

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

December 2016

Message from the Chair

Holiday Greetings!

I hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving and took advantage of the great shopping deals offered on Black Friday. I am sure all the jurisdictions appreciate the dollars spent in their towns. It appears the economy is in full recovery and that development is increasing.

I anticipate that we will soon be busier than we can manage with the staff we have and will be looking to add positions and supplement with contract employees. The big question that first comes to mind is: *"Where do we find staff that is qualified?"* This question needs to be addressed differently today than in the past. The question needs to be: *"Where do we find staff that can become qualified?"* In essence, we lost a generation in the building safety industry during "The Great Recession".

As with most challenges, we can consider it to be a negative or a positive situation that we are in. When you consider it to be a positive challenge, you must look at the fact that there are opportunities galore. Not only for us to gain promotions and responsibilities, but also to change the role we play in the industry. We must become teachers and share the knowledge we have not only with new staff, but with our customers, citizens, and our elected officials. It is up to us to find our replacements and work to instill the passion that most of us have for the great work we do. We must push on with what we have accomplished in the past and also

bestow our vision of the future with this next generation.

As a parent, I know this will not be as easy as it sounds. The motivation that worked on us probably will not work on them. The brass ring of benefits and steady compensation that brought us into this profession will not be the same for this next generation of code officials. This is where we must show creativity and an openness to change our perspective. We must put forth our "poker faces" and go "all in", because this is extremely important. We must show patience and openness to the questioning of past paradigms. We must illustrate that this is bigger than each of us as an individual, but still allow people to be unique in their individuality.

This is not a matter to be intimidated by, but needs to be embraced in a positive manner to ensure success. I guess the real question should be *"Am I qualified to be successful in finding and training my replacement?"*. If the answer is not a resounding **YES!**, then we need to figure out quickly, *what can we do as an organization to be successful?*

In closing, I want to wish all of our members a very safe and Happy Holiday Season and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Don Brown

Chairman
Arizona Building Officials (AZBO)



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Fall Education Institute September 2016, Mesa AZ



Lots of Education

...and a little bit of fun



Disco Divas



70's Disco Night

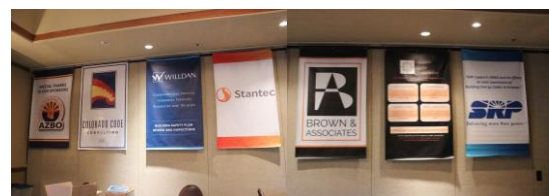


Costume Contest Winners



Popcorn Gallery

Sponsor Appreciation!



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Congratulations are in Order



Retirement Party!
Phil Marcotte retired from the City of Buckeye after 22(-ish) years!



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From **Bert Stone**: After 10 years with Stantec, Bert Stone has decided to leave as of December 16, 2016.  
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Steve Burger, Building Official for the City of Folsom (California), was honored with the **2016 ICC Educator of the Year Award**.

Old timers and permit techs know that Steve spent many years of his Building Safety career in Arizona. He taught the first Permit Tech Class and was on ICC's committee that created the first Permit Technician Certification Exam.

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The SRP Building Energy Codes Initiative recently sponsored an Inspector's Panel at the 2016 Mechanical Trade Contractors of Arizona (MTCaz) Trade Show 12-6-16.

This is the fourth year this event has provided an opportunity for AZBO to promote the Customer centric mentality of Building Officials and Inspectors. This year Sharon Bonesteel from SRP moderated the discussion, which touched on issues of workmanship quality, code issues, apprentice licensing and how to work best with an inspector. The AZBO Institute in April was mentioned as a great place for additional training in the adopted codes. Various cities were represented including: Michael Grubbs, Bill Bradley, Mike Ornoski and Don Councilor from Phoenix; Tom Paradise-Glendale; Bob Lee-Paradise Valley; Bob Graffius-Chandler; Tim-Scottsdale; Jeff Wills and Scott Deering from the State of Arizona Registrar of Contractors. **Special thanks to Michael Grubbs from Phoenix for coordinated the volunteers, and to SRP for the \$1500 sponsorship.** Next year Michael hopes to take advantage of the free booth to set up an AZBO Code Talk Table staffed by AZBO members. This would also be an opportunity for AHJ's to seek potential candidates for internships as inspectors and plans examiners.



Over 100 Halloween Costumes were delivered to the Sojourner Center. Special Thanks to:
AZBO, Brown & Associates,
Deutsch Architecture Group and
Sun Country Marine for making
Halloween special for the
Princess-Goblin-Warrior-Witches.



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From **Jim McErlean, Building Official, City of Kingman:**

The simple truth is that the building department must provide customer service that goes beyond the goal to ensuring safe buildings and properties for our citizens. Dedicated staff must maintain the level of customer care that nurtures the dreams, feelings, goals and concerns of the people in the business community. To maintain friendly working relationships with our construction partners the City of Kingman is announcing a change in how the department will operate. Effective January 30, 2017, the Kingman building department will become the **Building & Life Safety Division** of the **Kingman Fire Department**. Working in unity, Fire Officials and Building Inspectors will foster a friendly atmosphere putting people first. People from local businesses as well as architects, engineers and contractors will all benefit from this partnering. Please come see us at our new home:

Kingman Fire Department
Building & Life Safety Division
412 East Oak St
Kingman, AZ 86401
Main Office: (928) 753-2891

**City of
Kingman**



From **Robert Foreman, Building Official, Town of Camp Verde:**

Sandy Farrar passed her Permit Tech Certification!

The Town also has a new Director, Carmen Howard.

For the first time in many years the Town is fully staffed.

*We completed construction on the new medical facility here, and also the new library and the Hwy 260 construction will commence in the Spring. That is going to be **HUGE** for Camp Verde. Have a LOT of new construction going on and expecting that to really take off in the next year or so. In 5 to 10 years you will not recognize Camp Verde anymore.*



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The **Central Chapter** had their Annual Banquet and Installation of New Officers December 13th.

Randy Westacott, City of Goodyear, is "Past President".

Mike Baxley, Town of Cave Creek, current Chapter President.



The **Southern Chapter** had their Annual Business Meeting November 8th and elected their Chapter Officers:

President: Mark Masek

Vice-President: John Farmer

Secretary: Mary Wright

Board Member: Tony Guasp

Board Member: Jesus Maldonado



From Pam Little, Town of Sahuarita

Ted Rodriquez, Sahuarita's Chief Building Inspector, received the Manager's Choice Employee Excellence Award on December 10. Town Manager Kelly Udall presented Ted with a plaque and \$100 monetary award. Congratulations to Ted!

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Arizona Permit Tech Committee Meeting

November 2016, From the Ground Up
(Classroom, Field Trip, Lunch)



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2016 Annual Sponsors



**Contact an AZBO Board Member
if you are interested in
sponsoring AZBO in 2017.**