreds of Chapters across the nation and in Canada.

ICC Vice-President Anne von Weller gave Mr. Witt great accolades at the recent Tri-Chapter meeting in Santa Cruz and expressed great excitement and anticipation of his presence in California.

(CALBO Position—Continued from page 1)

enforcers" may be anyone with a general interest and may not necessarily be limited to government.

In their referenced Executive report, CALBO discusses the similarities and differences between the two codes. Codes developed by the ICC are consensus based as a vote of the eligible membership. The process has been modified to provide that fire service representatives are no longer limited to voting on only fire related codes but may now vote on the main body as well. In the NFPA process, members may make votes recommending modifications or changes to proposed codes and standards, however, the final vote comes down to 13 individuals who may either take the recommendations or move in an opposing direction. Their decision is final.

One of the major concerns of the NFPA standards is the reliance on reference to other standards. These reference documents are frequently ambiguous and confusing and could easily lead to higher construction costs, and outlays of capital from building departments to purchase widely ranging standards in addition to the model code books. The I-Codes consolidate prescriptive solutions to common problems very similar to the Uniform Codes format that building departments are used to across the United States. While the NFPA offers free code books to jurisdictions, the offer appears to be more of a marketing strategy as it is limited only to codes adopted statewide. Further NFPA has not clarified how it will provide free copies of the California Building Code. To obtain a codebook, one must attend an NFPA training session.

CALBO goes on in their executive letter as follows: "Not counting referenced standard technical committees, NFPA is developed by 17 committees. Each committee is equally balanced with members representing "user groups, producers and those with a general interest." Code "enforcers" along with trade associations, insurers, and numerous other stake holders make up the "general interest" third of the committee membership. As such, local code officials actually have very little representations on these committees." CALBO concludes: "It is important to note that the "enforcers" who sit on NFPA's technical committees are not actually required to enforce a building code or work for a governmental agency at all. " Participation on these committees can also be a costly matter for members which must bear the burden of attending as well as paying an additional registration fee (currently \$500) for the privilege of voting at a business meeting. In contrast, the ICC bears the cost of meeting expenses for their technical committees. In a reality check, governmental representatives are hard pressed to absorb the costs of attending such meetings given the current status of local departmental budgets and travel restrictions. So who does that leave to attend these meetings when the cost must be paid by the committee members?

The executive letter goes on to cite other similar differences between the two code adoption processes, however the fact remains that the people who control which codes will be adopted in California, the Building Standards Commission, is mainly comprised with interests contrary to the public process, but rather more susceptible to special interest private sector advocates.

There has been significant recommendation for the I-Codes from major players such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Building Owners and Managers Assoc. Intl. (BOMA), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the International City Managers Assoc. (ICMA), The Governmental Affairs and Policy Committee (GAPC), the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the National Housing Council and the National Council of Structural Engineers (NCSEA). Recently, the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs Association also came out with a position paper also supporting the I-Codes in California.

The bottom line is to let your elected representatives know which way to support the codes adoption

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day, she met with representatives of the each chapter in the Tri-Chapter area in Capitola to iron out many of the details needed to provide for successful and profitable seminars in the area. She demonstrated a completely cooperative attitude with the local chapters with several variations on how seminars could be sponsored. In addition, each chapter is eligible for a free seminar, once a year. The free seminar can be rolled one year only, however, if the Tri-Chapter cooperates, there can be a substantial training session made available over a couple of days.

Amal Sinha, (Building Official, City of San Jose) mentored a program that spanned a variety of subjects including code adoption and interpretation, special inspection, structural plan check standards, re-roofing topics and basement construction recommendations.

Amal distributed a letter to the California Building Standards Commission from the Tri-Chapter Uniform Codes Adoption and Interpretation Committee strongly recommending the adoption of the I-Codes. The letter included a comparison of the structural aspects of the NFPA and IBC and details the shortfalls of the NFPA code. The letter is endorsed by 80 regional building and construction professionals largely representing governmental jurisdictions but also private industry representatives.

Brent Hipster (Building Official, Town of Portola Valley) presented an excellent argument for a set of guidelines on basement construction. He distributed a Tri-Chapter generated guideline which included definitions, allowed uses, access and exits, emergency escape or rescue, light well/window dimensions, guardrail requirements (around the light wells), ladders, drainage and security bars, grills, grates and covers.

Next up was Kevin Scott, a battalion chief and fire marshal for Kern County, who presented an analytical comparison of the I-Codes and the NFPA 5000 development process. Quite frankly, it was an eye opener that laid bare the two processes side by side. There is a distinct disadvantage to the NFPA process in that special interests may easily control the process and the membership may not have a decisive voice with the group of 13 members who comprise the NFPA Standards Council.

Lastly, CALBO Director Sheila Lee and 2nd Vice President William Schock laid out the CALBO strategy for the adoption of codes in California. There are several meetings coming up in the next couple of weeks in Sacramento that will determine the fate of building codes in this state. If you possibly can, you need to attend those meetings. They are as follows:

June 11th and July 2nd CBSC Code Change Committee Meeting

June 26th CBSC Coordinating Council Meeting

July 16th CBSC Commission Hearing (East Bay Chapter arranging for a bus to go up in)

JOIN US IN SAYING GOODBYE TO
DAVE PASQUINELLI
ON HIS RETIREMENT.

HE IS RETIRING AFTER SERVING THE BUILDING INDUSTRY FOR OVER 31 YEARS. AFTER ALL OF HIS YEARS OF SERVICE, HE WILL NOW TRY AND RELAX IN THE SUN.

JOIN US FOR DINNER AND DRINKS. THE SALINAS ELKS LODGE WILL BE SERVING SAUTE' BREAST OF CHICKEN AND BEEF KABOB, BAKED POTATOE, TOSSED SALAD, SWEET FRENCH BREAD AND VANILLA CAKE WITH PEPPERMINT ICING FOR DESSERT.

DATE: June 27, 2003 Place: Salinas Elks Lodge, 614 Airport Blvd, Salinas

Time: No Host Cocktails 6:30 pm & Dinner at 7:00 pm

Cost: \$30.00 per person (includes gift)

RSVP by June 13, 22003—Suzanne (831) 758-7253

Please make checks payable to Suzanne Navarro @ City of Salinas, 200 Lincoln St. Salinas , CA 93901



INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR MAY 2003

Stanley Wheeler.....LP2A
 Douglas Rick.....City of Pacific Grove
 Mike Stone.....City of Salinas
 Brian Congelton.....AIA
 Craig Oliver.....City of Marina
 Mike Grace.....Grace and Associates
 Gwen Wells.....Builder's Exchange of the Central Coast
 Mark B. Lord.....D & M Consulting Engineers
 J D Jones.....Development Consultants
 Dave Van Etten.....City of King City
 George Barnes.....CSG Consultants Inc.
 Ray Proffitt.....City of Hollister
 Moe Tavakolian.....PSI
 John Villalpando.....City of Monterey



MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER – ICBO/ICC

Meeting Minutes of May 2003

CALL TO ORDER

1.01 Pledge of Allegiance

1.02 Self-Introductions

CHAPTER BUSINESS

2.01 Approval of the Minutes:

- The minutes of the April 2003 meeting were approved as amended. (1st/VanEtten; 2nd/Wheeler).

2.02 Unfinished Business:

- Craig Oliver discussed Habitat for Humanity and their search for a volunteer to chair the committee that will coordinate volunteers for building a local home. Ray Proffitt volunteered.
- Craig Oliver passed around a thank you card from Dave Pasquinelli and Don John's retirement card.
- Craig discussed ABM surplus funds for Chapter distribution.

2.03 New Business:

- Brian Congelton would like to have a joint meeting in July to discuss topics of mutual interest, i.e., handicap issues, I Codes, etc. A meeting will be scheduled for July. Ray Proffitt distributed job announcement from City of Gilroy.
- Doug Rick drafted a policy regarding electrical code compliance in existing SFD, and will share with Chapter members at next meeting.

2.04 Treasurer's Report:

- Mike Grace gave report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.01 Code Change:

- None

3.02 Legislation:

- None.

3.03 Special Inspection:

- Doug Rick discussed the use of special inspection agreement form.

3.04 Membership and Honors:

- Mike Stone requested that anyone who has information regarding Dave Pasquinelli's past history (photos, etc.) to please contact him.

3.05 IAEI:

- Mike Stone stated that new State mandate will require electrical inspectors to be certified by January 2005.

3.06 2003 CALBO ABM:

- None

3.07 Education:

- May 22nd, commercial electrical inspection class.
- May 29th, electrical IAEI meeting.
- June 6th, Tri Chapter meeting - \$65.00; RSVP to Dan Kostelec.
- John Villalpando brought up a possible educational opportunity for the Chapter regarding electrical training in reference to State mandate electrical certification.

4.0 OTHER REPORTS

- None.

4.01 CALBO:

- None.

4.02 ICBO/ICC:

- None.

4.03 Code Discussion:

- ARC fault circuit interrupter was discussed.

5.0 PROGRAM

Agenda

June 19, 2003 @ 11: a.m.
Bay Park Hotel, Monterey

1.0 Call to Order

- 1.01 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.02 Self- Introductions

2.0 Chapter Business

- 2.01 Approval of Minutes
- 2.03 Unfinished Business
- 2.03 New Business
- 2.04 Treasurers Report

3.0 Committee Reports

- 3.01 Code Change
- 3.02 Legislation
- 3.03 Special Inspection
- 3.04 Membership & Honors
- 3.05 IAEI
- 3.06 Education

4.0 Other Reports

- 4.01 CALBO
- 4.02 ICBO / ICC
- 4.03 Code Discussion

5.0 Program

Mike Francone of Viega/ProPress System (pipe joining system)

Lunch \$15.00

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER ICC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings

- June 19, 2003.....Chapter Meeting
- July 17, 2003.....Chapter Meeting
- August 21, 2003.....Chapter Meeting
- September 18, 2003.....Chapter Meeting

CALBO Training Institute offers Post Disaster Safety Assessment Evaluator Training (Formally ATC)

CTI will be offering a series of training opportunities in Post Disaster Safety Assessment Training.

In order to receive the **CALBO EVALUATOR RESPONSE CARD** individuals who are employed by a jurisdiction must be certified as a building official, building inspector, plans examiner, or a licensed architect or engineer. (Contact CALBO's website for information)

The following dates are offered:

June 10, 2003

City of Merced
Sam Pipes Room
678 W. 18th St

June 16, 2003

City of Irvine
Conf & Training Ctr.
1 Civic Center Plaza

June 18, 2003

City of Irvine
Conf & Training Ctr.
1 Civic Center Plaza

KNOW 'DA LINGO (Answers to last months quiz)

1. **Back Stairs** - A staircase for the servant's quarters of a large house
2. **Bodger**— A turner of chair legs, etc. in woodcraft.
3. **Curb Rafters** - The upper rafters of a mansard roof.
4. **Loose Flange Butts**—Door hinges that allow for the removal of the door without removing the screws. (and you thought it referred to Aunt Sadie).
5. **Rafter Shoe**—A cast iron socket for the foot of the principle rafter of a roof truss.

OK, Here's this month's brain teasers. These are old construction terms that may or may not still be used today: Can you guess what they are?

1. **Tusk Nailing**
2. **Umbrella Roof**
3. **Old Woman's Tooth**
4. **Head Nailing (roofing term)**
5. **Flourpaper**

The **Chapter News** is published and distributed by:

Craig Oliver, Dick Stubendorff and Gwen Wells.

If you have an item you wish to contribute and comments about the news letter, please contact us .

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