

**Minutes of the NWBOCA General Meeting
held at Biaggi's Restaurant in Deer Park, IL on Thursday, February
3, 2005**

By Allen Smith

President Cutaia called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A roll call of the membership and guests present was done.

A motion to approve General Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2005 was made by B. Erke and seconded by T. Rettenbacher. Motion passed.

President's Report: Cutaia

The approximately \$500 proceeds from the 2004 Combined NWBOCA/SBOC Charitable Golf Outing has not been awarded. Both of the scholarships that NWBOCA is involved with are well funded. A motion was made to donate the money to the Lake County Chapter of Habitat to Humanity by J. Yates and seconded by B. Erke. Motion passed.

SBOC's Spring School is being held this month.

There are currently job opportunities available in Gilberts, Sycamore, Wooddale, Lyons, Kankakee County and Arlington Heights.

During the month of March, we are holding a membership drive. Each member bringing in a new member will be given a NWBOCA baseball cap and tool kit.

Vice President's Report: Skiber

We are working on getting new 2005 ICC publications and should have them soon.

Several inquiries have been received concerning the "Verbal Judo" program being held during the May ICCA Annual Meeting. It is not the same one as is being given during the SBOC Spring Training Institute.

Secretary's Report: Smith

The 2004 Annual Financial Report will be in March's Newsletter.

We are still working out details for the Award at McHenry College but hope to resolve them soon.

Treasurer's Report: Poterek

We currently have an account balance of \$20,007.07

Past President's Report: Fischer

No Report.

Membership: Walocha

Please mail in your membership applications and dues. The membership list will be updated and mailed out to the members shortly.

Member Services Report: Engebretson

No Report.

Bylaws and Policy: Durning

No Report.

Programs: Jones

Jones introduced D. Fischer, Past President. Fischer presented H. Spila of the Village of Palatine with a Certificate of Appreciation for permitting the NWBOCA Executive Board to hold its monthly meeting in the Palatine Village Hall for the past 10 years.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:14 p.m.

T. Rettenbacher said an invocation.

The meeting reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

Jones introduced Brian Usher, Director of Public Works for the City of Zion.

Mr. Usher informed us that President Bush had signed into law a bill that recognizes Building Officials as first responders along with Police and Fire Department personnel. It also creates a National Incident Management System as part of the Department of Homeland Security. NIMS will coordinate mutual aid on a national level bringing in needed equipment and personnel to a disaster local. As part of the technical committee developing this system, Mr. Usher asked the members present what credentials local Building Officials would ask for and require if assistance was given to your municipality? What is the minimum amount of training that you would require of outside personnel? Forms were passed out and membership was asked to fill them out. The results will help the technical committee to develop by 2007, a set of credentials that would be recognized nationally in times of a disaster.

Jones next introduced John Thompson Jr. of Thompson Elevator Inspection Service.

John informed us that the State Legislature passed a new law concerning the Safety of Elevators on January 21, 2005. The proposed rules are open for comment to the State Fire Marshal's Office February, 2005

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information on its program. The rules that they enforce must be at least as stringent as those adopted in the new state law. State licensed elevator inspectors must do all inspections and a state licensed elevator mechanic must do repairs. John went over several regulations of the new law with the members and passed out a copy of it with his comments. After answering several questions by the audience, he asked that all members contact their municipal attorney and appropriate people and comment back to Jim E. Lapping who is the Director of the Elevator Safety Division of the State Fire Marshall's Office prior by the end of February.

Jones next introduced Don Plass of ICCA by explaining that we (NWBOCA) need to have a voice in any attempt by the state to enact a state wide building code. As ICCA represents us to the state legislatures, he asked Plass to update on what ICCA has done and will be doing concerning a statewide code.

Mr. Plass stated that ICCA is now 31 years old and its mission statement throughout those years has been to promote a unified State Building Code throughout Illinois. Three years ago ICCA hired a lobbyist to assist in the pursuit of this, as Code Officials were not really recognized by the lawmakers. After the porch disaster in the City of Chicago, legislators asked ICCA for their input. ICCA put forward a resolution forming a task force consisting of approximately 15 different professional groups including Code Officials, builders and Architects that will talk about having a single State Building Code. The committee was supposed to meet and send a report to the Governor by January 31, 2005 but did not meet that date. Plass pointed out that without a voice in Springfield, we would not have any input into a possible code.

Jones asked the membership, do we need a State Building Code? It was pointed out that 46 other states already have some form of State Building Code. We may need a state code to receive

assistance from FEMA after a disaster in the future. Designers and homebuilders want one for uniformity and they have a powerful voice in Springfield. The insurance industry will also probably back it.

The members present were asked, how many feel that we should have a state code? The majority of them agreed that we should have a state code. How many would not like it without the possibility of local amendments? Very few members responded. The majority agreed that the right to make local amendments was required. It was felt that builders and designers would not permit local amendments. It was pointed out that there already has been a test case in the State of Ohio where a municipality wanted to amend the state code. They were told that they would not be able to but the courts held that as long as their amendments were stricter than the original code, they could.

The question was raised that when we vote on items like this are we voting our personal opinion as a member of the organization or are we voicing the wishes of the municipalities that we work for. We are only voicing our own opinions but on matters like this we should have input from our local governments. It was decided that a questionnaire should be written and included in the next month's newsletter. Code officials could then consult with their municipal government officials, indicate their position on a state code as a Code Official and ask for their input. Then NWBOCA would have a better idea of what our concerns were concerning a state code.

Cutaia asked for a motion from the floor to pay the current dues ICCA as a sign of our continued support. The motion was made by R. Kraly and seconded by R. Fox. Motion passed.

It was decided that this topic should be brought up again during our April meeting after membership has been able to get comments by their municipal officials. Plass noted that he would have the ICCA Board there during our meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. by R. Kraly and Seconded by R. Fox. Motion Passed.