

SVABO NEWSLETTER

State of the Association

By Winfred DeLeon, President



2012 will be another challenging year for SVABO. However, with the enthusiasm of the new Board and the devoted members of this association, it will be a success. We have a good mix of old and new personalities that I can count on for support, suggestions and new ideas. Please approach any members of the Board if you would like to get involved this year. Under the Chinese Zodiac Calendar, this is the Year of the Dragon. The Dragon has big ideas and extreme ambition.

Well, it's interesting that at our first board meeting, we have developed a list of some very big goals. Some examples are:

- Put together a monthly calendar/newsletter for the members to handout at each meeting;
- Have a "code quiz" (three code questions) at each meeting;
- Collect standardized forms

and work on providing consistency within our association;

- More outreach to let the public know what we do;
- Apply for the Chapter Merit Award

Our Vice-President, Greg Mahoney will be working on the schedule and programs for the year. Also, Greg will be making additional improvements to the SVABO website. Please visit: www.SVABO.org and take a look at what's there and

provide your comments to Greg. The forum board is up and running and we are encouraging the members to utilize it to enhance conversation and discussion. Let's keep in mind that the

core values of this association are: "To promote effective building codes, enforced uniformly, to create a safer built environment". All of our committees are aimed at these core values. However, only one of those committees is able to provide income for the Association – the Education Committee. Please promote our classes to your staff, your contractors, your co-workers and your fellow building officials. I'm sure

2012 Board Members and Committee Chairs

The Annual SVABO Installation Dinner was held on December 10, 2011 in Downtown Sacramento. The new Board members were installed and sworn in by Michael Vieira.

Executive Board Members
 Past President– Paul Klein
 President– Winfred DeLeon
 Vice President– Greg Mahoney
 Sec./Treasurer– Ron Yasui

Directors at Large
 Ron Beehler
 Nancy Springer
 Tim Wegner

Sargent of Arms
 Andrea Coley

Committee Chairs

Education Committee
 Steve Burger

Code Development
 George Kellogg

Outreach
 Nancy Springer

Scholarship
 Scott Brynes

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Trivia Question of the Month:

Which current member(s) of SVABO has/have been all of the following:

- SVABO President
- CALBO President
- CALBO Building Official of the Year

Answer in next month's newsletter

SVABO Profile: Elmer Larsen

When you first meet Elmer Larsen, you get the impression that he is a “salt of the earth” kind of guy. That initial impression is not diminished as you have the opportunity to spend more time with him. Those of us who know Elmer as a friend and colleague know that he is a hardworking man of integrity. Over the years he has represented SVABO with those same qualities. Elmer has been committed to a life of service to his country and community. He has served in the military; he has served his community as a teacher and building inspector. Elmer retired as Chief Building Inspector from the City of Sacramento after 22 years of service. Elmer has been a central

figure in SVABO’s history. He served as President; he worked to gain non-profit status for SVABO; he worked tirelessly to achieve uniform enforcement in the region. Elmer collaborated with the California Energy Commission to simplify the energy codes for code officials, designers and builders. Elmer authored and was instrumental in the publishing of the SVABO 50th Anniversary History Book. Elmer worked with Dan Larsen, Chuck Coen, Bob Stoddard and Jack Atkins to document the rich history of SVABO for perpetuity. Elmer continued to work in the field after his retirement from the City of Sacramento. He was the project inspector for Raley Field in West Sacramento and the Cache Creek Casino.

Elmer continues to remain active; he golfs regularly and spends time in his vintage 1865 blacksmith, wheel and cooper shop. Elmer is currently building a full size period chuck wagon. Elmer currently resides in Carson City Nevada.



Elmer Larsen

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next General Membership Chapter meeting will be held on February 10, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Woodland Community and Senior Center, located at 2001 East Street, Woodland CA 95776.

Are you curious about what is going on with CAL Green and the other model codes? This will be your opportunity to find out. Michael Nearman from the California Building

Standards Commission will be speaking at the next meeting. Come to the meeting and get informed.

The March meeting will be held in West Sacramento. The program will consist of an informational presentation on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Installations. Altery Systems will make the presentation. They are based in Folsom and

they have over 50-employees. This technology is zero-emission at the point of use, more efficient than combustible engines, quite (65dB), all solid state and has no moving parts except a fan. The hydrogen is mixed with air (not burned) and the equipment processes the hydrogen and oxygen (from the air) into electricity and water. The smallest unit is 5kW up to 30kW.

CALBO Annual Business Meeting

CALBO is celebrating it’s 50th anniversary in Universal City. The Annual Business Meeting is a multi-day conference and trade show attended by building officials, inspectors, plan checkers, state representatives, industry representatives and

others in the code enforcement community. This event provides an excellent opportunity for education, networking and marketing. The CALBO ABM will be held February 14-17, 2012. Check out www.calbo.org for more information.



Join CALBO in Universal City for the 2012 ABM.

“Are you curious about what is going on with CAL Green and the other model codes?”

Residential HVAC Changeout Online Training

In an effort to help simplify the 2008 Energy Standards requirements for residential HVAC change-outs in each Climate Zone, the Energy Commission has developed five presentations that outline:

- Which forms are required,
- Which HERS tests/verifications are applicable,
- How the installing contractor demonstrates compliance throughout the permit process, and,
- How the inspector verifies and enforces compliance at final inspection.

Climate Zones with similar requirements have been grouped into the same presentation, just like the CF-1R-ALT-HVAC compliance forms.



Dual-Use

These presentations are designed to educate installing contractors, building department staff, HERS raters, etc., and to be used by trainers and teachers to educate others. These presentations are the "complete package" and are equipped with hyperlinks to

Energy Standards documentation, sample compliance forms and related websites.

Lecture Notes

All slides in each presentation are hyperlinked to lecture notes, which provide specific details on what the 2008 Energy Standards require. The lecture notes provide the user with a greater education experience and also allow the trainer to present the material with confidence and the ability to respond to possible questions.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2008standards/changeout/>

"Up to 40 percent of the contractors who were invited to give project bids at sting locations told investigators that a building permit isn't necessary"

CSLB and Un-Permitted Work

The SWIFT unit is a statewide unlicensed activity program that focuses on underground economy and unlicensed operators. During Contractors State License Board's (CSLB) undercover sting operations, investigators found a growing trend of licensed contractors who are violating state law by telling consumers that building permits are not

required to install HVAC systems. "Up to 40 percent of the contractors who were invited to give project bids at sting locations told investigators that a building permit isn't necessary, which simply is not true," said CSLB Enforcement Chief Dave Fogt.

The CSLB has initiated a zero-tolerance policy for contractors performing HVAC change-outs without permit. Disciplinary action for contractors who avoid permits may include assessment of civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per citation and/or suspension or revocation of the license. Go to our website for additional info and the CSLB complaint form.

Training and Education

FREE half day workshop on February 29, 2012 will focus on the structural code requirements for building an outdoor wood deck. This half-day workshop is designed for anyone in the building industry who would like more information on designing and building a code compliant deck.

LOCATION:
Oroville Veterans Memorial Hall
2374 Montgomery St
Oroville, CA 95965

WORKSHOP HOURS:
Registration/Check In: 7:30 AM–8:00 AM
Workshop: 8:00 AM–12:00 PM
(Refreshments will be provided)

TO REGISTER:

BY PHONE - Toll free number 800-999-5099 ask for Ext. 1055

BY EMAIL - dgallegos@strongtie.com

ONLINE - <http://training.strongtie.com/stc/sstpub/psciis.dll?Class=sstpub&loc=000002557>

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The Sacramento Valley Association of Building Officials, originally named the Sacramento Valley Chapter, ICBO, is an organization that was established over 60 years ago with the single objective of ensuring "The life safety of the general public and the construction of safe buildings."

The association has a rich history of code development and quality education that continues today.

If you have any suggestions for articles or info that you think should be included in the newsletter please send them to Greg Mahoney at gmahoney@cityofdavis.org.

*We're on the
web!
www.svabo.org*

**To promote
effective building
codes, enforced
uniformly to create
a safer building
environment**

State of the Association (continued from page 1)

Please try to get more involved with this great association. When I first started attending back in the early 90's, I really only attended the meetings and sporadically at that. However, in the past eight years or so, I became more involved and wanted to contribute. I started as a committee member for a couple of years, and next thing you know, I'm the Committee Chair; you know the rest of the story.

I know that these economic times have hit us hard and have prevented many members from participation in SVABO activities. But one fact remains – we have a wealth of knowledge in this association and nobody can take that away from us. We will carry on and have a successful year. I and the rest of the Board and Committee Chairs look forward to leading this association. Don't forget it is "The Year of the Dragon."

Code Question of the Month

1. Does your jurisdiction consider a masonry wall to be a fence and therefore exempt from permit if 6' or less?



**Fence or Wall?
Permit or No Permit?**

2. If a masonry wall is not exempt from permits per section 105 of the CBC, at what height does your jurisdiction require a permit?

Note: The CBC does not define a fence. According to the Webster's Third New International Dictionary a fence is defined as :
"a structure of posts and boards, wire, pickets, or rails commonly used as an enclosure for a field or yard"

Please answer both questions and send your response to Greg Mahoney at gmahoney@cityofdavis.org.

The responses to the "Code Question of the Month" will be tallied and reported in the next newsletter.

If you have an idea for a question of the month please send it to Greg Mahoney at gmahoney@cityofdavis.org.

If your question is selected for publishing not only will you receive deserved recognition and adulation from the organization but you will also receive "**Free Lunch**" at the next SVABO General Membership Meeting. You must be present at the next meeting to get your free lunch.