



## Orange Empire Chapter

Meeting Minutes May 14, 2009

The Granada Restaurant

11032 Downey Ave

Downey, CA



### Joint LA Basin Chapter, Ventura Chapter and Orange Empire Chapter Meeting

**Call to order:** Roy Itani called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. and introduced the LA Basin Chapter Board members. Roy requested that all present consider committee membership and/or possibly including their staff in the committees, and Roy stated that the committees were very important to the Chapters and they needed help. Anyone interested was directed to contact any of the LA Basin Chapter members. Roy reminded all present that they were invited to attend the upcoming LA Basin Chapter picnic to be held June 6, 2009 and that a participation sign in sheet was being passed around.

Roy Itani turned the podium over to Hadi Tabatabaee, Orange Empire Chapter President to introduce the OEC Board members: Past President Joe Kirkpatrick, Secretary Tony Weimholt, were present and Vice-President David Khorram arrived shortly thereafter.

Self-introductions were completed and Hadi Tabatabaee initiated the Orange Empire Chapter business.

#### I. BUSINESS

- A. Meeting Minutes - A motion was made to approve the April 16, 2009 meeting minutes as revised for correction to the spelling of a few member names. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
- B. Treasurer's Report: Hadi reported that Gabriel Linares was not present but had provided information regarding the balance for the Checking at \$13,981.94, and the Savings balance of \$15,128.42.

#### II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Code Committee – Steve Ikkanda reported that the Code Development Committee would be meeting immediately following the joint chapter meeting, and invited anyone interested in attending. Hadi added in follow up to Roy Itani's comments the committees need increased membership participation.
- B. Education Committee – Dan Kennedy, Education Chair announced that the April seminar on the California Energy Standards Update netted about \$2,000.00. The May Mechanical & Plumbing Code Seminar presentation by Fadi Matar and the refreshments were donated by JAS. Dan reminded the members that the June seminar on the California Electrical Code with Ron Takiguchi is on the flyers provided on each table. Structural Provisions and a Mixed Use seminar scheduled for July. The August seminar will be on Building Department Administration, and

the Training Matrix is scheduled for September. In October the Green Building Code and Assessment Systems overview with Jay Elbettar and Buster Scholl.

- C. Quality Assurance Committee – No Report
- D. Green Building Committee – Roy Fewell announced that a Green Building topic would be part of the training matrix classes, and that the Green Building seminar in October was supported by the committee. Periodic updates will be provided, as more information about the State Green Building Code was forthcoming, and there was a scheduled committee meeting immediately following the Chapter meeting.
- E. Public Relations and Membership Committee – No Report
- F. CALBO ABM Committee – David Khorram advised that the 2010 ABM committee has been working very diligently and have finalized a theme for the event titled “The CALBO Adventure” and that CALBO was working with the Disney Hotel to put the package together. The golf tournament to be held on the Monday to start the CALBO ABM has also been finalized. David also announced that the committee would be meeting immediately following the chapter lunch program and invited all interested persons to attend.

Hadi Tabatabaee turned the podium over to Roy Itani to allow for LA Basin Chapter reports:

- G. Neville Pereira, LA Basin 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President acknowledged Linda Haines for once again putting together the meeting location and announced that due to the difficulty that many of the members were having in trying to attend all the meetings he wanted to resurrect the initiative he was working on a few years ago about teleconferencing and/or web conferencing and asked that anyone interested in participating in a scoping committee could contact him. Neville stated that he was putting together a presentation by a neutral party to see how the Chapters could benefit from meetings through the use of technology.
- H. Truong Huynh, LA Basin Treasurer announced that some of the members may have arrived prior to the registration table set up that had not yet signed in and asked that they do so as soon as possible. Truong announced that there was approximately \$56,000.00 in the LA Basin Chapter accounts as of the end of April. Truong also stated that LA Basin had received about \$6,000.00 from recent membership renewals and thanked those members that had sent in their dues and asked those that have not to please remember to renew their membership.

Roy Itani announced that he had discussed with Hadi Tabatabaee the possibility of LA Basin Chapter’s financial support for the CALBO ABM and that the LA Basin Chapter board members would be meeting to discuss that matter.

### **III. ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

- A. CALBO – Jay Elbettar, Past-President of CALBO advised that CALBO had completed its budget and that they closed their budget “in the black” as they had generated \$38,000.00. HCD decided to move forward with the IRC building

provisions only and that it would not hurt to still send in a position on the adoption for future code adoptions. Jay stated that there have been a lot of concerns about Senate Bill 1608 (the CASp program) and acknowledged Scott Fazekas for passing the CASp test. CALBO was trying to set up a meeting with one of the bill authors, and that Director Garcia, Jay Salazar and CALBO's administrator to discuss concerns to make it more attainable with more frequent testing, adjusting the fees and the test format.

CALBO and the Drowning Prevention Foundation jointly developed a pool safety pamphlet that is available for download, and CALBO will be sending the link to Chapter presidents. The pamphlet can be printed and distributed by building departments.

CALBO will be proposing a bylaw change to modify the annual audit to every four years since it had proved to be such an expensive venture.

The annual Legislative Day held April 28<sup>th</sup> was a success and asked all members to mark their calendars for next year and to try and participate.

Jay stated that the AIA Central Chapter had approached CALBO about potentially allowing DSA to certify local building departments to plan review and inspect schools, CALBO will keep the members informed of any added developments.

Jay also stated that 2012 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CALBO and will be a special ABM and invited the LA Basin Chapter to consider hosting the event.

CALBO will be providing a letter of support for reappointment of Jim Miller as the Building Official sitting on the Contractor's State License Board.

B. ICC – See Program.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. John Nosse President of ICC Evaluation Services introduced Mike Johnson ICC ES as his successor starting January 2010. John Nosse commented on the qualities of an evaluation service and what's involved in a Guide 65 Accredited Agency. ISSO Guide 65 is recognition of the internal quality system that an agency uses for checks and balances as they go through the process of evaluating the product they are evaluating. The second part of that is that the agency has the expertise and the facility to perform the testing and inspections that would be required to perform product certification. The accreditation of a product certification agency does not recognize the products that go through the system and become approved by the product certifications agency, it is a recognition of their ability to conduct the tests and that they have the expertise to address and properly evaluate the products.

ICC ES is accredited by ANSI. ICC ES has an advantage over other accreditation service agencies because they not only have the expertise to perform the evaluations of products, but also have the expertise to apply the International

Codes in the evaluation of the products performance. ICC ES is geared to recognition by Code Officials.

Jay Elbetta asked for clarification on the reasoning for keeping the legacy reports on the website. John Nosse advised that the reports are valid under the technical documents that are referenced therein and that the information can be used for reference. That for some parts of the country the 97 UBC may still be the valid code and therefore the report is valid for that jurisdiction. The Building Official has the authority to approve the accreditation agency. John advised that any Code Official can contact ICC ES to assist in interpreting how and/or if a legacy report may be considered based on the use and current code it is being considered with.

Faisal Jurdi asked about products approved by an independent lab accredited by ICC and therefore claiming that the product was approved. John Nosse commented that the accreditation is for the agency not the product. The definition of an approved agency is one that has been approved by the Building Official.

- B. Steve Ikkanda spoke on behalf of the LA Basin Chapter Code Development Committee and advised that there were currently two code changes that were being considered due to the short timeframe for submittal and introduced Stuart Tom to discuss the proposed code changes. Stuart advised that the code changes that they were working on were actually companion issues regarding exit provisions in the IRC for dwellings up to three stories and in the IBC for 1 & 2 family dwellings exceeding three stories in height. Stuart advised that he would provide Steve Ikkanda copies of the proposed code changes that will be submitted that affect IBC Section 1021.2 and IRC Section 311.4.

Stuart noted that the 09 IBC has been changed to require a second exit when the occupant load exceeds 20 or basically 4000 square feet. The first code change merely deletes a sentence to clarify the requirement for a second exit in dwellings over 4,000 square feet. The second code change will propose that all dwellings with any occupied floor level that exceeds 1,000 square feet in area that is more than one level above or below the level of the exit discharge would require an additional exit.

The LA Basin Chapter is the primary proponent of the code change and Stuart indicated that if the Orange Empire Chapter is interested they would like to solicit support and name the OEC as a co-proponent. Stuart stated that he Northern California Fire Prevention Officers and the Southern California Fire Prevention Officers have also agreed to support the code change. The State Fire Marshal supports the language and informed Stuart that they will most likely look at amending the 2010 California Codes to include these provisions.

CALBO State Code Committee met on Tuesday May 12, 2009 and also supports the language.

- C. Bob Wiber commented that four LA County and Orange County building departments had participated in a mobile inspection technology demonstration for Safety Assessment inspections to get the devices communicating with each other

so that the results of the inspections would roll up to Sacramento in a single data base and be able to populate the ATC 20 forms so staff would not have to go back and reenter the information from their inspections. The first area for operations will be the counties in southern California that constitute Region 1 and hope to complete the process in 2009 and the rest of the state in 2010. Anyone interested should contact Bob for additional information.

- D. Scott Fazekas advised the members that he had made copies available at the registration table of a CalOSHA Safety Order regarding fixed ladders to use as an option for design professionals, since the Codes require roof access through roof hatches and no longer address ladder construction requirements.
- E. Jesse De Anda stated that the Accessibility Committee had a scheduled meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the LA County Building & Safety Administrative office in Alhambra on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, and they were interested in getting input from the inspectors' perspective and invited anyone interested to attend.

## **V PROGRAM**

Roy Itani introduced John LaTorra, ICC Board Member and Chapter Liaison, and the Building Inspection Manager for the City of Redwood City, CA for his presentation on the latest "Code Development Process Revisions (CP 28)."

John LaTorra informed the members that in 2005 he was the chairperson on a taskforce for the Code Hearings. Since 2005 they have held or attended numerous meetings, received lots of comments from the members and made recommendations to the ICC Board. The taskforce evolved into looking at how to improve the Code Development process. The electronic voting is a result of some of the taskforce recommendations.

There was universal consent from the ICC members to do something about the length of the Hearings. There was a concurrence on maintaining a three-year code cycle process and the ICC Governmental Consensus Process. There was also a desire to change the process for code development and publication to publish the code earlier so that publication of the NEC and the I-Codes would be done the same year. The goals established by the taskforce were to reduce the length of the hearings, increase participation, and retain the quality of the end product. The only way to accomplish that within the timeframe allowed required splitting the code changes into two groups that resulted in having only one chance to change the codes.

John discussed a summary of the CP 28 revisions. John also stated that at the Minneapolis meeting the ICC Presidents Advisory Committee established options for offsite voting through individual or proctored locations, but so far testing has proven the technology is not there yet to sufficiently reduce the time involved. They may float the idea of having a hearing followed by an e-mail vote by entire membership. At this time an electronic referendum vote is not included, as they need to hear from the membership.

John advised that the schedule for upcoming meetings and hearings is posted on the ICC web page and discussed locations and logistics.

John expressed a concern there were only 23 applications from California for ICC Committee membership and that with all the talent that this state has to offer there should be a lot more participation.

John advised that the code change books were available for \$45.00 and recommended to "go electronic."

There was significant discussion about the concerns on the code development process, and the quality and/or selection of code development committee members as well as increased ICC staff interaction on code change submittals. John LaTorra asked for feedback from the membership and that the chapters put their thoughts together and submit a report he could take to the ICC Board.

The attached PDF is the handout John provided at the meeting for more detailed information.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM. Next Orange Empire Chapter meeting: June 18, 2009 at Tustin Ranch Golf Course, 12442 Tustin Ranch Rd., Tustin, CA

Respectfully submitted:

Tony Weimholt  
Chapter Secretary