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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings all,

The February meeting was very good!

We had the pleasure of having Rodger Reiswig with Tyco/Simplex present on Fire Alarm Systems, NFPA 70 and other related codes. There was a ton of information; Rodger described the presentation as trying to get a drink of water from a fire hose – too true.



Attending such a strong presentation like that reveals to me how much I don't know – there is a lot for us to be responsible for. Having good business partners that are experts in those areas of code, compliance and maintenance is crucial. I think it also reveals to our partners in construction and architecture – how much is really expected of the facility managers. It is huge!

The Board is working through the planning for future meetings. Here's our calendar for the remainder of the year, I will also be sending Outlook calendar reminders to you.

May 12, 2011
August 11, 2011
November 10, 2011

We are talking through plans for the May meeting, coming up with some exciting ideas – could even work out to a full day event.

Financials Tidbits

Dues – go towards routine expenses such as office type supplies, meeting supplies, and equipment needs. These expenses are small – and so are the dues. We really appreciate your show of support by getting them in. After the last meeting, we have been receiving a handful of dues. Thank you. I have received questions about invoicing for this – we are not able to do that right now, I do hope to work something out by the end of the year. In the mean time, please route your annual dues to the PO Box on the website or pay at the next meeting.

Sponsors – these funds are generally used for accommodations, food and speaker expenses (if any). When we have meetings in a venue such as the Sheraton, with food – the sponsor's help us with that financial burden.

It's a pretty trim organization – our annual budget is around \$4500. I write that number in and am amazed, that's pretty cheap! Your dues may seem minor – but with a budget that small and tight, every little bit helps.

Thank you all – see you in May!

Richard L. Parker

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Key Points from the February Meeting

Rodger Reiswig

Fire Alarm Testing

- Smoke Detectors – tested in place to ensure smoke entry into the sensing chamber and an alarm response. Cannot remove heads to test, cannot be tested with a magnet.
- Sensitivity Testing – within 1-year of install, every two years after that. After 5-years, every 5-years. Most times with more recent “Smart” systems – an annual check is simple to produce.
- Heat Detector testing – a lighter is not a good tool for this. Butane is 1700-1800° F. Detectors are rated for 135° or 195°. Must use the proper tool.
 - Install heights:
 - Pull Stations – 3.5-4.5’ from the finished floor
 - Occupant Notification – lens 80-96” from the finished floor
 - Smoke detector installs in ceiling – not within 36” of a supply vent.
 - NFPA.ORG has acceptance testing and annual testing forms/templates on its website – those would cover all of the requirements that are needed.



NFPA 72

- Big changes coming
- Removing the word Fire wherever possible, for example
 - “National Fire Alarm Code” would read – “National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code”.
 - Chapter 4: “Fundamentals of FIRE Alarm Systems” would read – “Fundamentals of Alarm Systems”.
- Fire Alarm Documents: Records, programs, software stored at the Main Fire Alarm Panel or the location identified at the main panel.
- Batteries – must be permanently marked with manf date
- Revised testing requirements for intelligible voice communications
- New requirements for the testing of gas detectors.
- Low Frequency Alarms – specifying that the alarm have a fundamental frequency of 520 hz +/- 10%.
- Software Updates and device installs may require testing a portion of the fire alarm system to verify compatibility and functionality of the system has not changed.



MEETING LOCATION

The Sheraton was very nice – but also expensive. We really appreciate the help from our sponsor last month to help with the cost – however, we were upside down on expenses. Can’t work that way...

If you’d like to volunteer to host an upcoming meeting please contact Richard.

Thank you to our February Sponsor:



Richard, Derrell & Bob

PICTURES...

Yep, we forgot to assign this job out...we’ll get it done next time.

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