

April 2020

Special points of interest:

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Education Committee answers the call!

Building Safety Month



The Education Committee answers the call!

The Education Committee are now providing ICC certification exam preparation classes. These classes are a direct result of a request from our membership. The first classes, Residential Plan Review and Advanced Building Official, were held in James City County and the second set of classes were held in Fredericksburg. The classes were well attended and exhibited the Education Committee's commitment to the advancement of our memberships professional development.

The committee is in the development stages of additional certification exam prep topics and will be providing the classes across the state.

Contact Paula K. Johnson for scheduling information
pkjonson@fredericksburgva.gov



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Building Safety Month is quickly approaching.

It is time once again to start planning your localities Building Safety Month Event. Building Safety Month activities are one of the most effective ways to raise awareness in our localities of the benefit of building codes that create safe sustainable structures. Remember, a remote celebration is a possibility.



This Years Topics: *Week 1 Disaster Preparedness * Week 2 Water Safety

*Week 3 Resiliency, Sustainability, Innovation * Week 4 Training the Next Generation



Spotlight On

Sandy Harrington

Most VBCOA members know Sandy Harrington when they see her at the conferences - at the sign-in table or sitting next to the president taking minutes at Board of Director meetings. What members may not know is that as our Executive Director she does so much more than those two tasks for our organization. You do not realize how much she really does for VBCOA until you work with her as a member of the Board, as a region chair working on the budget, or as you are planning a conference with her.



Sandy plays a large role in compiling previous years' budget data and presenting it to the region chairs for them to utilize. The past two years she has held a budget orientation for incoming region chairs to help them better understand the process.

Sandy has been a vital part of our conference planning since she came on board with VBCOA. Unless you have planned a conference with her, you do not realize the amount of time that she puts in with both our Second Vice President and the hotel to ensure everything goes as smoothly as possible - this includes coordination of meals, audio/video, hotel rooms and training rooms.

So next time you see Sandy Harrington at a conference, thank her for all that she does to help make VBCOA the outstanding organization that it is today and will continue to be in the future.

Spotlight On

Arlington County

"Virtual Inspection"

Arlington County has responded to the COVID-19 outbreak. They have established protocol for virtual Inspections. Effective March 23, 2020, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Arlington County implemented virtual inspections as the only building-related inspections available until deemed safe for in person inspections. Virtual inspections, an alternative to in-person inspections, it enables prompt service, productive follow-ups, and more specific scheduling. The Virtual inspections are held between an Arlington County customer and County Inspector by utilizing video call on a smart phone or tablet.

This method is being utilized for all building related inspections: building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, energy, and Certificate of Occupancy. Complexity does, however inter into the equations, for those projects too complex to be considered for virtual inspection Arlington is accepting third-party inspections per their policy on third-party inspections.

This innovative approach has ensured the Citizens of Arlington are receiving inspection services allowing their projects to continue moving forward with limited interruption.

Shariar's, Arlington Counties Building Official, guidance on Virtual Inspections is also highlighted on ICC's Coronavirus Response Center.

Committee PULSE...

EDUCATION—Paula K. Johnson, Christina Jackson

VBCOA is offering training events to our membership in order to help them prepare for their various certification exams. Each training will be held for 4 hours.

A typical class will consist of the following:

Instruction on how to sign up for an exam as well as how to determine what materials will be needed. The instructors will also provide test taking tips. A times practice exam will be given, 25-30 questions. Once the exam is over the instructors will go over the answers and provide the code section for each answer. The floor will then be open for questions and general discussion.

Time and Place Committee: Mike Eutsey , John Broughton

VBCOA Mid-Year Board Meeting— May 18, 2020— Virtual Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting—Location to be determined June 19, 2020

VBCOA Annual School and Conference—Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA September 13-15, 2020

2021 VBCOA Mid-Year Conference—Madison Hotel, Harrisonburg, VA March 21-22

2021 VBCOA Annual School and Conference—The New Virginia Beach Marriott, September 12-14, 2021

ICC Code Council Leadership Week—Atlantic City NJ, April 27—May 1, 2020

ICC Annual Conference—St. Louis, MO October 11-14, 2020

PUBLIC INFORMATION—Chair, Tom Coghil

Region of the year applications went out on January 9th. The information form your Region’s is utilized for our ICC Chapter Rewards application and our ICC Region of the Year application. We are also committed to working with WICED to assisting with their application.

On the request of Past President Mensinger and President Moss have encouraged the publication of this News Letter. We hope to continue this letter into the future. We can only accomplish this with your assistance.

Please provide any story ideas you may have to: tom.coghill@jamescitycountyva.gov

MEMBERSHIP—Chair, Michelle Coward

I would like to thank each of our members for choosing to continue your partnership with VBCOA. By renewing your membership you show your commitment to the organization. It is this commitment that allows us to accomplish great things. To our new members “Welcome Aboard” we look forward to working with you as we continue to promote our purpose. I encourage you take advantage of the opportunity that being a member brings; join a committee, find someone to mentor or be a mentee, make recommendation for code change. No act is too small. If there is anything we can do to assist you don’t hesitate to let us know.

Remember— “Our Strength is in Our Members”

Michelle Coward CBMO

A warm welcome to all new members:

- Terry Fellinger, City of Alexandria
- Albero Sanchez, City of Alexandria
- Cheryl Williams, City of Alexandria
- Matthew McCracken, City of Charlottesville
- Lee Otheller, City of Chesapeake
- Jason Elliott City of Danville
- Steven Sites, City of Fairfax
- Jonathan Crosby, City of Harrisonburg
- Bryan Keagy, City of Harrisonburg
- Paul Porter, City of Newport News
- Louis Richardson, City of Newport News
- Montrez White, City of Newport News
- Joseph Chalker, City of Norfolk
- LaDonne Clark, City of Norfolk
- James Grogg II, City of Norfolk
- Alexis Rogers, City of Norfolk
- Wallace Ching, City of Norfolk
- John Humphrey, City of Norfolk
- Nicholas Nelson, City of Norfolk
- Chris Brown, City of Petersburg
- Nikeshia Williams, City of Petersburg
- Terry Nicholson, City of Radford
- Jason Carangelo, City of Richmond
- Karen Paquette, City of Richmond
- Linda Williamson, City of Richmond
- Brian Clark, City of Richmond
- Kellie O’Brian City of Richmond
- David Queen, City of Richmond
- Adam Young, City of Richmond
- Matt Corvin, City of Roanoke
- Irving Henderson, City of Virginia Beach
- Clance Starling, City of Virginia Beach
- James Young, City of Waynesboro
- Marguerite Spross, CMI Sheet Piling
- Bruce Herbert, County of Accomack
- Zachary Higbee, County of Accomack
- J. Everett Beach, County of Amherst
- Paul Foody, County of Amherst
- Ricky Gum, County of Arlington
- Munir Chowdhury, County of Arlington
- Jeremy Foster, County of Arlington

Welcome New Members

- Cecilia Garland, County of Arlington
- Tammy Watson, County of Arlington
- Ademola Aunfayo, County of Arlington
- Veronica Ortega, County of Arlington
- Alberta Jamison, County of Brunswick
- Chelea Dyer, County of Chesterfield
- Kevin Burcher, County of Chesterfield
- Michael Cameron, County of Chesterfield
- Lee Farmer, County of Chesterfield
- Robert Hatfield, County of Chesterfield
- Shawn McKay, County of Chesterfield
- Slate Rodger, County of Chesterfield
- Kim Wright, County of Chesterfield
- Charles Curry County of Culpeper
- Lindsey Bowman, County of Fairfax
- Paul Fernandes, County of Fairfax
- Susan Knapp, County of Fairfax
- Nicole McMahon, County of Fairfax
- Haral Bartings, County of Fairfax
- Shawn McLellan, County of Fairfax
- Kevin Tibbet, County of Fairfax
- Charles Palmer, County of Franklin
- Scott Payne, County of Franklin
- Trevor Stanley, County of Franklin
- Phil Stevenson, County of Franklin
- Jerry Elliott, County of Frederick
- Steven Marcus, County of Frederick
- Charles Davis, County of Grayson
- Becky Kirk, County of Grayson
- Krystal Samuels, County of Green
- Jason Hazlewood, County of Hanover
- Cody Burnhart, County of Henry
- Christy Phillips, County of Isle of Wight
- David Malerky, County of James City
- Stacy McKinney, County of James City
- Donald White, County of James City
- Charles Todd County of James City
- Lauren Colley County of King George
- Sierra Harvey, County of King George
- Kathy Holms, County of King George
- Sherry Graham, County of King William
- Randy Logan, County of Lancaster
- Scott Burns, County of Loudoun
- Don Goodson, County of Loudoun
- Matthew Aylor, County of Madison
- Karl Brazaqshen, County of Madison
- April Clements, County of Madison

A Message From The President

“VBCOA Membership Facing Challenges”

VBCOA is currently facing the COVID 19 epidemic reality. How do we as an origination serve our membership, meet our strategic plan goals and ensure we continue to serve our communities. Let me say there is much work being conducted since Covid-19 first entered our awareness to present day where we are faced with working through the limitations due to social distancing thus prompting us to utilize electronic means to conduct the business of VBCOA. Our members are attending code workgroup meeting electronically. Our Education Committee are looking at ways to provide education opportunities to not only our membership but an avenue to provide continuing education classes to Home Inspectors and others in our industry. We partnered with DHCD to provide a page on our website where localities could update their operating status, providing a resource where anyone can determine how building department operations are being conducted across the state. We have localities sharing process that made operations of their localities building departments possible, providing valuable resources to those building departments who may be searching for ways to conduct the day to day business of ensuring the health, safety and welfare of our communities by ensuring the safety and performance of the built environment.

You, our members, are dealing with circumstances that you had no hand in or control over. It is in our nature to find the answer to a problem, provide direction, giving our communities the services in a way they have become accustomed to. We find ourselves in a situation where we must recognize we have to adapt and sometimes utilize methods and process that may be unconditional and may prompt a feeling of reluctance in those we serve. However, if we continue to be committed to finding solutions and avenues to preform our service to our communities and maintain our commitment to VBCOA we will come out of this a better more accomplished code professionals and most importantly a valuable, reliable asset to our localities.

“Above all else, it is time for compassion. Everyone – residents, government staff, officials – are anxious, show your residents that you empathize, that we are all in this thing together and we will get through it.” (in the words of Michelle Gowdy) This statement reflects what we all should be doing. Be cognizant to reassure everyone that we will resume a normal day to day reality, albeit smarter, better equipped and cognizant of what bind us together. Together we transform our communities!

VBCOA along with many of our sister organizations has postponed and canceled many of our upcoming, in person, meeting and events and we will continue to evaluate the COVID 19 situation and hopefully we will meet in person soon.

Be well, stay safe.

James Moss, CBO, CBMO

President | Virginia Building and Code officials Association

DHCD Corner...

MAY 1, 2020 DHCD CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) DEADLINE EXTENDED.

Due to the cancelation of our CE courses and most other in-person events that provide Continuing Education hours, DHCD has extended the May 1, 2020 CE deadline to AUGUST 1, 2020.

We are in the process of scheduling and setting up VIRTUAL ONLINE training for a number of canceled courses, with our first priority being our prerequisite Core course. If you were registered for the Core course March 17-19, we will be reaching out to you to confirm your interest and capability to attend an online Core session. The exact date and times are still to be determined. We will be providing additional information to impacted students as we work through the details.

WICED of Virginia

WICED of VA is growing. We had our first meeting of the year for in Williamsburg, February 28, 2020. The meeting had the re-election of our officers: President Christina Jackson- City of Norfolk, Vice-President Michelle Coward- City of Richmond, Secretary Carolyn Chavis-City of Richmond, and Treasurer Patricia Carrington-City of Charlottesville. The group is continuing with the National WICED initiative of volunteering and partnering with Habitat for Humanity. WICED members participated in Women's Build with Habitat for Humanity in Suffolk. WICED of VA will be looking at a sponsorship for the WOMEN in Construction Build in September. WICED of VA will be holding two ICC sponsored training on Marijuana and the Building Code in August in Richmond and Mental Health and Code Enforcement in November in Wytheville. WICED of VA is looking to grow its membership. WICED of VA is partnering with other states in creating their own WICED for their women in our industry.

If you are interested please contact our secretary Carolyn Chavis at carolyn.chavis@richmondgov.com. WICED of VA meeting was featured in the ICC Building Monthly Journal



- Jeffery Elliott, County of Montgomery
- Brooke Newman, County of Page
- Rick Adams, County of Powhatan
- Terry Sweitzer, County of Prince George
- Anup Adhikari, County of Prince William
- Hossein Asati, County of Prince William
- Robert Bell, County of Prince William
- Brian Byrne, County of Prince William
- Mark Curtis, County of Prince William
- Carmen Howard, County of Prince William
- Melissa Jefferson, County of Prince William
- Shannon Spulveda, County of Prince William
- Robert Shepherd, County of Prince William
- Lee Steward, County of Prince William
- Janel Withers, County of Prince William
- Conrad Stout, County of Spotsylvania
- Jeffery Gray, County of Sussex
- Monica Whitney, County of Sussex
- Kimberly Hilbert, County of Tazewell
- Jennifer Davidson, County of Washington
- Jason McCall, County of Washington
- Michael Hatfield, County of Wise
- James Catter, County of York
- Andy Wilson, County of York
- Brian Hildebrand, DHCD
- Jeanie Tumbarello, JSJ Electrical-Management Services
- D. Doria, Kalpesh Enterprise LLC
- Scott MacDonald, Town of Blacksburg
- Amelia Schwalb, Town of Blacksburg
- John Bolling, Town of Chatham
- Brandon Moore, Town of Chatham
- Christopher Hurley, Town of Tazewell
- Randall James, VA Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- John Bush, Virginia Tech



ICC Region VII...

ICC Region VII held two meetings in Hagerstown, MD and one at the ICC Annual Conference. During the September 27th meeting ICC Board of Directors candidate interviews and backing discussions were held. Region VII endorsed Gregg Wheeler, Cindy Davis and Mike Wich. Region VII supported Nancy Springer and Mike Savage



A discussion on a proposed bylaws change to Article IV was continued and Region VII designated Don Mock to speak on behalf of Region VII in opposition of the proposal.

Four ICC region VII members were presented with Honorary Membership to MBOA one of which was our own Rick Witt.

Cindy Davis provided information on new ICC acquisitions: SK Gosh and General Code.

ICC Region VII held a meeting on January 23-24. Bob Costa was sworn as ICC Region VII Chairman.

A training on Tall Mass Timber Buildings was provided to those in attendance.

VA Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association...

The 2021/2022 ICC Code Development Cycle has begun. Attached is the current schedule for this cycle. The deadline for applications for participation in an ICC Code Committee is June 1, 2020 for Group A and Group B. The deadline for Group A proposals is January 11, 2021.

Much of what we're doing now in Virginia can carry over to the ICC level. In fact, our work here in the Virginia code development process can be lessened if we can coordinate our proposed changes into the "I" codes. Participation in code development has been the foundation of our organizations. Our Vision and Values Statements proclaim that *members are committed to providing code development leadership and continuous training that results in uniform application of the codes and that we have a strong, diverse membership and leadership that are nationally recognized for their contributions to the improvement and understanding of building code development.* Let's continue our participation of this honored tradition through the upcoming ICC Code Development Cycle.

Richard Grace, MCP

VPMIA/VBCOA PMG Committee Chairman

Virginia Fire Prevention Association...

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association has been active during the first quarter of 2020. On January 30th, our President Ernie Little attended the VBCOA Board of Directors meeting held in Lynchburg, Virginia. Attending this meeting was a part of a VFPA initiative to increase the level of communications with our fellow code organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is our intent to continue to attend future VBCOA Board of Director meetings.

On February 3rd and 4th, the elected VFPA Board of Directors attended a two day retreat held in Winchester, Virginia, to receive training on strategic and business plan training and a second day where development of a strategic plan for the association was initiated.

On March 9th, members of the VFPA elected Board of Directors met in Haymarket, Virginia, to follow up on our work on the association's strategic plan. We are making significant progress on the plan and hope to have it to the full Board of Directors within the next month.

From Professor Woeste...

I was getting ready to send out an announcement about our Virginia Tech short course being rescheduled to August 18-19 and it struck me that I could create a list of *Deck Inspection Resources* for my contacts. As you may know, *May is Deck Safety Month* that was originally motivated by the *ICC Building Safety Month*.

Here is a link to my *Deck Inspection Resources* document: <https://vbcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Deck-Inspection-Resources-2020-4-16.pdf>

Due to the “Stay at Home” Coronavirus matter, it may be an ideal time to inspect your own deck! I would like make this accessible to VA jurisdictions.

Regarding “inspect your own deck”, about 10 years ago I gave a 4-hr deck program with my colleague at Washington State U. to about 30 building code folks in Kent, Washington. They were an outstanding group in terms of interest and questions. About three weeks later, one participant was on a deck that collapsed with several injuries that included burn injuries due to the fact the grill was in use. The point of my story is that deck safety is a public safety issue, even for the most informed!

Thank you for your consideration,

Frank

Frank Woeste, P. E.

Professor Emeritus

Our next Virginia Tech short course is being rescheduled to August 18-19

Change to VBCOA Website Management

Our new webmaster is Brian Jessee of Jessee Productions. Jada Black will be working with Brian to ensure a smooth transition.

It is requested that requests related to the website be sent to the following website content@vbcoa.org. 2nd Vice President Mike Eutsey and Sergeant at Arms John Broughton will also be working with Brian over the next several months on a content audit of the current website and evaluating improvements to the website.