



COCO

North Carolina Council of Code Officials

When an Inspector does his job...Nothing Happens!

Dan Dockery

Building Inspector, NCBA and ICC Member and a part of your Team

In almost 15 years of being a Building Inspector I had never heard that slogan until the 2014 Quadrennial COCO Convention. I was floored, but it's the truth. Our profession labors in silence most of the time; we operate under the radar, seeming to prefer getting out and doing our jobs with little notice and absolutely no fanfare. Being unknown heroes, protecting the safety, health and welfare of the public in the live, work and play environment. That's all good, but what has it done for us as a professional workforce. I'm not asking what it has done for our communities or what kind of positive influence we have had on the economic drivers of North Carolina. I'm not asking if our communities are safer, if our family's futures are more secure or if we make our City's more attractive to business and community development. I'm asking what we have done for ourselves as a professional workforce.

I saw an interesting picture of firefighters responding to a blaze at a commercial building... it was a "shout out" to the value of First Responders. I like the term first responders, but it is way too limiting. Those safety-minded public servants in that photo were also part of a team that should be called "First Preventers". I'll bet they had a hand in trying to ensure the safety of that structure through plans review and inspections earlier in its life. So not only were they or their team "First Preventers", they were also "First Responders", and guess what, it's very possible they were the "Last Responders" on that call also. I'm using this to again illustrate a point; our Building and Fire professionals in the State of North Carolina are very good at what we do. We're conscientious, we're thorough, we're responsible, we're responsive, we're caring, we're... I could go on all day. We are there at the beginning of a project, we're there in the middle, and sometimes, yes, we're there at the end. What we are not, are effective Public Relations people.

I don't expect us to become publicity hounds and I don't expect us to become outgoing; and I doubt we will ever make an effort to find the spotlight. But what I do want us to do is promote ourselves as professionals in the building safety workplace. Our acceptance of our own importance in ensuring a safe live, work, play environment

promotes an atmosphere that creates security for our jobs as public employees and jurisdictional (non-third party) experts. And yes, I believe that the most important voice in building safety is that jurisdictional expert. We have no motive except one... safety, and we have no goal except one...professional performance in our duty. There is no other body of people who can speak as authoritatively and realistically to safety in the live, work and play environment, and to responsible code development, than the Code Official and his/her support organizations. For that reason we should look to one another for support in changing the profile and perception of Code Officials statewide.

We should start by looking at our own demographics. The typical code official is between the ages of 55 and 64, he/she serves in a department of up to 9 (nine) people in a jurisdiction of 75,000 or less. He or she has 26 to 35 years of experience in the combined trades and inspections professions, (usually with 5-15 years as a code professional). Twenty-five percent have sought higher education after high school. He or she may serve as an inspector, a plans reviewer, a department manager, or maybe even all three positions. Thirty-one percent of those CEO's will leave the profession within 5 years, and 82% will retire within the next fifteen years. The impact of the loss of community or institutional knowledge and code enforcement capacity will be crippling to our profession. And less than 15% of the applicants for the jobs created by retirements in our profession are under the age of 45. We have a serious problem facing us, and I truly believe that a good way to start correcting the problem of loss in effectiveness, efficiency, knowledge and capacity in our departments is to start trying to "Raise the Profile" of our jobs, our employee team members, our support organizations and to put a "Face" on the profession of Code Development and Code Enforcement.

That face is yours; look around in your communities at the successes you share with your partners in the building, design, inspections profession. Look at the happy kids running in and out of your school buildings, the joy of the church-goer after Sunday Service, the relaxed sigh on the face of a husband or wife as they see their own front door after a hard day at work... you helped put that expression there because through your efforts they can feel more safe in the places that shelter, inspire and comfort them. Their face is now

your face, and it's the face of a professional code official. The profile of a community that shares a productive, safe and engaged live, work and play environment is your profile. That is the profile we want to raise. And we don't want to raise the profile because we are seeking glory for ourselves; what we seek for ourselves is the satisfaction of knowing we belong to a profession that has decent pay, reasonable security, and a reputation for service that attracts qualified applicants who want to be contributors to their fellow citizens, and through that we ensure the safety and well-being of ourselves and others for generations to come.

I do want us to "Raise the Profile", and I promise to help bring more ideas to a forum that can be shared by the Council of Code Officials about how to combine our efforts. But we need your help, we need your ideas, we need your input, we need your community stories, we need your successes and your failures, but mostly we need your profile. We have associations and institutions that labor continuously on our behalf, and we need to embrace them as partners.

We have organizations that do business in our communities that we seldom talk to whose livelihoods depend on our professional response. We have jurisdictional teams' side-by-side who ignore one another's efforts to promote consistency and fair enforcement. And even though we're not perfect, we're still very good. Well, if you're good, then you want to get better, you want to "Raise the Profile". I want to be there with you... we want to be there with you. COCO, DOI/OSFM, ICC, NCBA, NCMIA, NCPIA, IAEI, BCC, NCFMA... are there waiting for you, the individual code enforcement official to be everything you can be, our communities are waiting for our response, our families and friends are waiting for our efforts, and our "Profile" is waiting to be elevated to its rightful place in the live, work and play environment. We want to hear from you, the members of the North Carolina Inspections Team, let's "Raise the Profile", let's guarantee the safety of our futures through promoting our own professional behavior, and let's work to ensure our future through attracting new, intelligent and civic minded partners to the profession of Code Enforcement Official.



News from the NC Fire Marshal's Association

The North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association (NCFMA) held its 3rd quarter meeting on July 23, 2014 at the Raleigh Convention Center. This meeting was in conjunction with the NC State Fireman's Association SAFRE conference. Approximately 90 people were in attendance.

NCFMA is offering its fall 2014 continuing education workshops. Richard Strickland, Chief Fire Code Consultant with OSFM will teach a six hour class on CO alarm and detection systems. Much of the class will focus on recent legislation and code changes affecting carbon monoxide alarms. Building and/or fire continuing

education credit will be given. Classes will be held in Durham (Nov. 6), Rocky Mount (Nov. 12), Conover (Nov. 25) and Asheville (Dec. 3).

For the first time in several years NCFMA will be charging a \$20.00 registration fee for its workshops beginning in the fall of 2014. One hundred percent of the receipts will be used to fund NCFMA scholarships. Go to NCFMA.com for additional information including the registration form.

Our next meeting will be held in Greensboro, NC at the Guilford Co. Emergency Services Building, 1002 Meadowwood Rd., Greensboro, NC, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. Please check our website for additional information.



News from the NC Ellis Cannady Chapter, IAEI

Presidential Views

Greetings from Your Incoming Chapter President:

As your newly elected NC Ellis Cannady Chapter president I would like let all of you know a bit of history of my career. My name is Chris Faucette and I am honored to serve as your 2014-2015 President. I am originally from Mebane, N.C. and now live in Graham, N.C. I have a wonderful and supportive wife, Carol, and two beautiful daughters – Caris (13) and Carlie (9). I began my career in the electrical industry in 1993 as a Journeyman Electrician with Watson Electrical Company. After receiving my electrical license, I accepted an Electrical Supervisor position with UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC. Working alongside the NC State Electrical Inspectors on hospital projects sparked my interest in the electrical inspection field. I accepted my first Inspectors' position in 2004 with the Alamance County Inspections Department and became a member of the N.C. Ellis Cannady Chapter of IAEI. I am now serving as Chairman of the Fire and Accident Committee and presently serve as an instructor for the Education Committee. Recently, I accepted the position of State Electrical Code Enforcement Officer with the North Carolina Department of Insurance/Office of State Fire Marshal. In my new role, I have the privilege of being able to meet many Electrical Inspectors in my territory, as well as those that I get to meet at the many IAEI functions. Now, that's enough about me...

Our chapter has many important members who work very hard to make all of our committees and education workshops successful. We are currently working on a new presentation for Soares Bonding and Grounding for our upcoming CE classes. We are also working with the NCMIA and MCPA to put together a program for appliance change-outs to help Inspectors around the state that hold multi-certifications. This program will be taught on HVAC, water heater and appliance (dishwashers, etc) installations.

Our PR and PC Committee are currently working on updating our website that will be more user-friendly and easier for user to obtain vital information about the electrical industry.

Last month, I had the honor of travelling to Duck, NC with Janet Whittaker and Tommy Green to present our 2013-2014 President Cory Tate with the Inspector of the Year Award. Cory was very excited to receive this award and honored to be a part of this elite group of inspectors. In closing, I'd like to thank you all for allowing me to serve as President of this great association and I am excited to work for each of you.

Sincerely Yours,

Chris Faucette

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Industry Events

One Day Continuing Education Class
November 13, 2014

Foothills Higher Education Center
2128 South Sterling Street, Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: 828-438-6104

One Day Continuing Education Class
December 16, 2014

Continuing Education Office Building, Walnut Room 104
300 Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27543
Phone: 919-735-5151

One Day Continuing Education Class
December 18, 2014

City of Asheboro Public Works Facility
1312 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC 27203
Phone: 336-626-1234

One Day Continuing Education Class
January 15, 2015

Martin Community College, Building 1, Room 14
1611 Kehukee Park Road, Williamston, NC 27892
Phone: 252-792-1521

One Day Continuing Education Class
January 28, 2015

City of Greensboro Public Safety Training Facility
1510 North Church Street, Greensboro, NC 27405
Phone: 336-373-2449

See our website for more information and directions & maps:
www.nciae.org. (Meetings page).

Mentoring Program

Our new website will be launched very soon, and with this launch we will be kicking off the new Mentoring program laid out by Mitchell Bryant, NC IAEI Education and Pat Rose, Membership Chairman. More details to come!

Jobs – please submit job postings

We continue to post new positions available and send a special announcement to our mailing list. Some of these postings have resulted in jobs for our members! Remember to send any available openings to greg.smith@nciae.org

Safety Reminder

Author(s): Jeff Sargent. Published on September 3, 2014.

I HAD DINNER RECENTLY with a good friend and colleague, and our conversation drifted to the topic of 2014 National Electrical Code®

adoption. I told him adoptions were going well, but that some jurisdictions had passed or were contemplating amendments reducing the level of safety afforded by the NEC. The only "technical" support for these amendments, in most cases, were anecdotal accounts of operational problems and overstated financial concerns.

This led my friend to share an experience he had while working as the chief electrical inspector of a mid-sized city. He's no longer employed by that community, but it was clear from his telling that the impact of what happened had not faded.

He told me he'd been at his office early on a Monday morning, and that he'd just closed out the last inspection report from the previous week when his phone rang. The caller explained he was interested in learning about the background of a city-specific amendment to the NEC. The amendment had exempted receptacles installed in garages and on the outside of homes from the requirement that they be provided with ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection. The inspector explained the exception was on the books prior to him assuming the chief inspector's job and had been added in response to negative feedback on the requirement that had been received by a member of the city council from local homeowners. The council member was in the homebuilding business.

Anyone who has served responsibly in the public sector understands the governmental chain of command, and in this case the inspector did what he believed was right by not disparaging those who were elected by the citizens of that city. He also knew that, had he been in the chief's position at the time the amendment was proposed, he would have made every possible attempt to dissuade the council from reducing the level of safety established in a national consensus code. As it was, the amendment stood, and he had no desire to attempt to reverse a decision of the city council.

The gentleman on the other end of the line began calmly explaining the reason for his call. His family had recently moved into a new home in the city, and during the previous weekend they held a cook-out at their home. At the time, electrically heated outdoor grills were a new and easy way to cook outdoors—just plug in and cook. This family's grill was flawed, however. The man's young son had come in contact with the grill—which was plugged into an outdoor receptacle that lacked GFCI protection—at the same moment he was in contact with ground, and received a severe shock. He died en route to the hospital. The electrical inspector was speechless. There were no words he could offer to justify why the amendment existed. He knew the amendment was wrong, but now he knew just how wrong: based on what the caller was saying, the amendment might be complicit in the death of a child. A lawsuit was filed against the city, and an out-of-court settlement was reached. The amendment was subsequently repealed. Deeply disturbed by what had happened, the inspector vowed he would never again work in a jurisdiction where convenience and financial considerations were placed above safety. He never again wanted to be in the position of having to explain to a grieving parent the shallow reason why a fundamental safety feature had been amended out of a national consensus code for safe electrical installations.

On Our Website

Remember to check the NC IAEI website regularly! We are making continuous improvements and always have great information on the NEC, on Continuing Education class schedules, code interpretations, important documents and exciting technology news.

Go to our website for an electronic version of this newsletter. www.nciae.org.



News from the Mechanical Inspectors Association

2015 Workshop Dates and Places

February 18th – Monroe
 March 18th – Morganton
 April 15th – Wilson
 May 13th – Jacksonville*
 June 10th – Burlington
 June 24th – Morganton (again)

*Tentative, not confirmed

NCMIA Annual Meeting

August 2nd – 5th, 2015 at Atlantic Beach NC
 DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Hotel

Registration forms and more details will be coming soon.



News from the NC Plumbing Inspectors Association

NCPIA Workshops for 2015

Rocky Mount *February 5th*
 Monroe *March 12th*
 Morganton *April 15th*
 High Point *May 6th*
 Annual meeting *June 15th-16th-17th*
(To be determined)
 Calabash *September 24th*
 Burlington *October 13th*

There will be three 2hr sessions

1. Residential fire sprinkler installation and rules.
Dale Dawson NC Plumbing-Heating-Fire Sprinkler contractor's License board.
2. Vent systems sizing and use.
Bill Moeller Code Consultant NC Department of Insurance
3. Reclaim water systems and special use systems allowed within the plumbing code.
Jim Lawson North Carolina Plumbing Inspectors Association

North Carolina Board of Directors and Officers for 2014/2015

Central	President	Casey Gerringner
	Guilford County	
Central	President Elect	Clint Latham
	City of Raleigh	
East	Vice President	Stanley Dills
	Town of Calabash	
	Secretary/Treasure	James Lawson
	City of High Point	
Central	1 Year Director	Ray Rice
	City of Burlington	
West	2 Year Director	John Kinder
	Surry County	
Central	3 year Director	Marshall Perry
	City of Greensboro	
East	4 Year Director	Dale Pruitt
	Town of Wake Forrest	
	NCDOL Board Advisor	Bill Moeller
	Raleigh	
West	Ex-officio	Michael Crotts
	Town of Morganton	

The North Carolina Plumbing Inspectors Association is sponsoring the North Carolina Plumbing Apprentice Competition to be held at the North Carolina State Fair on October 24th 2014. We will be located behind the Graham building next to the poultry tent. Please stop by and visit the competition if you are at the Fair on Friday October 15th

Qualifications Assurance Section – COQB, HILB & Pyro

We are now several months into our "mash-up" of engineering personnel who support three separate certification and licensing activities into one team. . Please email mike.hejduk@ncdoi.gov with your comments, questions or concerns. Below is an update of what we've been doing.

Both the Code Officials and Home Inspector Licensure Boards have responded to surveys in response to Session Law 2013-413 SECTION 10.(a) that directed study of Occupational Licensing Board Agencies to evaluate their structure, organization and operation. The study is to include 1) consideration of the feasibility of establishing a single State agency to oversee the administration for all or some of the boards, 2) whether greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness can be realized by combining the administrative functions of the boards while allowing the boards to continue performing the regulatory function, and 3) whether the total number of boards should be reduced by combining and/or eliminating some boards. The results of the study are expected in January 2015.

COQB - Our first priority was to successfully implement 15 new exams for code officials by July 1st with our new vendor PSI Services, LLC under a five year contract and reduced exam fee of \$125.00. Subsequently an additional 15 exams were implemented September 1st to allow alternate questions for retakes. The initial task also coincided with the annual deadline for code official certificate renewals on June 30th [and end of the Fiscal Year]. Last year, jurisdictions were advised that due to the implementation of the internet based COQB Information Management System, "Q'board" staff would no longer mail out invoices for renewal payments. This appears to have delayed some certificate renewals. Since there are approximately 4,000 code officials working for 500 local government jurisdictions, it quickly became apparent that the database was missing nearly 800 email addresses for active code officials. Renewal reminders were sent via email to 3,200 code officials and a LISTSERVE has now been established to facilitate communication between the Engineering Division and code officials. Staff is currently contacting local jurisdictions to collect emails for the 500 remaining active code officials without email addresses. Code officials are encouraged to use the SYSTEM LOG-IN to check their records. It has also become apparent that there is substantial "migration" of code officials among jurisdictions, especially fire officials. This presents an ongoing challenge to keep data current. REMINDER – all code officials are asked to keep their Certificates of Employment and contact information current when changing jobs.

HILB – Staff serves over 1,000 licensed home inspectors in North Carolina. All home inspector licenses expire annually on September 30th. The annual license renewal and continuing education (CE) period begins October 1st. Unlike code officials, home inspectors must earn all required CE by September 10 each year as there is a "blackout" period through the end of the month renewal deadline to allow education sponsors sufficient time to report credits earned. Home inspectors licenses are set to expired status annually if not renewed but may be renewed late within one year without retesting. This year marks the end of a three year, 48 hour education program required by Session Law 2009-509 SECTION 1.2 for all licensed home inspectors that required 16 hours of CE each year since October 1, 2011. Home inspector CE requirements will be reduced from 16 hours to 12 hours CE beginning October 1, 2014. Of these, 8 hours are elective courses and 4 hours are a Board-developed update course. This also coincided with the "sunset" of the associate home inspector program and the establishment of pre-licensing education and training as an alternate means to qualify to register for the state exam. Recently Effective September 1, 2013, the NC Licensed Home Inspectors Standards of Practice, Board Rule .1110(d) Electrical, was amended to require reports to include the presence or absence of permanently installed carbon monoxide alarms in any homes with fuel fired appliances or attached garages, and operate their test function in addition to smoke detectors.

Pyro – Pyrotechnic tragedies such as the Station night club fire in 2003 in Rhode Island and fireworks truck explosion on Ocracoke Island, NC in 2009 were instrumental in creating Session Law 2009-507 entitled "An Act to Improve Pyrotechnics Safety in North Carolina." This law authorized the State Fire Marshal to establish pyrotechnic safety guidelines through NC Gen. Stat. § 58-82A that provided for testing, licensing and training of operators and assistants. These requirements apply to both outdoor fireworks displays and indoor "proximate" entertainment commonly associated with live music or theater performances. Currently there are about 3,200 active licenses. Licenses are valid for three years. Licensees must earn 12 hours continuing education credit each period. There are many venues throughout the state at all times of the year that involve pyrotechnics in addition to the 4th of July. The annual NC State Fair, entertainment events at the PNC arena, New Year's Eve celebrations in major cities as well as professional and collegiate football games, just to name a few. The 2012 North Carolina State Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 33 Explosives and Fireworks, includes provisions for storage, permits and inspection prior to the use of fireworks.



News from the NC Building Inspectors Association

NCBIA Winter Code Seminars 2015

Greenville, NC

January 26-29, 2015

City Hotel & Bistro, (252) 355-8300, (877) 271-2616
203 West Greenville Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27834
www.cityhotelandbistro.com

\$72.00 + Tax – Single/Double

Reservations must be made by 12/25/14.

Directions:

From Raleigh:

Take 264 East to Wilson, N.C. and then to Greenville. Coming into Greenville city limits, turn right at the 2nd stoplight onto 264 Alternate (also called Allen Road). Hotel is 5 miles from the turn on the right.

From New Bern:

Take 17 North to Vanceboro, N.C. In Vanceboro, take 43 East to Greenville. At the 3rd stoplight coming into Greenville (Plaza Mall is on your left), turn left onto Greenville Boulevard. Hotel is approximately 2 miles on the left.

From North/South of North Carolina:

Take Interstate 95 to Wilson, N.C. In Wilson, take 264 East to Greenville. Coming into Greenville city limits, turn right at the 2nd stoplight onto 264 Alternate (also Allen Road). Hotel is 5 miles from the turn on the right.

Aberdeen, NC

February 23-26, 2015

Hampton Inn & Suites, (910) 693-4330, (800) Hampton 426-7866
<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/S/SNPNC>
HX-BIA-20150221/index.jhtml? Group Code: BIA

\$83.00 + Tax – Standard Room; \$93.00 + Tax – Studio Suite

Reservations must be made by 2/1/15.



Directions: From North take US Highway 1 South to Aberdeen. Turn right onto US Highway 15-501 at light. Hotel is 1/4 mile on the left behind Starbuck's Coffee.

Hickory, NC

March 23-26, 2015

Crowne Plaza, (828) 323-1000, (877) 2Crowne 227-6963

1385 Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard, SE, Hickory, NC 28602

www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/hickory/hcknc/hoteldetail

\$82.00 + Tax – Single/Double

Reservations must be made by 3/15/15.

Directions: I-40 W exit 125 turn left then left again at the 2nd traffic light. I-40 E exit 125 then bare right at light hotel on left.

Certificates for Daily Sessions

Each day will include 6-CE hours for a specific trade.

Monday – Building

Tuesday – Mechanical

Wednesday – Plumbing

Thursday – Electrical

Certificates are also available for 6-CE hours in Fire (F) for attendees who are present the first 3-days.

NCBIA Winter Code Seminar 2015

AGENDA

Monday, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

2:45 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Building or Fire – Topics & Speakers

Registration

2012 Building Code, Chapter 4, Special Uses

Carl Martin, NCDOL

Break

[F] Overflow Shelters, Group Homes, Day Care

Rick Zamani, Winston-Salem

Lunch

Special Inspections

Tommy Faulkner, Falcon Engineering

Break

RV & Tiny House – Zoning

Mark Matheny, Asheville

Cumulative Amendments

Barry Gupton, NCDOL

NCBIA Winter Code Seminar 2015 *(continued)*

Tuesday, 1/27, 2/23, 3/23

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
2:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
2:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Mechanical – Topics & Speakers

Registration
LP Gas Sizing, Appliance Location, Fire Pits
Dan Dittman, NCDOL
Break
Chimneys, Exhausts, Vents
Alex Ellis, Winston-Salem
Lunch
[F] Shaft, Barrier, Partition Penetrations
William Whaley, Waxhaw
Break
Common Violations – Top 10 Mechanical
NCBIA Education

Plumbing – Topics & Speakers

Registration
Roof/Storm Drain, Water Conservation
Dan Dockery, Winston-Salem
Break
Fixtures, Faucets & Fittings
Clint Latham, Raleigh
Lunch
[F] Law & Administration Special Topics
Richard Ducker, UNC School of Government
Break
Common Violations – Top 10 Plumbing
NCBIA Education

Electrical – Topics & Speakers

Registration
Hazardous Locations
Ron Chilton, NCDOL
Break
Wind Generators
Jeff Fecteau, Jeff Fitzloff, UL
Lunch
Common Violations – Top 10 Electrical
NCBIA Education