

PENNBOC Quarterly

Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference

STATEWIDE NEWS & VIEWS

Winter 2006

Meet the New PennBOC Leadership

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SHARE THE NEWS

PENNBOC MEMBERS should, by now, know the significance of April 9, 2007 and how it will affect them and the municipalities they serve.

PennBOC has carried the message of this important date to every municipal solicitor in the Commonwealth.

Take a close look inside your municipality. Be certain your municipal governing body understands what you do...you help keep both residents and businesses safer by assuring sound construction. (Yes, you do a lot more, but keep the message short and to the point.) To elected officials, the code office may wrongly be seen as a money losing operation that irritates voters. Your job is to turn that around by educating the elected officials and the public!

After looking inside, reach out to nearby municipalities that you know will not be prepared for the April 9th expiration of residential code administrator registrations. Offer your knowledge and expertise regarding the need for appropriate certification credentials, the downside to "opting out" and the value of municipally employed code enforcement personnel.

HB 881 became Act 157 of 2006 when the governor signed the bill into law on November 29. The impetus for this law is said to be the result of the failings of municipalities

to responsibly implement the UCC. To some extent, these failures may also track to a hands-off approach by some code personnel who did not speak out on important administrative issues. Act 157 sets out to repair local inadequacies by addressing these legitimate issues...no appeals board for aggrieved parties, outrageous fees, poor customer service, and opt-in municipalities operating without appropriately credentialed code officials.

On the positive side, the ICC's Steve Shapiro noted that the ICC can help PennBOC at a state level and you at the municipal level with public awareness messages. When we do our jobs right, nothing happens and nobody notices. That is why ICC calls yours the service of a "Silent Defender."

PennBOC's region meetings are a great venue in which to brainstorm solutions to common problems and to plan strategies to educate all of the publics you serve. Our members in the Williamsport area have participated in home builders shows generating public support and builder awareness, for example.

If you receive a request of any sort that you are not sure how to handle, contact a neighboring code official or contact PennBOC. Use your PennBOC network; it is here to support you.

PennBOC has a new
Harrisburg phone number!
(717) 730-6036



RICHARD D. BARTON,
President
PennBOC

A NOTE OF THANKS AND WELL WISHES

FIRST, MY THANKS TO JIM MATSCHERZ, who has served PennBOC so conscientiously over the past two years. I've learned much about the

organization by working with Jim, and look forward to his continued involvement as Education Chairman.

Education is really one of the key objectives of our organization. We want to have the best qualified, best trained municipal inspectors and code officials, and PennBOC will continue to find ways to improve its educational offerings.

The second key objective, I believe, is advocacy and support for our membership. PennBOC will take advantage of ICC's offerings to increase public awareness of what building inspectors and code officials do to ensure safer, better buildings and communities. Respect and take pride in your work – it is an important role of local government.

In closing, I wish all of you and yours a joyous holiday season, and a healthy and productive 2007. Feel free to e-mail any suggestions or ideas to me at rbarton@upperdublin.net.

Announcing January 2007 Building Code Officials Training 2006 International Building Code Fundamentals Nonstructural Provisions

The critical concepts of the 2006 International Building Code's (IBC) "nonstructural requirements" are addressed in this seminar.

This session provides participants with a basis for the correct use of the IBC in building planning, fire-resistance-rated construction, means of egress and fire protection systems.

All sessions start at 9:00 a.m.

Participants **MUST BRING** a copy of the 2006 IBC.

This seminar earns 6 contact hours.

Participants will receive .6 ceus.

For content information, contact Jim Matscherz:
jimmatscherz@comcast.net
412-882-9743

Register early - space is limited!

FIVE SITES TO CHOOSE FROM

January 12 - Harrison City

Penn Township Municipal Building
2001 Municipal Court
For location information contact Dallas Leonard.
724-744-2877 x 207

January 17 - Harleysville

Lower Salford Twp. Municipal Building
379 Main Street
For location information contact Rob Reilley.
215-256-6111

January 24 - Williamsport

Old Lycoming Township Municipal Building
1951 Green Ave.
For location information contact Shawn Forrest.
570-662-2315

January 25 - Allentown

Days Inn Allentown
1151 Bulldog Dr.
For location information contact Eric Weiss.
610-437-7690

January 31 - Lisburn (Mechanicsburg)

Lower Allen Township Community Park
4075 Lisburn Rd.
For location information contact Russ Yinger.
717-258-5324

Registration forms are available at
PENNBOC.org

PENNBC REGION I held three business meetings in the last year and plans to hold another meeting and seminar before January 2007.

- In December 2005 the Region hosted a presentation by James Quigley of ICC on the International Plumbing Code 2003.
- In March 2006 at Lower Salford Township, the United Spinal Association presented an accessibility seminar.
- Upper Dublin Township hosted a meeting in July that featured a presentation by Computer Software Inc. of Chalfont, PA on their "Magnet" automated, integrated system for permitting, licensing, scheduling inspections, code enforcement, and other building department functions. This is a relatively new product that is being used by two municipalities in the region and being considered by a half-dozen others.

During the July meeting, members nominated a slate of officers to serve Region I for 2007 and 2008. Bruce Hentschel from Abington Township was nominated president, and Rob Reilly from Lower Salford, vice-president. Elections will take place at the year-end meeting, and the results will be reported afterward.

Region I membership grew 13% during 2006, from 159 to 180 paid members. Thanks to the officers that are completing their two-year terms this fall. Special thanks go to Rob Reilly for putting together a number of excellent education programs.

PENNBC REGION IV was started in 2004 to cover the north central region of Pennsylvania. Region IV started with only seven members and has grown to over 30 at this time. Region IV has made significant strides in forming a group of individuals to achieve more consistent enforcement of the PA UCC in an area that was not known to have building codes. Region IV has opened our doors to inspectors, builders, and design professionals to inform them of the importance of the UCC and to achieve the goal of providing the public with a safer building environment.

Region IV has conducted many training meetings inviting industry representatives to present information on new products and how they relate to the UCC. Region IV is planning to continue this type of program and will be conducting meetings with companies such as Hilti, Azek, Tyvek, Zip System, Simpson Strong ties, and others.

The current officers for Region IV are Shawn Forrest (Borough of Mansfield) president, Joseph Gerardi (Loyalsock Township) vice-president, Benjamin Thomas (McTish, Kunkel & Associates) secretary/treasurer, and James Scheifley (City of Williamsport) head of education. Region IV will be conducting elections for officers for the next two years in December.

Region IV meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Old Lycoming Township Building, located in Williamsport, Lycoming County. We invite any code official, builder, or design professional in the area to join our region to further their ability to enforce the UCC.

PENNBC REGION V held their 4th quarter meeting in September 2006. This is the annual luncheon meeting and election of officers. Twenty-five members were present.

Meeting Highlights

- Discussion on upcoming seminars
- Effective date of 2006 I Codes as determined by L & I is midnight December 31, 2006
- Information was presented for several new materials
- New Region V officers were elected:
 - President – Mark Richter
 - Vice-President – Robert Greene
 - Secretary – Albert Wrightstone
 - Treasurer – Bea Savage
 - Representatives to State Board – John Eby and Jeff Shultz
 - Representatives to the Education Committee – Russ Yinger and Mike Landis

Upcoming training includes a Fire Sprinkler and Pump Training class on December 14, 2006 and the 2006 IBC Fundamentals/Non-Structural training on January 31, 2007.

In a Region V Year End Summary, Region Representative to the State Board Jeff Shultz also noted that quarterly meetings were conducted in 2006, and there was continual review and awareness of proposed changes to the PA UCC thru legislative bills. In addition, the Chapter has adopted electronic mailing for information and meeting notices. Training that was conducted in 2006 includes an Energy Seminar conducted at Lower Allen Community Park, a Pella factory tour and training at Pella's Gettysburg Headquarters, and a Braced Wall Seminar at Lower Allen Community Park.

LEGISLATOR'S BEST FRIEND

EVERYONE FACES CHALLENGES IN THEIR LIVES...illness, unexpected workplace developments, a leaky roof, a frozen pipe, a shifty transmission, or whatever. There comes a time when you need to talk to an expert to help you understand the situation at hand. Often, YOU are the expert the people turn to for your superior knowledge in your chosen field. I remember one time one of my children even sought me out for my opinion and advice! But I digress...

What you do for a living is neither a common place vocation nor an easy endeavor. You have developed a wide range of special skills and the knowledge to put it all together to help people avoid problems. You are also lucky that your area of expertise is somewhat focused, and it is not likely that many people call you for help with subjects of which you have no knowledge.

The representative and senator from your area do not enjoy the luxury of narrow, focused areas of interest. Their constituents can, and do, ask them for assistance on a dizzying range of issues. Often, the legislator's biggest challenge is to know where to turn for help on focused, narrow topics. This is where you come in. This is your golden opportunity!

In the next 48 hours you should call your legislators, introduce yourself to them and offer to be a resource for questions they might receive on the subjects in which you have considerable expertise.

Let them know that they can call on you to help them understand constituents' concerns regarding your specialities. Give them a short briefing on your skills, how many times the subjects you deal with come up in ordinary life, and let them know how and where to contact you. Be sure to tell him or her that you are a member of this organization and that should there be a question he can't resolve, you can call upon the resources of your state association. PennBOC is here to help you, just as you are there to help your legislators both at home and in Harrisburg!

If you see issues cropping up in your area, give your legislators a heads-up so they won't be blindsided, and, more importantly, so they can see the value of you as a resource!

Open and maintain a line of communication. Do it now, for your community, for your legislators, and for your employment future. Do it!

BILLS AFFECTING THE UCC IN 2006

The following is a summary of legislative items of interest to PennBOC members. Bill status and amendments may have changed as of press time. For current bill tracking and status, refer to the PA General Assembly at: www.legis.state.pa.us

HB 881 is now Act 157 of 2006

This bill moved rapidly when the Senate reconvened on November 20, 2006, presumably because some of the provisions that received strenuous objections from the code enforcement community were removed when the bill was tabled in October. Governor Rendell signed the bill into law on November 29, 2006.

SB 1179

Became law on September 5, 2006. Lumber grading, manufactured home exemption, religious exemptions, no stamping of coal fired residential boilers, excludes replacement with vinyl & aluminum siding, and language concerning natural cut trees.

HB 1496

Vetoed by the governor

HB 2253

Establish State Energy Office

HB 2474

License Electrical Contractor's

HB 2696

Establish Code review commission

HB 2724

Cleanliness and posting of food allergens

SB 1322

Exempt pole barns at ag fairs

SB 1344

Repeal Act 45

SB 1345 thru SB 1351

Reinact previous laws repealed by Act 45

All of the above legislation will die unless approved by the end of this year.

This report was provided by PennBOC member Craig B Hynes.

Note: Enacting language for the adoption of the 2006 I-codes has been turned in by L&I and adoption is planned for 12/31/06. This means you should be enforcing the 2006 family of I-codes January 1, 2007.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

THE 32ND ANNUAL PENNBOC CONFERENCE WAS HELD OCTOBER 18-20, 2006

at the Radisson Penn Harris Conference Center, Camp Hill. Over a dozen exhibitors presented their products and services during lunches and breaks, and training sessions on a wide variety of topics provided valuable contact hours for ICC and PA certificate holders.

Featured speakers included Jon Balson, Chief of the Uniform Construction Code Division of the PA Department of Labor & Industry, Mitch Hoffman of the PA Department of Community & Economic Development, and Steve Shapiro, ICC Vice President and chapter liaison to PennBOC. Mr. Balson provided an update on UCC issues, discussed areas where many municipalities could improve their administration of the UCC, and answered numerous questions concerning the UCC program. Mr. Hoffman discussed current issues of mutual interest to PennBOC members and DCED's Center for Local Government Services, including the PA Construction Code Academy and PHRC training opportunities. Mr. Shapiro explained how the ICC board and staff were implementing strategies to enhance the professional status of code

officials, highlighted some of ICC's major product and service initiatives, and swore in the newly elected PennBOC officers.

Special recognition was given to the following persons at the annual banquet:

Heather Knox and **Brittany Matscherz**, both full-time college students, each received \$350 educational scholarships.

Craig Hynes, City of Bethlehem, received the Pat Campanella Award as building official of the year, signifying his professional and community involvement with code enforcement issues.

Jack Kinsey and **Bill Meyer** were announced as PennBOC's first Honorary Members. Jack served Region I on various committees, and as president, vice president, recording secretary and State Executive Committee delegate. He is retired from Thornbury Township, with over 30 years of service to the township. Bill is a past president of PennBOC and recently retired after a 30-year career as electrical inspector for the City of Harrisburg. He chaired or served on four annual conference committees and is a two-time winner of the Campanella Award.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRILLES HELP ELIMINATE DEAD END CORRIDORS

By Steven Gallacher, VP Marketing, Cornell Iron Works, Inc.

AFTER A TWO-YEAR REVIEW BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL EVALUATION SERVICE, a new product category has been identified as a solution for dead end corridors. Detailed in ICC-ES Evaluation Guideline EG287, Emergency Response Grilles are now available to not only provide security and control traffic flow, but to also function in an emergency as an access-controlled means of egress, per Section 1008.1.3.4 of the International Building Code®.

Similar in appearance to motor operated security grilles, Emergency Response Grilles offer durable construction and an open-air design. However, instead of conventional locking methods, Emergency Response Grilles also include an AutoLock mechanism that automatically engages to help prevent unwanted entry and automatically disengages to allow normal operation.

Most importantly, upon alarm, power failure or activation of its ADA compliant emergency exit device, the Emergency Response Grille immediately responds and allows the safe escape of occupants by returning to its full height and clearing the opening. After the alarm is cleared, power is restored or the panic device is reset, the Emergency Response Grille is again ready for normal operation without requiring any additional, mechanical adjustments.

Section 1008.1.3.5 of the IBC limits the use of conventional security grilles in paths of egress by stating, "Where two

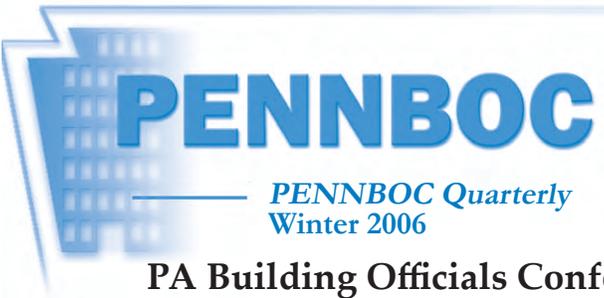
or more means of egress are required, not more than one-half of the exits or exit access doorways shall be equipped with horizontal sliding or vertical security grilles." Now, 100% of the corridors being used for egress can be safely secured using Emergency Response Grilles. Also, using Emergency Response Grilles at all locations eliminates the guesswork as to which egress path will actually be needed in an emergency.

The CrossingGard® Emergency Response Grille from Cornell Iron Works is the only Emergency Response Grille that has met the ICC-ES requirements of EG287. Having received ICC-ES Evaluation Report ESR-1167, the CrossingGard now offers a code compliant, access-controlled means of egress to help provide safety, security and a solution to dead end corridors.

Please note that the relative IBC sections (1008.1.3.4 and 1008.1.3.5) are consistent across both versions of the 2003 IBC and the new 2006 IBC. Be aware of this when completing plan reviews or evaluating egress plans where conventional security grilles may have been improperly specified.

Any questions or requests for further information may be answered by the Architectural Design Support department at Cornell Iron Works. Located in Mountain Top, PA, please contact them by phone at 800-233-8366, ext. 551, or via email at ADS@cornelliron.com. Additional information may also be found at their web site, www.cornelliron.com.

PENNBOC thanks Steven Gallacher for contributing this article. PENNBOC does not endorse the products named. Readers must evaluate all permit applications on their individual merits and draw their own conclusions regarding efficacy and code compliance.



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PENNBOC STATE Executive Committee