

January 24, 2011



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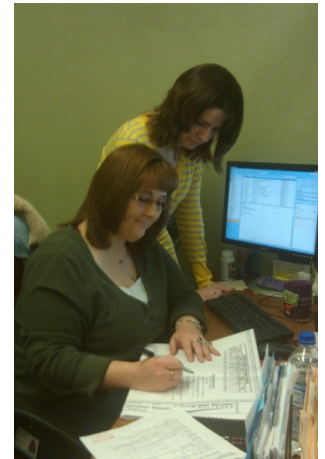
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VBCOA Embraces more Front Line Heros...Permit Techs

Permit Techs...who are they and where have they been? Many building departments across Virginia have a position called the Permit Technician...

These men and women are the backbone of many of our divisions and are the first line of communication with potential projects, customers, clients and contractors.

These professionals are eager to learn, always there to assist and are looking for an organization to become a part of and VBCOA should open our doors and welcome them into our organization. Now is the time to include these professionals into VBCOA. [FULL STORY](#)



VPMIA WINS ICC Chapter of the Year Award...

The Virginia Plumbing & Mechanical Inspectors Association Chapter of the International Code Council was presented with the 2011 Chapter of the Year Award during the ICC Annual Conference in November in Phoenix. Founded in 1962, the VPMIA boasts a growing membership in most every jurisdiction in Virginia. Members are extremely active in code development and related activities. VPMIA members participate in the State Code Academy training and lobby for or against proposed code changes in state law, as necessary. Last year alone, the VPMIA proposed more than 120 code changes before the ICC code committees and membership, 85 percent of which were adopted into the model codes. [FULL STORY](#)

VBCOA President Woods' Initiative Update...

When I became your president last October one of my goals was to visit area colleges and universities, inform students and faculty about the Virginia Building Code Officials Association and promote associate membership. I'm excited to inform you that this initiative is well under way.

Since October I've visited Tidewater Community College, Norfolk State University, and Hampton University. I'm scheduled to visit Old Dominion University the second week in February. I would like to thank the faculty and staff for their hospitality and for welcoming me... [FULL STORY](#)





2011-12 Region IV Officers

Chairman: William "Billy" Gilbert, Albemarle County

Vice Chairman: Caleb Sulzen, Louisa County

Secretary: Ernie Deihl, Spotsylvania County

Treasurer: Brian Daniels, Madison County



2011-12 Region V Officers

Region Chair: Gregg Fields, City of Alexandria

Vice Chair: Craig Leach, Fairfax County

Secretary: Charlie Black, Prince William County

Treasurer: Robert Carroll, Prince William County

What's Going on in Region III...

Region IV encompasses the heart of Virginia. We currently have 44 members from the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Culpeper, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Prince Edward, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, the cities of Charlottesville and Fredericksburg and several local representatives from the State Fire Marshal's Office.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Wood Grill Buffet in Charlottesville. We alternate every other month between lively round table discussions about a wide variety of code related topics and presentations by industry experts and product representatives. Our goal with our monthly meetings is to create unity in our code enforcement practices and interpretations

throughout the Region and to familiarize ourselves with new products that are being utilized on jobsites throughout our jurisdictions.

Region IV is comprised of primarily small jurisdictions as defined by the Small Jurisdiction Committee of VBCOA and we focus our joint efforts on pulling together to assist one another in facing the challenges that accompany small staff sizes of fewer than 5 inspectors. An example of how we work together was demonstrated following the earthquake last August when inspectors from many of the surrounding jurisdictions assisted Louisa County in the damage assessment phase prior to FEMA declaring the earthquake as a natural disaster. This damage assessment effort also brought together many other jurisdictions

outside of Region IV in an extraordinary display of teamwork.

Since the earthquake, many of our discussions have centered on the effects that the quake had on local structures since many of our jurisdictions were hit hard by damage from the earthquake. Region IV also donated \$1,000 to the Louisa Earthquake Recovery Fund to assist uninsured homeowners who had damage exceeding FEMA's grant limits. We have challenged all the other Regions and State Associations to match this donation and several have already answered that challenge by matching our donation.

We eagerly welcome any and all who are able to join us for our monthly meetings. Be prepared to enjoy hearty, energetic debate that will keep your code knowledge sharpened.

What's Going on in Region V...

Region V is excited about the future of our organization! The reason they are so excited is that the region has begun an effort to offer greater access to your association by providing easier access to training events and information via the website and/or a smart phone.

Thanks to the efforts of Education Committee Co-Chair Paul Abernathy, Region V will broadcast their meeting and training events live in audio beginning with the January 19th meeting. This service will provide members and building professionals (who otherwise cannot attend the training) the ability to access the meeting audio via the regions website at www.vbcoa.org/Region5/. So tune in and enjoy listening to the free training! In addition to offering audio at each event, there are future plans to offer the training live via video stream! The region plans to present these idea's at the state Board

of Directors Meeting to see how this technology can be used for the benefits of our membership across the state. The region has also added a Chat room feature to the Region V VBCOA page to allow members to discuss any code questions or topics they may have.

Training is an important aspect of what we do; however, our organization is more than just about free training. It is about establishing relationships with surrounding jurisdictions, sharing information important to our profession, actively participating in the code process and providing for the needs in their community. Therefore the region offers numerous technical resources to help support departments and member jurisdictions within the region. Departments within the region are encouraged to be active and engaged members of the association. And the membership has responded!

Region V has developed a new APP whereby members can access VBCOA and DHCD information with a touch of the finger. The APP was developed by our technical guru Paul Abernathy. It is currently available for the Android phone with the Apple version to come in the very near future. The APP allows users to quickly access: information from the DPOR website to look up contractor and design professional licensing information, the ICC, VBCOA, DHCD and other related websites. You can now use your smart phone to also listen live to Region V training events or look up your certification information. Region V membership has requested access to past training events. This year, our goal is to develop a library of podcasts or related files to access all of our future training events. Additionally, Region V is setting up Facebook and Twitter accounts for greater visibility as well as increased opportunity for networking and building partnerships. [FULL REPORT](#)

Committee PULSE...

EDUCATION—Paul Abernathy and Jim Bodnar: Educational Committee Co-Chairs Paul W. Abernathy and Jim Bodnar along with educational committee mentor John Catlett conducted a conference call regarding the direction of the Education Committee for the 2012 year. The meeting presented us with a direction towards setting a date in February 2012 to receive ideas and input from the various regional educational representatives to discuss future statewide training event prospects. The new overriding goal of the educational committee is to work towards providing needed training coverage to the entire state while working in harmony with each region to develop a joint partnership of educational directives and collaborative funding approaches that help all regions maintain interest in educational events. [FULL REPORT](#)

RESIDENTIAL CODE: Chuck Bajnai and Ellis McKinney: The IRC committee's mission is two fold: Write and/or review 2015 IRC proposals for submission to ICC by 1-3-2013: The IRC committee will not have much to do during 2012 regarding the 2015 IRC. At this point, no face-to-face meetings are scheduled. As the year progresses and we start getting closer to the submittal deadline, face-to-face meeting(s) may be required. 2013 will require more of our time and talent. It will be the committee's responsibility to study the proposals for the Code Development Hearings and the public comments for the Final Action Hearings and prepare a position on each.

Write and/or review 2012 IRC proposals for submission to DHCD for 2012 V-USBC. Regarding 2012 V-USBC: Emory Rogers will begin the process of collecting 'rough' proposals for implementation into the 2012 V-USBC during 2012. He will create work groups to study the proposals. One work group is always the IRC. It will be this committee's responsibility to provide comment on these proposals, and someone on the committee will attend meetings downtown Richmond to listen and/or present our ideas on issues we deem important. Frequently if a proposal is going to be submitted for the 2015 IRC, it will be proposed for the 2012 V-USBC.

It is our committee's responsibility to solicit new, young talent. To current members, we encourage your continued participation. To new members or prospective members, we are soliciting help from energetic folks who are interested in the code development process. It provides unique opportunities. [FULL REPORT](#)

PUBLIC INFORMATION—Rick Fortner: The PIC is scheduling the first meeting of the new year to detail out the plan for accomplishing the duties and task of the committee. They include:

1. Develop effective ways to share information.
2. Complete and submit the Annual Report to ICC
3. Complete and submit the ICC Chapter of the Year Application
4. Implement the tools developed by the marketing consultant
5. Maintain Chapter logo and coordinate merchandise
6. Document all association events
7. Assist web master with association news/press tools

Meetings will be held using conference call and electronic communication.

ENERGY CODE—Matt Westheimer: My top priority as the Committee Chair is to continue the work that was begun by previous committee members. We are currently working out the logistics of our first meeting, and shooting for the middle of February. One of the most frequent questions that has been asked concerns inspection process, and how localities through-out the state are going to handle inspections. I have been contacted by Mr. Chris Davis of Building Science of Mechanicsville, and he has agreed to come and speak to the Committee members regarding the energy testing requirements. Lastly, please send all recommendations for changes to the 2012 IECC to the Energy Committee Chair as soon as possible. [FULL REPORT](#)

MEMBERSHIP—Lorenzo Harris: This year theme for 2012 from Membership Chairman is the three R's, Reach out, Recruit and Reclaim membership for VBCOA. I'm working on a presentation outline for Board of Directors meeting on January 27th in Chesterfield. If approved, it will be sent out to each Regions Chairs after our meeting. We have to expand our base. I fully support adding to the By-Laws for membership of having a reduced fee for students to join our organization. This incentive is inline of the theme of Recruitment. We have to face the fact that we will be having some of our most active members in VBCOA retiring in the near future. Their knowledge, skills, will have to be replaced, that is why Reaching out to inactive members, and localities is important; we have to Reclaim members who were active in the past to again become active again. Finally we have Reach out to communities, business and organization about the measures that VBCOA has taken and is currently doing to continue the growth of this organization.

A warm welcome to all new members:

Victor Purchase, Alexandria; R. Hyde Benton, Chesterfield; Gary Cutler, Chester; Frank De Stefano and John Waters, Midlothian; David Wolfe Kent, Williamsburg; Donald Ford, Clifton Forge; James Istvan and Maryalice Istvan, Fairfax; Felix Lopez, Falls Church; David White, Tazewell; William Willis, Danville; Yolanda Parker-Price, Portsmouth...

as well as the following from the City of Richmond: Ahmad Abbasi; David Alley; Christopher Bailey; Bradley Benson; Shawn Bergeron; Angela Branch; Timothy Burnette; Michael Casella; Carolyn Chavis; Mike Clark; Eugene Crumpton; James Davis; Gevis Dickerson; Raymond Dietzel; William Eddleton; Michael Edwards; Roy Eidem; Hansen Fields; Bonnie Friedman; Keith Green; Don Grivetti; James Grivetti; Jeffrey Harris; Melvin Harvey; Farrah Henderson; Jerry Hutto; Walt Jackson; Harvey Johnson; Emil Krevonick; Randall Latuche; Isaac Marks; Randall Masters; Terry Moore; David Muyundo; Denise Owen; Rick Owens; Jacqueline Page; Kenneth Parker, Jr.; Todd Patterson; Auretha Phelps; Anton Radivojevic; Charles Rose; Amanda Sanford; Andre Smith; Dale Smith; Keisha Stephenson; John Swartz; William David Taylor; William Teachey; Sheila Thomas; Donald Upshaw; Earl Weaver; John Whealton; Thomas White; Dale Windom; Debra Womack; George Woodall; Thomas Woodley

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Jo Fields



Meet the league

Since I started working with VBCOA in 1988, I've met many of you at VBCOA's conferences, but most of you don't know the many people at the Virginia Municipal League who also do VBCOA work. Sherall Dementi sends out emails to the membership, keeps track of the VBCOA data base and is in charge of conference registration. Paulette Alexander maintains all the financial records. Patrick Ford prints and compiles the directory and any other mailings. Manuel Timbreza creates artwork and formats registration forms and other materials. David Parsons publishes information about VBCOA and code officials. Some of you know Joni Terry, the league's office manager. Mike Amyx, the executive director, has made it possible for VML to continuing working with the association. VML is proud to have worked with VBCOA since 1929. We know that this association has benefited local governments and citizens across the state.

Committee PULSE (cont)...

PLUMBING/MECHANICAL/FUEL GAS CODE—Shawn Strausbaugh: Greetings fellow VBCOA members! I would first like to thank the VBCOA board for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization and I look forward to working with everyone. I have taken over this position as the 2012/2013 code change cycle is starting but a lot of work has already been done by this committee and VPMIA. I would invite anyone interested in participating in this committee that currently is not to contact me as we are always looking for new faces and insight. I also look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming meeting on January 27th in Chesterfield. VBCOA/VPMIA have jointly submitted 22 proposed IPC code changes, including 6 changes that will be under the group B hearings, 17 proposed IMC code changes, including 2 changes that will be under the group B hearings, and 1 proposed IFGC code change. 20 of the above noted proposed code changes have also been supported by ICC Region VII by a unanimous vote. Now we await the posting of the entire group A proposed code changes to be unveiled on March 12th, 2012. Sometime around the end of March or beginning of April this committee will meet and go over the 2012/2013 group A code change proposals submitted and discuss which changes we may wish to support or which changes we may wish to speak against at the upcoming hearings. In closing an important date is coming up - March 28th - 30th VPMIA will be holding its 49th Annual School of Instruction in Blacksburg VA. This Annual School of Instruction is a milestone as this will also be the 50th Anniversary celebration for this great organization. One of the training sessions to be held as part of the school of instruction will be a six hour ICC instructed seminar on the 2009 IBC Accessibility and Usability for Commercial Buildings which was a in recognition of being named the 2011 ICC chapter of the year. Please come and join in the learning and the fun as this is a momentous occasion.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE—John Walsh and Gary Greene: The VBCOA Property Maintenance Committee meets quarterly and is open to members. The duration of the quarterly meeting is typically one-half day, with provisions for a lunch break. Several sub-committees are established to focus on specific goals and initiatives of the committee and VBCOA. Sub-committees often meet throughout the quarter by conference calls or Skype to complete their work. Sub-committees report their progress to the whole committee at the quarterly meetings, where new concerns and old business is also discussed. Our meeting schedule is structured to convene in different parts of the State to ensure reasonable access to all property maintenance officials and VBCOA members.

Each of VBCOA's eight regions has a representative position with the property maintenance committee. Representatives are charged to carry the concerns of the region forward to the property maintenance committee, voice opinions and provide decisions and report back to their region. Regular attendance at the quarterly property maintenance meetings ensures the presentation of the regional concerns in code matters. Region Chairs who need assistance with consistent representation are encouraged to contact [Gary Greene](#), VBCOA Property Maintenance Co-chair. The 2012 Schedule of VBCOA Property Maintenance Meetings will be updated to the website ([VBCOACalendar](#)). Our next meetings will occur:

VBCOA Regions 4 and 7 Late April 2012

VBCOA Regions 1 and 2 Late July 2012

VBCOA Regions 3 and 5 Late October 2012

If you are a VBCOA member that is a property maintenance official, property maintenance inspector, related administrator or interested supporter, we're looking for your voice. Send your email address to [Gary Greene](#) or [John Walsh](#), the PM committee co-chairs to receive additional information. [FULL REPORT](#)

LEGISLATION—Ron Clements and Julie Walton: The 2012 legislative session is off and running. This is an even numbered year, which means that the session is 60 days long ending March 10, 2012. On odd numbered years the session runs for 30 days. This session 2349 bills were submitted for consideration by the General Assembly, down from last year's total of 2692. The VBCOA legislative committee has identified 19 bills to track that have some impact or relation to code enforcement, which is down from 38 last session. The full bill list and report will be available at the VBCOA Web site for download in the next week. I would like to highlight a few bills that that we have been actively lobbying with our legislative team and the help of Joel Andrus from our friends at Kemper Consulting: [FULL REPORT](#)

DHCD Corner...

DHCD, Technical Services Unit Report: We are gearing up for the 2012 code change cycle. Now is the time for all VBCOA code committees to take a look at their respective areas of expertise and review the 2012 I-Codes and state amendments to find potential problems or areas which need work.

DHCD, Training & Certification Unit Report: The Virginia Building Code Academy will be offering a number of training programs this spring that may of interest to many of you. Please visit the TASO On-line Registration website <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/TASO/TASOTCO/Default.aspx> for additional information and registration for classes on Accessibility and Energy Codes for Commercial Structures.

State Building Code Administrative Office Report: The SBCAO staff would like to remind you that March 1st is quickly approaching and that means the implementation of the 2009 codes becomes mandatory and the(1-year) grace period for permit applications to be submitted under the 2006 codes expires. The Energy Assessment and Compliance program, being conducted throughout the Commonwealth, is ongoing, and partial results, as of 1-17-12, are in. [FULL REPORT](#)

ICC Corner...

The Year of the Member: The Code Council always focuses on its Members, but beginning with the 2011 Annual Conference in Phoenix and concluding with the 2012 conference in Portland it is a special time as ICC celebrates the Year of the Member.

Chapter Training Benefit: Code Council Chapters have relied on the Chapter Training Benefit. Plans are underway to revamp the program back to a full day for qualifying Chapters from a half day.

Code of Honor Scholarship Program: The 2012 Code Council budget includes funding for the ICC Foundation's Code of Honor Scholarship Program.

Membership Councils and Committees: The ICC Board established new Membership Councils, a multi-disciplinary Codes and Standards Council and discipline-specific Code Action Committees.

Customer Call Center: As a result of the economy, one of the tougher decisions ICC had to make was elimination of the Customer Call Center. The Code Council plans to bring back the popular service in April so that when you call ICC phones will be answered by a knowledgeable individual who can answer your question or quickly direct you to the right person who can, so you get the information you need to do your job.

Two New International Codes: In 2012, the I-Code family is expanding with two new codes that address public safety and sustainability. The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) and the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSA) are both expected to be published in March.

Remote Participation Voting: The 2012 ICC budget sets aside an initial modest amount of money to explore a remote participation voting process for code development.

Codes & Standards Discussion Forum: The Codes & Standards Discussion Forum centers on open discussions of the International Codes and Standards, allowing industry professionals to share their ideas and knowledge with one another. After hearing many comments from ICC Members, Chapters and other users of the former ICC Bulletin Board, the Code Council used that feedback to redirect, revise and create a new online discussion forum. [FULL REPORT](#)





ICC Region VII...

DAY 1: Training on IBC 2009 update M provided by Tod from Arlington County. Shawn Straubaugh discussed proposed code changes for swimming pool code. Lynn Underwood discussed a proposed appendix in then IPMC (IPMC 12/13) that satisfies western states that need the abatement code. Shariar Amiri discussed concerns about certification testing conditions particularly the waiting period.

DAY 2: Treasurer's report: Kris Bridges reviewed the 3rd Quarter and reported that all members had paid their dues and the bal-

ance was \$5,291.95. There was a brief discussion regarding line items to be budgeted for activities at future annual conferences. A motion was passed to pledge \$1000 to NJBOA for the 2013 Annual Conference.

Committee reports: Shawn Straubaugh reported that several proposed code changes were recommended for approval by the Region VII the day prior.

New Business: Lynn Underwood discussed a proposed appendix in then IPMC (IPMC 12/13) that satisfies western states that need

the abatement code. Lynn was asked how many states are affected by this?

John Terry lead a discussion on a committee appointed by the BOD to develop options for remote voting on code development.

ICC BOD Report was given by Rich Truitt [FULL REPORT](#)



VA Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association...

It's been a great year to be a member of VPMIA. The Association was named ICC's Chapter of the Year at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix and VPMIA President Bane Compton proudly accepted the award on behalf of the membership. We're celebrating our 50th anniversary during this year's conference in Blacksburg (March 28-30) and some special plans are in the works. VPMIA will host a casino event on opening night so everyone can have some fun, Las Vegas style, without losing their

shirts. During Thursday night's banquet, a prominent ICC representative is slated to speak and this year's most outstanding members



will be recognized for their contributions. VPMIA is known for great training opportunities and

this year is no exception. At the upcoming conference, ICC will provide an in-depth review of the 2009 IBC Accessibility provisions and companies like Charlotte Pipe, Thermal Ceramics, Rainwater Management, and Simplex Grinnell will offer informative overviews covering a variety of interesting subjects. If you're looking for a strong organization of dedicated professionals, committed to intelligent code development, quality training and uniform enforcement visit us at www.vpmia.org to learn



Virginia Fire Protection Association...

Following the success of our Vision 20/20 Seminar in Roanoke last fall, we continue to develop partnerships with the Virginia Fire and Life Safety Coalition. This organization focuses on public fire safety education and is partnering with VFPA at our spring conference to present a one day program on juvenile fire set-

ting behaviors.

Registration for this program, and the full VFPA Spring Conference will open in a few weeks and can be obtained from our website at www.vapa.org.

We continue to develop our partnership with VBCOA and

other like minded building and public safety organizations in an effort to provide our memberships better value in their training and membership.

Our Spring Conference is scheduled for May 21 - 23, 2012 in Virginia Beach.

