VIRGINIA BUILDING AND CODE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Winter Edition

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Congratulations to VBCOA's newly elected officer core!

Mr. John Broughton—President
Ms. Michelle Coward—First Vice President
Mr. Jason Laws—Second Vice President
Mr. Kyle Kratzer—Sargent at Arms

Since 1929, the members of the ***Virginia Building and Code Officials Association*** have worked to foster partnerships among all groups associated with the construction industry. By working together we can build better buildings and safer communities.

Passing of the Gavel

Time and Place, Save the Dates

The VBCOA Officer Core hope to see you at the upcoming events!!

VBCOA Region VI December Meeting

The next VBCOA Region VI meeting will be held on December 12, 2023 (moved a week ahead of our normal meeting date).
The next meeting will be held in Chesterfield in the Community Development Multi-purpose Room (9800 Government Center Parkway, Chesterfield, Va. 23832

VBCOA Region VII December Meeting

The next Region VII meeting will be held virtually on December 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

2024 Mid-Year Conference

March 24-25, 2024 Hotel 24 South (Staunton, VA)
Hotel 24 South 24 South Market Street, Staunton

ICC 2024 Committee Action Hearings – Group A #1

April 7–16, 2024 Doubletree at the entrance to Universal Orlando, *5780 Major Blvd, Orlando, FL*

2024 Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings – Group A #2

Annual Conference: October 20–23, 2024 Expo: October 20–21, 2024
Group A Committee Action Hearings #2: October 23–31, 2024

Long Beach Convention Center *300 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA*

"Our strength is in our members."

Membership Committee - Carolyn Chavis, Chair

Greetings from the Membership Committee,

It is my pleasure to welcome our new members and welcome back our returning members to the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, VBCOA. We are sure you will soon feel the sense of pride we share in this growing organization. We hope that you will take advantage of the many benefits that come with membership and that you will use VBCOA as both a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas and as a resource for current code development in the building industry.

VBCOA embraces all its members and offers boundless opportunities to participate and enhance our industry and profession. I invite you to explore our organization and mission to find that opportunity to foster your personal and professional growth.

Each of you are VBCOA's best advertisement and enticement for new and/or returning members.

Carolyn Chavis
VBCOA Membership Chair

Our strength is in our members. Being a member of VBCOA means you are a leader in the building safety profession and you are part of an organization that is recognized nationally for their efforts to improve the building codes.

Powhatan County participated in **Mission for Tomorrow**

Powhatan County participated in **Mission Tomorrow** at the Richmond Raceway Complex on October 10th and 11th. The event normally has about 1200 8th graders come through in groups from different schools to learn about career paths that are available. We answered questions and provided them with examples of items we look at along with showing them various code books that we use in our daily roles. This participation is part of **Region VI VBCOA**.

Provided by David Dunivan

Region 1 Hosted Events

Region I hosted Two exceptional trainings in the past few months.
On October 10, 2023 Travis Luter, DHCD traveled to Abington, VA to be with Region I, where he provided training on the **Local Board of Building Code Appeals.**

State Building Code Technical Review Board

The Office of the State Building Code Technical Review Board (Review Board) is part of the Division of Building and Fire Regulations (BFR), at the Department of Housing and Community Development. The past couple of years the Review Board has seen four members retire or resign.

In January of 2021, Governor Ralph Northam appointed David V. Hutchins, owner of Hutchins Electric Services LLC located in Galax, Virginia, as a new member of the Review Board. Mr. Hutchins represents electrical contractors, replacing E.G. Middleton. In July of 2021, Governor Ralph Northam also appointed Elizabeth White, a member of the Galax City Council and current Associate Pastor of Christ Chapel in Galax, Virginia, as a new member of the Review Board. Ms. White represents the Commonwealth at Large as the Local Governing Body member, replacing long time member Patricia O'Bannon who resigned from the Board after serving for more than 23 years.

In September of 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin appointed James S. Moss, Director of Housing and Development for the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, as a new member of the Review Board. Mr. Moss represents the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA), replacing Richard Witt who retired after serving Chesterfield County for more than 34 years. In October of 2022, Governor Younkin also appointed Robert Jonah Margarella, Studio Director at Baskervill in Richmond, Virginia, as a new member of the Review Board. Mr. Margarella represents the AIA Virginia, replacing Kenney Payne, who retired from Moseley Architects after more than 32 years.

Training in Region 1

On September 7, 2023 **"When Disaster Strikes"** training, provided by ICC.

Remembering Charlie Black a educator and mentor.

Remembering a Leader in VBCOA

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of fellow VBCOA member and past Chair of Region V and former Cochair of the VBCOA Education Committee, Mr. Charlie Black. Charlie passed away on Monday July 31,2023 after a brief illness. Charlie was a retired Fairfax County Police detective but in true Charlie fashion he couldn't sit at home and do nothing, so he decided to go back to work. He started out at Prince William County as an electrical inspector though transferred over to their Code Enforcement Department where he worked until his retirement in 2021. Charlie played many important roles with that department; one was being in charge of the Spot Blight Program and because he had a photographic memory, two he became an excellent teacher for new inspectors coming into the department. Charlie's mentorship proved to be a big asset for those preparing take ICC Certification Exams. Charlie also instructed students entering the DPOR Electrical Apprentice Program. If you ever had the pleasure of knowing Charlie you would know he wasn't a flashy kind of guy, as he never wanted any fanfare, and this humbleness holds true even in death. He didn't want a funeral of any kind. The family celebrated his life in September.

Provided by Paula K. Johnson

Honoring Jim Ellwood, a Man who had a vision for the next generation of Building Trades Professionals and Code Compliance Professionals

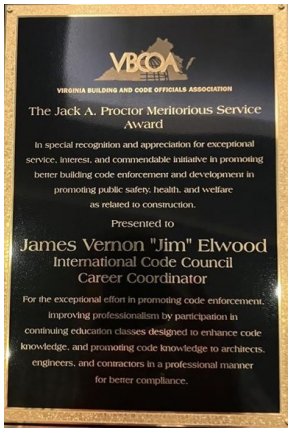
James "Jim" Ellwood, posthumously honored with the 2023 Public Service Award at the VBCOA Annual Conference Banquet, Virginia Beach Hilton Oceanfront Hotel September 18, 2023

In 2016, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association received the ICC Chapter Merit Award, in part for their commitment to member education, service to our respective communities and raising the profile of building professionals. This honor was in large part attributed to the time, effort, and countless hours of presentations to schools made by ***Jim Ellwood****. Former ICC President Cash Olszowy stated at the time,* ***"The vision and energy behind the High School Technical Training Program can be attributed to many people, but there is one who stands out. Jim Ellwood embodies the spirit and passion inspiring high school students around the country to join the program. This man is truly inspirational."***

Virginia's Story: *by Pete Mensinger*

In September of 2014, I received a call from then VBCOA President Sean Farrell, asking me what I thought of our current state of building trades courses for students in Virginia's high schools. Knowing my involvement with

Building Trade classes many years ago, he asked me to meet with an International Code Council representative in Richmond, to lean more about a certified technical training program that was to be presented before the Virginia Department of Education, and report back.



I reached out to Jim Ellwood with the International Code Council who informed me of the High School Technical Training Program and its structure of student certification. Jim proceeded to share a story about a Habitat for Humanity project in 2009 which he reviewed the plans for. He continued by telling me he became aware of local high school students who were going to be constructing this home for a local family in need. Jim was clearly moved by the students' willingness to do something good for the community.

Jim began meeting with the students and started conversations about the home's plans which had been submitted with the permit application. He shared how necessary and important the building codes were to begin and complete this home. Jim was clearly motivated to help these young students learn more about building codes, so much so that he developed a curriculum so they could learn more about building and trade codes. As Jim worked with the

instructors at the school, he began to understand how important it was to help these students to develop "tools of knowledge" for their toolboxes, as many of these students advised they would not be going to college.

News of Jim's success story in these students spread like wildfire. It wasn't long before the International Code Council caught wind of its success. He was contacted by ICC to help develop a certification program for students that would help them in better understanding the building codes, getting a jump start on education for those going into the construction industry. From these efforts, the ICC High School Technical Training Program was born!

Through Jim's efforts since that fall in 2014, VBCOA has been actively engaged in promoting this technical training program with over 32 high schools, technical training schools, and community colleges enrolled throughout Virginia, with over 1480 students having earned certifications of achievement.

We unfortunately lost Jim earlier this past spring, though his legacy will live on as long as we continue to support the futures of our students by helping to bring this Technical Training Program to our schools of education.

At the evening's Awards Banquet, Fran Ellwood and her daughter Ashley came forward to receive the 2023 VBCOA Public Service Award on behalf of their loving husband and father, James "Jim" Ellwood of Harford County, Maryland.

Congratulations Ron!

Ron Clements the newest Virginian and active VBCOA member appointed to the ICC Board of Directors

Please join John Broughton and the VBCOA Board of Directors in congratulating ***Ron Clements*** as the newest Virginian and active VBCOA member appointed to the ***ICC Board of Directors*** at the 2023 ICC Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. We appreciate the commitment to leadership that Ron has exemplified by engaging forward to represent ICC Region VII and Virginia on the national and international stage.
Not only is this success for Virginia, it is also success for VBCOA as the two Virginia representatives serving on the ICC Board of Directors are also active VBCOA members engaging in code development and serving, for many years, on multiple committee's.
Let's celebrate the success of Ron's recent victory and encourage support for both Ron and Kris Bridges going forward.

The VBCOA Education Committee is still giving out great information about VBCOA and highlighting it's members through the VBCOA Podcast. This podcast features Mr. Ron Clements the Building Official for Chesterfield County! Ron has many years of experience in the industry and this was a very insightful conversation! Hope you take a listen! Click on the link below!

https://player.captivate.fm/episode/cbcb287c-cc9c-4ed3-970e-7ede667b32d8

Shahriar Amiri
Chief Building Official
Property Maintenance Official
Inspection Services Director
Community Planning, Housing and Development
Arlington County, Virginia

Shares a video to celebrate what code professionals do day in and day out without proper recognition

Hello friends. I am not sending this video to talk about Arlington. I am sending this video to celebrate what we do day in and day out without proper recognition. In my more than 35 years in this business, I have struggled to tell the story. Often cities and towns, and counties celebrate when a project is approved by the politicians and when ribbon cutting happens. What you don't hear about is what happens in between that is often taken for granted. AS my Field Services Section Chief, Emad, said in this video "what we do matters …..and most people don't know about it" .

Enjoy. Don't laugh at me and let's celebrate what we collectively do more often.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W-Ay0FpxSc

Regards,
Shahriar

A glance at VBCOA Annual Conference

Color Guard of the Norfolk Fire Department.

Color Guard of the Norfolk Fire Department.

VBCOA Award Winners not pictured:
Richard Burkard (City of Chesapeake)- JPMSA Citizen Award

James Vernon "Jim" Ellwood (Posthumous ,ICC)- JPMSA Public Service Award

Rajan Engh (DHCD)- JPMSA for VBCOA Members

Jean Patterson (Prince William County)- JPMSA for Permit Technicians

Passing of the Presidential Gavel to the newly installed 2024 VBCOA President- John Broughton.

Color Guard of the Norfolk Fire Department.

The conference was well attended by a group of over 200 members, vendors and colleagues.

City of Virginia Beach Mayor- Bobby Dyer welcomes VBCOA and the members to the city

ICC Board Member- Alan Boswell of Alabama shares great advice and knowledge with the membership of his experience and journey serving as an ICC Board Member.

Awards and Resolutions Chair- Mike Williams presents the award to David L. Alley III (City of Richmond)- Jack A Proctor Richard "Rick" Witt Meritorious Service Award (JPMSA) for Building Officials

Newly installed VBCOA Officers for 2024

VBCOA
VIRGINIA BUILDING & CODE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

The International Code Council's Long-Time Chief Executive Officer Announces Planned Departure

The International Code Council announced that Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO, plans to leave the organization at the end of 2024. With nearly 20 years at the Code Council and 12 years as CEO, Sims has had an undeniable impact on the organization and the building safety industry.

On behalf of myself, and the International Code Council Board of Directors, I write to our members, industry partners and staff to announce that after careful thought and planning, I have decided to depart from the Code Council at the end of 2024.

The past twelve years have been filled with many personal and professional accomplishments and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as the CEO of the Code Council.

During my tenure, the Code Council experienced many changes and grew significantly. We offered invaluable resources and training for our members, created innovative solutions and services to answer the needs of the industry, and developed world-class building codes and standards that have protected billions of lives.

Through it all, two things have remained true: the people of this organization are some of the most caring, intelligent, and hard-working people I have ever had the pleasure to know; and our members' expertise, participation and commitment to building safety have been instrumental in furthering the mission of the Code Council.

President Tom has asked me to work closely with the search committee to find the next CEO, and they have retained global executive search firm Russell Reynolds Associates to help identify candidates for the position. The search process is in its early stages, and I will do everything I can in the months to come to help prepare the Code Council for this important transition.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with our Board of Directors and Code Council staff to serve the building safety community and carry out the mission of the Code Council.

Be sure to subscribe to the Building Safety Journal Weekly for updates on the transition through the next year.

Regards,

Dominic Sims, CBO

Chief Executive Officer, International Code Council

ICC INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL®

Newly elected and re-elected ICC board members include:

Section C Director (three-year term): Andre Jaen, MCP, CBO, CSP, Division of Building Safety, Jefferson County, Colorado (Section C includes the states of Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Mexico)

Section F Director (three-year term): Blake Steiner, CBO, Chief Building Official – Baton Rouge, South Central Planning and Development Commission, Gray, Louisiana (Section F includes the states of Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and the Caribbean)

Director At-Large (three-year term): Ron Clements, Director/Building Official, Chesterfield County Building Inspection Department, Virginia

Director At-Large (three-year term): Steve McDaniel, Code Enforcement Officer, City of Corning, New York

Director At-Large (three-year term): Michael Savage, Director of Building Safety/Building Official, Marion County, Florida

PUBLIC INFORMATION— Chair, Tom Coghill

President Eutsey encourages the publication of this Newsletter. We hope to continue this communication into the future. We can only accomplish this with your assistance.

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