

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

June 2020

Message from the Chair

Greetings,

2020 has been a unique year that has required a lot of adaptation and flexibility; we are not even halfway done either. The Annual Business Meeting, Annual Awards, and Elections of Officers have been postponed until the Fall Education Institute in Mesa this September, look for more information to come.

Currently, the Education Committee is hard at work to find alternative ways to provide education and preferred provider CEUs for all members. ICC has also extended the certification renewal deadlines to help offset the difficulties of attending classes and obtaining CEUs.

Now, more than ever, we are all learning to work in an ever-changing digital environment, adapting to new alternative ways to complete our assignments and tasks. While this can be challenging it also allows us all to improve processes and come out of these trying times more adaptable and resilient than ever. I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Education Institute and Annual Business Meeting.

Regards,
Brian Uthe
AZBO Chair



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BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Unfortunately, with buildings being closed, in the words of Chuck King, Town of Oro Valley, “Building Safety Month was definitely hijacked by the coronavirus this year”.

City of Phoenix approached the challenge with a plan to unite the community by helping a resident “rise up from her ashes”.

A Summer for Mary

This year, Phoenix Planning and Development used Building Safety Month as the platform to launch a community project that will be on-going most of the summer to help repair and rebuild a Phoenix woman’s home after it was damaged by fire in October. Mary Chavez hired an unlicensed contractor to install a water heater and within hours of them leaving, the fire sparked. The home has been without electricity and the damage went unrepaired for months as the expenses were too much for Mary to be able to afford.

Planning and Development Field Supervisor Don Councilor learned of Mary’s situation and launched the effort to gather contractors to rally around her to donate their services and materials to get the critical repairs completed before the extreme Arizona heat sets in. The response has gone above and beyond the repairs from the fire are not only being taken care of, but other needed repairs and upgrades are being done as well. Within days of this project, Mary’s electricity was restored. Now a month later, the entire roof has been replaced, a bathroom is in the process of being retiled and safety measures are being installed to ensure proper fire egress.

“We are seeing contractors that normally compete with each other coming together for this cause,” said Don Councilor. “I knew people in the industry would respond but they are going above and beyond.”

Councilor said they still need a few contractors for some specific repairs and improvements.

Staff launched a webpage where you can follow the progress. <https://www.phoenix.gov/pio/Helping-Mary>.

Staff is also using this project to also educate the public about Planning and Development programs and services that help residents with their projects and educate customers on building codes and safety.

Thank you for the input **Don Councilor** and **Angie Holdsworth!**



FACING CHALLENGES DURING AND AFTER SHUTDOWN/STAY AT HOME ORDERS

Most who responded were the same scenario. Buildings were closed however Building Safety/Community Development Departments were open utilizing the following: electronic submittals, building department staff working from home; inspectors in the field and some using virtual inspection when deemed appropriate; no slowdown in workload, increase in home improvement permits, new precautions being set in departments for employee and public safety (plexiglass, distance markers, hand sanitizer, PPE).

Below are two which represented most of the responses received:



From **Steve Mertes**, City of Sedona:

- Building Safety closed to the public once the state shut down businesses, but we allowed permits and corrections to be picked up and dropped off by appointment from the very beginning, so the permit process never stopped.
- Building inspections never ceased. Our inspector wears a mask and requests any contractor walking the job with him to do the same.
- Last week, Sedona reopened to the public with shortened hours (8:00 to 12:00) with appointment times for those that can't make the public opening times.
- We have plexiglass barriers at our front counter with a table in front of our counter to maintain separation. We have also marked the 6' separation distance in our lobby and limit the number of people permitted in our lobby at one time.
- We are at 50% to 60% employee capacity at city offices. All other employees are working from home. I have one permit tech working the front counter and the other answering phones and emails, and doing other jobs, such as file and permit maintenance at home. They switch off: two days in, two days at home.
- I spend most of my time at home doing plan reviews. All of us have laptops and our office phones are forwarded to our laptops.
- My inspector has been testing out virtual inspections. He is probably performing 25% to 40% of his inspections virtually now.

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From **Stephen Dudley** (via Sandra Hoffman), City of Phoenix:

Phoenix Planning & Development Customer Service Is Uninterrupted

In spite of the COVID-19 crisis, the Phoenix Planning & Development Department has continued to provide its clients with excellent customer service. We have greatly increased our use of electronic plan review, eliminating the need for our customers to travel to city hall to submit paper drawings. All of our meetings, including public meetings, are being conducted in a video conferencing format. However, Phoenix city hall remains open to customers for meetings by appointment, too. Social distancing markers and protective Plexiglas barriers have been put in place to protect our customers and employees. Building inspections continue on schedule with our inspectors following social distancing guidelines. Due to the pandemic, the city launched its new Remote Residential Video Inspection Program earlier than planned. Phoenix's innovative Self-Certification Program also continues to operate. The training that is offered to our self-certified design professionals will now be offered in an online, webinar format. This will allow enrollees to ask questions and participate in discussions during the training. The pandemic has encouraged city staff to better utilize technology to maintain social distancing. Many of these new practices could become permanent options to provide better customer service and more flexibility in the future.

Thank you to all who responded.

Electronic Plan Review Survey Results

Some jurisdictions were already utilizing electronic plan review, some transitioned on short notice. Here are the results from 33 responses:



Bluebeam	11
Paper Only	6
Accela	4
Avolve / PDox	3
Adobe Pro	2
EnerGov	2
Citizen Serve	2
Adobe Acrobat	1
SMARTGov	1
iWorQ	1

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From **Steve Burger** (Retired)

I plan on doing four webinars in July for the Permit Tech Nation (PTN). These will be geared toward Permit Techs and those that may be preparing for the ICC Permit Tech exam. Each of the four modules will be about two hours long and will earn 0.2 CEUs.

July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Central Time

COST:

PTN Member \$25.00 per day;

Non-Members \$50.00 per day.

Memberships had to be paid by 5-21-20 to qualify for the member pricing.

Registration required; deadline is the Friday prior to each event.



The modules will be:

1. Highlights of IBC Chapter 1 and Legal Aspects of Code Administration
2. IBC Occupancy Use Groups and Types of Construction
3. Basic Plan Review, Calculating Fees and IBC Required Inspections
4. Highlights of the International Zoning Code

Visit the PTN website (<https://www.permittechnation.org/>) for additional course information and registration information.

Steve also indicated he **may also be presenting these webinars for AZBO**. More information will be distributed when available.

AWARDS

Nominate your peers who you feel meet the criteria for an AZBO Award. Nomination flyer with award descriptions at the end of this Newsletter.

If you have sent any nomination form(s) please RESEND them to:

pattischechter@q.com.

With the change of the website emails to info@azbo.us have not been popping through. They are working on a solution. Apologies for the inconvenience!



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AZBO Sponsorships

Thank you to our 2020 Annual Sponsors



Delivering more than power.™





AZBO
ARIZONA BUILDING OFFICIALS
26th Annual Business Meeting
September 2020
Mesa, AZ



Nominate your peers who you believe
 have gone above and beyond.

Deadline: August 25, 2020

<p>Check one box only for award nominations: See Page 2-3 for descriptions of awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Building Official of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Building Inspector of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Reviewer of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Permit Technician of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Award of Excellence <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement in Code Development <input type="checkbox"/> Brent Snyder Memorial Award <input type="checkbox"/> Achievement in Education <input type="checkbox"/> Award of Merit <input type="checkbox"/> Special Services Award <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Assistant of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Companion of the Year 	<p>I Nominate (name and jurisdiction/company): Name</p> <p>Jurisdiction/Company Name</p> <p>Chapter*: <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Canyon <input type="checkbox"/> Central <input type="checkbox"/> Southern</p> <p>Nominated By (name and jurisdiction/company): Name</p> <p>Jurisdiction/Company Name</p> <p>Phone Number</p>
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***NOTE: Recipients must be a member of AZBO**

Reason for Nomination (include a short paragraph supporting your decision to nominate this person)

Contributions/participation to AZBO on a Chapter or Committee Level:

Other reasons for nomination:

Submit nominations to: info@azbo.us
 Temporarily send to pattischechter@q.com until
 notified otherwise.

<p>Building Official of the Year “In honor and memory of Pat Trueblood”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation to AZBO. • Helpful to fellow members on our industry. • Personal Professional Development. • Promotion of Building Code Enforcement as a desirable and important career.
<p>Building Inspector of the Year “In honor and memory of Robert Graffius”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation to AZBO. • Outstanding achievement in the field of Building Inspection. • Helpfulness to fellow Inspectors. • Personal Professional Development.
<p>Plan Reviewer of the Year “In Honor of Don Cunningham”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation to AZBO. • Outstanding achievement in the field of Building Plan Review. • Helpfulness to the public and fellow inspectors. • Personal Professional Development.
<p>Permit Technician of the Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • Outstanding achievement in the profession of Permit Technician. • Helpfulness to fellow Permit Technicians and Code Official. • Participation, leadership and involvement in career related committees or functions. • Personal Professional Development.
<p>Member of the Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO. • Active participation at AZBO and/or local Chapter level.
<p>Award of Excellence “In honor of Alan Olson”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participations to AZBO. • Helpfulness to fellow members of our industry. • Personal Professional Development. • Participation in ICC code development process. • Promotion of Building Code Enforcement as a desirable and important career.
<p>Achievement in Code Development “In honor and memory of Forrest Fielder”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For outstanding contributions in the Code Development process. • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.
<p>Brent Snyder Memorial Award “In honor and memory of Brent Snyder”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • For continuous dedication to the education of our Inspectors, Code Officials, Plans Examiners and Permit Technicians. • For leadership in the promotion and participation in the Spring and Fall Institutes. • For countless hours of devotion to the Institutes.
<p>Achievement in Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • For the promotion of education of Building Safety professionals with in-house training and/or Chapter member programs. • Personal Professional Development.

Award of Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For meritorious service to the Building Safety Community. • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.
Special Service Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting AZBO above and beyond job description responsibilities. • For influencing participation of others for the good of the cause.
Administrative Assistant of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • For outstanding support of the Building Department staff. • For achievement in personal professional development.
Companion of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding support to their spouse who is an active member of AZBO. • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.
Chairman's Award (as allocated by the AZBO Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding continuing contributions to the work of AZBO and support of the AZBO Chair. • Outstanding single contribution to the work of AZBO.

2019/2020 Award Nomination – **Deadline for submittals: August 25, 2020**