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The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is an organization comprised of seven divisions working on: National Codes, State Codes, Legislative Issues, Professional Development, Communications, Fire Prevention Institute, and Fire Investigation. Membership in the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is open to individuals in four categories: Governmental, Associate, Educational and Retired. There are many benefits to membership for individuals in all categories.

WSAFM Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

To be a recognized leader and partner in fire prevention and community risk reduction.

Mission Statement

To provide leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and associates through communication, education, legislation and code development.

WSAFM President's Report – Dave Kokot

It is hard to believe that 2018 is getting close to the end, it provides a good time to reflect on what we have done so far this year.

The Association has 11 goals, and the Board will be meeting early next year to review these and refine them as we evolve and learn about our industry. I thought that I would share some of the achievements over the past year that went towards meeting the goals, and add my report card:

Goal 1: Provide effective communications networks for our membership and future members.

We have maintained the newsletter as a quarterly method to provide information to the membership. It is a good start, but we need to improve on this. The website is there, but not being used as it should.

Grade: C+

Goal 2: Involve the membership in all levels of the organization.

We were able to bring in new faces into Committees (mostly the FPI Committee) and to the Technical Activity Groups (TAGs) of the State Building Code Council. Although we did good here, there is always room for improvement. Grade: B-

Goal 3: Develop and maintain beneficial partnerships with allied professions.

I had no idea the number of meetings that this Association participates in. We attend the Washington Fire Chiefs Board meetings, Fire Service Leadership, WFC Legislative Committee, and so on. These meetings are necessary by allowing us to participate with other fire service groups, but also provides the opportunity to present our positions and objectives.

Grade: B

Goal 4: Maintain fiscal sustainability of the Association.

The Association usually has a challenge meeting a balanced budget. We made a few cuts this year to help fund other activities. Normally, we have more training to bring in funds, but we did not get as many classes as we had intended. With careful planning and focus on the efficiency of our budget, the FPI this year did better than in prior years. We need to maintain a stable income to fund the various activities that we want to extend to the membership. Grade: B

Goal 5: Provide professional development resources for our members.

The plan was to offer several classes throughout the year in all areas of the State. That did not happen, and we relied on other agencies (State Fire Marshal's Office) to be the main source for that. We did offer a new class by the International Fire Marshals Association in Marysville that was well received and will be planned to be offered in 2020 in the central or eastern part of the State. Grade: C-

Goal 6: Facilitate national, state, and local code development and interpretation.

This is an area that we always do well, but recently was lacking at the National level. A Past President has served on the ICC IFC Committee (Greg Rogers), but we did not have a voice in the audience to promote our code changes. That changed this year as Traci Harvey of Spokane Valley has been attending the 2021 Code Hearings and working with other code officials and experts to get better code language into the IFC. Our efforts at the State level are also strong with several members participating on the various State Building Code TAGs. We also have provided support for local codes and have several members who are available to assist other jurisdictions with their code questions. Not bad. Grade: A-

Goal 7: Implement a plan for the regular, periodic evaluation of the association's work plan.

Without having a Board retreat to focus on the work plan, we basically used the plan from the prior year. Although it got us through, it was challenging for new Board members to understand what direction we are going and hope to go. Grade: C-

Goal 8: Participate in the Legislative process with the Washington Fire Chiefs and other partners.

The Association met this goal well. For the first time, a WSAFM member was on the Washington State team at the Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) in Washington, D.C. This allowed us to share the fire service concerns with legislators from our State. We have also had our Legislative Committee involved in discussions and hearings for bills and planned legislation, as well as participating with the WFC Legislative Committee. We have been fortunate to have members available at short notice to attend hearings in Olympia. The Association is also looking to participate in a State version of the CFSI in the upcoming years. Our weakness is that we need to have a stronger connection to the Legislators themselves. Grade: B+

Goal 9: Promote fire sprinklers in all residential dwellings.

Although a high priority for us, we did not move much forward this year. We have found that there is a lack of common direction for the Fire Service when we are asked about sprinklers, and that is a problem. There are a number of us who are passionate about

residential fire sprinklers, but not all of us. We need to provide more resources to our members and more support for local jurisdictions that want to consider taking that big step with local ordinances. Grade: C-

Goal 10: Provide a high quality educational conference consistent with our mission.

For those who attended the Fire Prevention Institute, this was one of the best. From the powerful in-your-face opening by Dr. David Griffin, the gripping presentation about the multiple murder/arson fire in Spokane County, to the variety of the sessions and tracks, the initial feedback is that we did good. The record attendance has us considering moving to a larger facility. This is just what we wanted. Kudos to Tom and Ellen – Grade: A

Goal 11: Commitment to community risk reduction

This is not only a commitment, but a change of culture. Some areas are embracing it, others are participating or testing the waters. This is the future of Fire Prevention, and we need to expand our understanding and support for CRR. What is lacking is the planning, tools, and staff necessary to properly engage CRR. We need to do more here. Grade: C-

It is always easier to grade someone else instead of yourself. Even with that, the Association should feel satisfied that we did make progress in 2019. We have been able to use our existing structure to contribute to specific goals, and now we can start to look at the goals that we could improve on and to expand that structure to serve the membership needs more appropriately.

As indicated, the Board will be meeting early next year to discuss the goals, and what we can do better. With any Association, success is the participation of the membership - if even just sitting in at a code hearing, being a resource for others, or attending the FPI. We encourage comments and suggestions from the membership on what we can do to make this Association better. Updates will be included in the 2019 Work Plan.

We hope that you, your families, and your Community will have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Plan Review – Dave Kokot

For the first time in several years, the WSAFM Fire Prevention Institute included sessions on plan review. Two classes were held – Basic and Advanced. They were intended to introduce the audience to some of the complexities of what is involved in reviewing plans. The difficulty was that there was a limited amount of time that was available. But one thing was clear - we have a great group of plan reviewers in the State (and not all of them only do reviews). We learn from each other and pass on our experiences so that others can understand the challenges and processes used to meet the demands of a changing construction industry.

Plan review has to change as well. As the codes develop, it becomes more difficult to verify that all of the components are designed per the code. Is the coverage adequate? What about the materials used? Is the sprinkler appropriate for the proposed storage scheme? Is the fire apparatus access or hydrant placement compliant for the building? Each of these is, at least, a little different than what was done 20-30 years ago.

We have also learned that there are differences between jurisdictions. It depends on the experience and capabilities of the plan reviewers to be able to justify those differences and to ensure that they are provided for in the local ordinances or policies.

One thing that has not changed in plan review, is the process for reviewing itself. We still open a set of plans, open a notepad (written or electronic) and look over the plans for compliance with the requirements of the code. There are simple plan reviews, and there are complex ones; design review checklists and communication about correction items. If revisions are provided, making sure that the comments have been addressed adequately.

Some jurisdictions have an over-the-counter process to expedite smaller projects (replacing a few heads, adding a couple detectors, etc.) to help with getting these permits out timely. Others have provisions for phasing projects, or fast-tracking them.

In general, plan review is the critical start for the success of a project. It takes time, energy, and perseverance to do it right.

Fire Prevention Wrap Up – Tom Maloney

The WSAFM Board would like to thank all of our attendees, vendors, and speakers for another great FPI that had over 160 attendees. Without your support we would not be able to continue to bring you the topics you desire to improve our services to our communities. In addition, our partnerships with the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Investigators, and Public Educators (CRR) makes this the best conference in the northwest, and rivals others across the country. The continuous support and desire to improve our communities is second to none and WSAFM is forever grateful to each of you who make this FPI a success.

In highlighting the 2018 FPI, keynote speaker Dr. David Griffin, provided a compelling story on why the status quo is not the way to success, having experienced the Charleston Furniture Warehouse fire. He furthered highlighted that the entire organization makes the organization. Fire prevention and education is critical to the success of the organization. It was a direct in-your-face presentation that provided an exciting start to the FPI. Each of the tracks throughout the week offered some amazing educational opportunities from new investigation technology, public education delivery, and code understanding. Each of these tracks continue to raise the bar for further FPI's. These training sessions are directly related to your feedback and the planning committee's desire to scour the country for great speakers. If you are looking for the handouts they may be found at: <http://wsafm.com/DocumentLibrary.aspx?EntryId=2509>

We will be back in Chelan for 2019 and the tracks are filling up fast as well. We will be expanding the classrooms to make it more comfortable for you as well! We look forward to seeing you next year.

If you have any comments please contact us at wsafm@wsafm.com

Enjoy your Holiday Season!

Code Corner – Traci Harvey, P.E., Spokane Valley Fire Department – SBCC Fire Service Representative

2018 is coming to an end. This was a busy year for code writing & adoption. Both the 2021 ICC Group A codes and 2018 Washington Amended Code Group 1 processes filled the calendar. Our Washington code process was revised in 2016 for roll-out with the 2018 code cycle. There have been a few bumps along the way but Council staff and Council & TAG members; along with all those who participated; worked through the process. The Group 2 codes in 2019 should progress in a smoother fashion.

The following is a brief wrap-up for a very busy year and brief look at what is coming up for 2019:

Washington State Code Process

The Group 1 TAG's (IBC, IEBC, IFC & WSEC) have completed their work on the 2018 codes. The proposed amendments have been posted and public testimony has been received and discussed. A final council vote will occur when the work on the Group 2 codes is complete in 2019. Both Group 1 & 2 code amendments will sit through the legislative session for an expected adoption date of July 1, 2020.

The Group 2 TAG's (IRC, IMC IFGC, UPC & WSEC-R) started meeting in October to review the codes. The timeline for code change proposals has not been determined, however, proposals may be submitted ahead of official dates on the State Building Code Council website. If you're interested in participating be sure to sign up on the website for meeting notices.

The next council meeting is scheduled for January 2019.

ICC Codes

The on-line governmental voting for the Group A codes closed December 7th. A big thank you to all those who voted and participated in work groups, conference calls and code hearings. Once the votes have been validated and certified, the final results should be available by the end of December 2018.

The Group B workgroups have been meeting and final code proposals are due by January 7th 2019. The Committee Action Hearing schedule should be posted by February 19, 2019. The Committee Action Hearings are scheduled for April 28 – May 8, 2019 in Albuquerque New Mexico.

Resources

There are many resources available at little to no cost to AHJs as well as to the public. ICC has the current (and some historical) codes available online. There are limitations to what you can do with the codes, but they serve as a suitable location for reference. These are located at:

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/I-Codes>

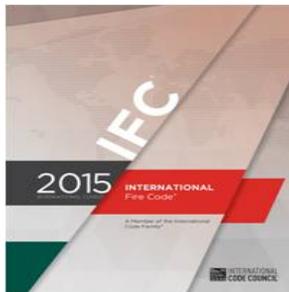
In addition, the State Building Code Council provides printable insert pages for the ICC Codes of the Washington State Amendments. These can be located at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=14>

Do you have a question on the code, or just want to be sure you have a consistent interpretation? We will be providing contacts of several members who participate in the National and State development of the Codes who can provide the information you need to make an informed code decision.

Member Opportunities

WSAFM is always looking for volunteers to assist in the operations of the Association. When we have openings on Committees, Board Positions, or other opportunities, we will include that information in the newsletter.



Be sure to download and print the ICC published errata on a regular basis