

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

Message from the Chair

Hello AZBO Friends and Members,
I hope everyone is doing well in 2024. I cannot believe it is spring already and along with the allergies and Spring Training Baseball comes the AZBO 2024 Spring Institute. This year we will be in Prescott, Arizona on April 29th to May 2nd. We have a full slate of training for the four days and registrations are filling up quickly. You may access the link for the institute here [Events - Arizona Building Officials - AZBO](#). We hope to see you there.

This spring we have a special treat as Arizona is hosting the ICC Region VI Annual Business meeting in Tucson, Arizona on March 20th, 21st, & 22nd. There are three days of training with renowned presenters Steve Thomas and Dr. Paul Melendez. ICC Region VI represents Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado. This event only comes to Arizona every four years, so I am looking forward to seeing old friends, building my network with new friends, and participating in 3 days of engaging presentations.

Over the past few months, I have been working closely with members to rebuild AZBO committees that became stagnant during the pandemic. It has been a pleasure seeing new members step into leadership roles and becoming familiar with them as we hope to engage all members to participate on a committee. The Permit Tech Committee have already had meetings and a training presentation provided to them. They had strong attendance and continue to be a driving force for AZBO. The Education Committee has continued to be sound and productive. They have restructured their committee to include all committee volunteers on various sub committees. This has made the monumental task of producing an institute simpler and encourages participation of all. It also creates an environment for sharing of knowledge and process. The Public Relations committee is putting together a few events to highlight our industry and organization. They could really use some additional committee members. This is the committee for those that like to have fun. If you are interested in joining a committee, please see this link [Committees - Arizona Building Officials - AZBO](#).

Please keep the AZBO ABM and Golf Tournament on your calendar for July 23 to July 25 in Payson, Arizona. This event will be advertised after the Spring Institute registration is completed.

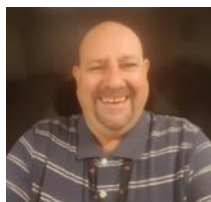
In closing, I want to encourage all code officials and jurisdictions to participate in the ICC Building Safety Month recognition during the entire month of May. We as code professionals recognize the importance of what we do. Let's share that information with our communities and highlight a few projects and staff members during the month. [2024 Building Safety Month - ICC \(iccsafe.org\)](#)

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve.

Regards,

Don Brown

AZBO Executive Chairman 2023-2025



AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

Arizona Permit Tech Committee

From Tracie Wilgus, Town of Cave Creek, AZPT Chair

The Arizona Permit Techs kicked off the 2024 year in Tucson with guest speaker Dr. Paul Melendez! He gave a class on “Building Trust” to a packed room. Congratulations to Rachel Bach, Town of Oro Valley, for winning an AZPT tote bag! Thank you to everyone that attended, we look forward to additional classes in the near future, stay tuned for updates!



- Agenda
- Breach of Trust
 - Data on Trust in Society
 - Establishing Trust
 - A Closer Look: High Cost of Low Trust
 - Traits of the Trusted
 - Insights on Trust
 - Components of Trust:
 - Credibility
 - Reliability
 - Empathy
 - Selflessness
 - Takeaways



Meeting Minutes will be posted on AZPT's Facebook page when available. Like and Follow at <https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaPermitTechs>

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

Spring Education Institute

For information regarding AZBO's Spring Institute visit AZBO's website:
<https://www.azbo.us/events.html>

The Grand Canyon Chapter will be hosting the Wednesday Night Event.

Arizona Building Officials Present
2024 Spring Education Institute's Evening Event
Hosted by the Grand Canyon Chapter

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024
4:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Our Evening will Include:

Transportation to/from the Prescott Resort
Guests are asked to rendezvous at the Prescott Resort between 4:30-4:45 as our transportation will leave promptly at 4:45 PM



Dinner at the Gurley St. Grill
5 PM

A Guided Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Prescott
Provided by
A Haunting Experience

\$40 per Guest
*Plated Entrée, Soft Drink, Coffee, or Tea
Guided Tour and Transportation*
Guests will provide entrée selection at registration; alcohol is not included in fee, available separately.

Bacon Cheeseburger Served with Fries	Beef Stroganoff Beef tenderloin sauteed with mushrooms, bordelaise & sour cream served over fettuccini pasta & topped with scallions.	Cobb Salad Grilled chicken, crumbled bleu cheese, avocado, egg, tomatoes, and bacon.
Two-Piece Fish -N- Chips Hand Breaded fish served with tartar sauce & coleslaw.	Marco Polo Pasta Grilled chicken breast, broccoli, red onion & tomatoes sauteed in scampi butter. Garnished with feta cheese & served over penne pasta.	

Space is limited to 40 Guests.
Reserve your spot NOW!



AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

AZBO AWARDS

Nominate your peers who you believe have gone above and beyond. Awards flyer is at the end of this Newsletter. Send completed nomination forms to info@azbo.us



Jurisdiction News

From **Shicheng Tao**, Chief Building Official, City of Chandler



A business license and a certificate of occupancy (CO) are two separate documents, but they are often related in the context of opening and operating a business. A business license is a legal document issued by a local government authority, that allows a person or entity to operate a specific type of business within a jurisdiction. A CO is also issued by local government authorities, but it relates to the use and occupancy of a physical property, such as a building or a space. A CO is typically issued when a new building is constructed or when there is a change in the occupancy type, etc.

To better understand what processes and procedures are in place to follow in terms of whether a new owner needs to apply for a new business license in conjunction with applying for a new CO, I reached out to consult with code officials in the neighboring jurisdictions. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for their participation in our survey. They are Larry Taylor (Gilbert), Mike Baxley (Tempe), Dennis Chase (Peoria), Cheryl Mullis (Goodyear), John Sheffer (Mesa), Clayton Trevillyan (Tucson), Mark Sipes (Maricopa), Don Brown (Phoenix), Michael Abegg (Phoenix), Jason Lindsey (Phoenix), and Amy Tressler (Flagstaff). Their input is invaluable to us, and we genuinely appreciate the time and effort they took to share their thoughts and opinions. Once again, thank you for being an essential part of our survey, and your contribution is highly valued!

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

From **Alan Kircher**, City of Yuma

Yuma Career and Trades Expo. The City of Yuma - Building Safety Department was well represented at the Yuma Career and Trades Expo, which was held on March 5-6 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, AZ. Representing our department was Randy Crist, Alan Kircher, Sally Cavazos, and John Montenegro. This is the 3rd year for this event, which is organized by the Yuma Southwest Contractors Association, and our first year to attend and sponsor a booth.

This is a significant regional event, with multiple indoor and outdoor exhibit areas, and was attended by over 2,600 students from the Yuma area middle and high schools, as well as home schoolers. The event included displays and hands-on exhibits from Contractors, Engineers, Trades, Suppliers, Vocational Education, and other groups, to introduce students to careers in Construction and other related fields. We talked with many students about the work that we do, and there were some really good questions and interactions. We presented a “quiz-type” picture handout showing some code violations and code enforcement scenarios, with explanations of the issues on the back page. We also showed a video of a malfunctioning water heater explosion - - with many wide-eyed and surprised reactions! One student told us they were going home to check their water heater! The event and was well-received and it was a very worthwhile experience.



AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

ICC Building Safety Month

This year's theme is **Mission Possible**. Please contact Rick Bluntzer, AZBO's ICC Rep, if you have questions or to request a sample resolution to present to council. rbluntzer@iccsafe.org

Be sure to take pictures and send update for recognition in the next Newsletter.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2024

MISSION POSSIBLE

Week 1
Understanding the Mission

Week 2
Preparing a Building Safety Plan

Week 3
Learning from the Pros

Week 4
Engaging Your Community

Week 5
Celebrating Success in Building Safety

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

In Memory Of

It is with a heavy heart that Tempe announces the passing of a member of our City of Tempe family. **Larry Leveille**, Plan Reviewer II in Community Development. Larry passed away on Saturday, December 30th. Larry began his career at the City of Tempe in 1998 in Building Safety as an Inspector, later moving to Plan Review as a Plan Reviewer II. He supported Tempe for over 25 years by sharing his knowledge, training, and care for others especially in the fields of mechanical, electrical and plumbing where he excelled. Larry was a Veteran, having served in the Army for four years as a combat engineer assigned to the 3rd Infantry. He passed his Special Forces training, and as combat support he specialized in demolitions and was jump certified. Larry grew up all over the globe with his Army family, but settled in Arizona where he attended high school and ASU – majoring in civil engineering. Larry was in the Army ROTC and marched in the Color Guard at ASU games. Larry loved the outdoors, including hunting, archery, camping, hiking, off-roading, and skiing. He was known for his fashion statements, dry sense of humor, and helping, caring, and taking care of his work family. Larry's passing has left a big hole in Tempe's Building Safety department that will be difficult to fill.

~Sediments by Mike Baxley



Visit the newly added **In Memoriam** tab on AZBO's website remembering those members who have gone before us, as well as those members with AZBO Awards named in the honor. https://www.azbo.us/in_memoriam.html

AZBO News



Arizona Building Officials

March 2024

AZBO 2024 Annual Sponsors

VISIT AZBO'S WEBSITE FOR RECOGNITION
OF CURRENT ANNUAL SPONSORS

<https://www.azbo.us/>



AZBO
ARIZONA BUILDING OFFICIALS
28th Annual Business Meeting
Date July 23 thru July 25, 2024
Payson AZ



Nominate your peers who you believe have gone above and beyond for AZBO in 2023-2024

Deadline: June 13, 2024

Check **one box only** for award nominations:
 See Page 2 for descriptions of awards

- Member of the Year
- Award of Excellence
- Building Official of the Year
- Building Inspector of the Year
- Plan Reviewer of the Year
- Permit Technician of the Year
- Achievement in Education
- Achievement in Code Development
- Leadership Award
- Award of Meritorious Service
- Special Services Award
- Community Service Award
- Companion of the Year

I Nominate:

Name of Individual

Works for: Jurisdiction/Company Name (or Retired)

Member of Chapter: __ Grand Canyon
 __ Central
 __ Southern

Nominated By (name and jurisdiction/company):
 Name

Jurisdiction/Company Name

NOTE: Awards are for fiscal year 2023-2024

Please limit reason(s) for nomination to current fiscal year recognition

****NOTE: Recipients must be a member of AZBO** If unsure, check your local Chapter**

Reason for Nomination -include a short paragraph supporting your decision to nominate this person and include any Contributions to AZBO on a Chapter or Committee Level or other reasons for nomination:
PLEASE LIMIT VERBIAGE TO FIT ON THIS PAGE

Submit nominations to: info@azbo.us

Member of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO. • Active participation at AZBO and/or local Chapter level.
Award of Excellence "In honor of Alan Olson"	<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.
Building Official of the Year "In honor and memory of Pat Trueblood"	<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.
Building Inspector of the Year "In honor and memory of Robert Graffius"	<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.
Plan Reviewer of the Year "In Honor of Don Cunningham"	<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.
Permit Technician of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • Outstanding achievement in the profession of Permit Technician. • Helpfulness to customers, fellow Permit Technicians, and Code Official. • Participation, leadership and involvement in career related committees or functions. • Personal Professional Development.
Achievement in Education "In honor and memory of Brent Snyder"	<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.
Achievement in Code Development "In honor and memory of Forrest Fielder"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For outstanding contributions in the Code Development process. • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.
Leadership Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • Leadership in mentoring individuals to further their Building Safety careers. • Encouraging growth and development to members of the Building Safety Community.
Award of Meritorious Service	<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.
Community Service Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions/participation involving AZBO • For organizing and/or participating in events for career development or charities.
Companion of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding support to their significant other who is an active member of AZBO. • Outstanding personal contributions to the work of AZBO.
Chairman's Award (as allocated by the AZBO Chair, limit 5)	<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.



In Honor and/or Memory of.... Background of Honorees

Alan Olson – Award of Excellence

Relationship with AZBO:

Alan was the model of excellence for Building Officials. He served on the ICBO Board of Directors from 1990 to 1999, serving as the Chairman in 1997-1998. He was one of eight individuals (4 ICBO and 4 BOCA) who signed the incorporation papers that created the ICC. Alan was president of the Arizona Chapter in the early 90's when AZBO was formally created as a coordination and education facilitator for all three Arizona ICBO Chapters.

Career:

Alan is a licensed Architect, Certified Building Official and Certified Building Inspector. He settled his family in Arizona in 1988 and became the Building Official of the City of Phoenix, after serving as Building Official in Orono-Minnesota, Dallas-Texas, as well as a Volunteer Firefighter in Mound-Minnesota. During his career he has also volunteered his time on the AZ Attorney General ADA Subcommittee, the Fire and Life Safety Code Development Committee, the Code Coordinating Committee, the Credentials, Education, Finance and Executive Committees as well as serving on the Board of Directors for CABO. He has a Bachelor and Master of Architecture from Montana State University.

He is currently splitting his retirement time between Sun City, AZ, where he is a Building Codes Subject Matter Expert at Gervasio & Assoc. Inc., and Montana where he has personally constructed and designed three houses with his wife of over 50 years. During those years they both worked and raised three independent and successful children of whom they are most proud.

Pat Trueblood – Building Official of the Year Award

Relationship with AZBO:

Patricia Trueblood was considered the heart and soul of the Arizona Chapter.

She and Larry Richards worked to establish the Education Committee and the Annual AZBO Educational Institute, starting at Embry Riddle in Prescott.

She was affectionately referred to there as the “Den Mother” for the dorms, where many Building Official friendships were formed. She was always willing to lend an ear, share her experience, and help others along the path of development to ethical, educated, and caring public service.

Career:

Pat moved to Arizona in 1958 and worked in Glendale as one of the first female inspectors. She served as the Building Official of the City of Peoria for many years.

Pat passed away in 2006

Robert Graffius – Building Inspector of the Year Award

Relationship with AZBO:

Bob always encouraged his co-workers and others in the building safety community to continue their education in the industry and to be involved on committees.

Career:

Robert G Graffius was born in Altoona, PA. He moved to Arizona in 1978 for the construction boom. He worked for construction companies building houses as a Framer, Framing Foreman, and quickly promoted to Building Superintendent.

In 1987 he started at the Town of Gilbert (employee # 34 in the Town's history). He was Building/Offsite Inspector, Plans Examiner, Building Inspector Supervisor, and Senior Plans Examiner. He was instrumental in putting together their Building Department and in Gilbert's participation in MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments) for regional planning and code enforcement. Bob continued his education and obtained many certifications.

Bob was the Chairman of the Arizona Chapter of International Association of Electrical Inspectors, member of International Conference of Building Officials, subcommittee chairman with IAEI, ICBO and IAPMO. He also served on numerous hiring boards throughout Arizona.

In 1996 he was hired by Stantec Consulting as a Senior Plans Examiner where he continued his education and certifications up and until his untimely passing in March of 2002.

Bob's work ethic, honesty, integrity, kindness, involvement, chairmanship and “do it right and safe” attitude was who Bob was. You would be hard pressed to find anyone to disagree.

Bob is missed by his family and also by the building code community but the dedication to his family and to the building code community will never be forgotten.

~Bob Graffius, CBO, Buildings Inspection Manager, City of Chandler (Robert's son)



In Honor and/or Memory of.... Background of Honorees

Don Cunningham – Plan Reviewer of the Year Award

Relationship with AZBO:

As a strong proponent of education, Don arranged for Embry Riddle as the first site of the AZBO Educational Institute. He loved sharing his skill as a plans examiner and through the years assisted many in learning the trade.

Career:

Don served as Building Official for Yavapai County after moving from California to Arizona. He was a prime mover in the Northern Arizona Chapter of ICBO.

Brent Snyder – Achievement in Education

Relationship with AZBO:

Brent taught classes for AZBO for many years before he died in 2006 after a long battle with illness. He was an amazing instructor and a great inspiration to many. He always made time for anybody with questions and encouraged you to reach out to him anytime, not just when he was teaching for AZBO.

Although he wasn't a jurisdictional member of AZBO, he worked tirelessly to make sure he made all of AZBO's educational events. He was a beloved teacher and provided many members the wisdom and the tools to succeed in their careers.

Career:

He was the past president of ICBO (Uniform Building Code), outstanding code educator, trainer, and mentor of many existing Building Officials across the nation. He was instrumental on the Uniform Building Code Committee to start the International Code Council. He was Building Official for several municipalities prior to starting his Code Education Consulting Business.

Forrest Fielder – Achievement in Code Development

Relationship with AZBO:

Forrest was active with AZBO on many levels.

For several years he served on the Central Chapter Board, the AZBO Board and numerous Committees including The Code Development Committee.

His contributions to Arizona's Building Safety Community are immeasurable.

Career:

From the age of 17 Forrest had a vision to make a difference in the world.

He studied Political Science in Washington. Then he was introduced to carpentry and the world of building. He started his own contracting business "Forrest Homes". He became the first builder in Whatcom County to introduce Passive/Solar Design. He was met with a great deal of resistance and skepticism from the community.

The concept of sustainability was becoming more relevant to his style of building.

His vision included encouraging people to be their own builders, hence eliminating the middleman. This became the ground floor of the "U Build It" idea.

He realized there was a huge piece missing in the development of his wholistic approach to the industry. He needed the complete knowledge of the codes that were the foundation of everything, to include fire, electrical and accessibility.

The City of Surprise presented him with that opportunity. He was plans examiner prior to his position as Building Official.

I trust that all of the people who were blessed to have had Forrest as a mentor and colleague will attest to his passion, not only for the industry, but for the growth of those who shared and continue to share that passion.

His legacy continues to live on.

~Patsy Fielder (Forrest's wife)

Forrest died after a long battle with illness in 2016