

# THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR



Fall 2005



**NEW**  
**MMIA Members**

**ACTIVE**  
George Martin II

**NEW**  
**MIAM Members**

**ACTIVE**  
Jim Hoppus  
Muskegon

**We Are Glad To Have  
You**

## REMINDER

The publishing deadlines for the Mechanical Inspector magazine are as follows:

Jan 1 deadline for Jan 15 mailing

Apr 1 deadline for Apr 15 mailing

Jul 1 deadline for Jul 15 mailing

Oct 1 deadline for Oct 15 mailing

Anyone is welcome to submit articles, but the Education committee will decide publishing priority.

*PLEASE*

**CONTRIBUTE YOUR ARTICLES  
TODAY!!!**



MIAM President John E. Smith presenting the Walter M. Reckinger Jr. Award to Mr. Peter Letzmann at the MIAM Fall Conference in Clare, MI.

## Reckinger Award

Each year at the MIAM Fall Conference, the Board of Directors presents the Walter M. Reckinger Jr. Award to someone in the industry who is not a mechanical inspector. This person will have performed distinguished service to the inspection community by making meaningful contributions and providing valuable knowledge to the industry. This year Peter Letzmann, attorney at law and valued member of the community was titled the gracious recipient of the Reckinger Award.

Mr. Letzmann has presented programs to both MIAM and MMIA on numerous occasions. Since 1973 he has made hundreds of presentations to government bodies and associations. He served as a municipal attorney for over 25 years for the cities of Troy, Pontiac and Detroit and received many recognitions during his career including Michigan Municipal League Special Award of Merit, and Troy Eccentric News Maker of the Year. Now he has another award to add to his impressive collection.

**Congratulations  
Peter Letzmann!**

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Maintain  
Improve  
And  
Monitor



**MMIA, Inc.**

Better Enforcement  
Today  
for a Safer  
Tomorrow

# Presidents' Corner

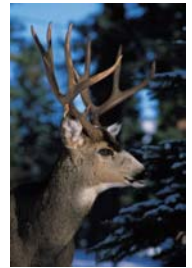


## MIAM President John E Smith

Hello everyone, I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful fall weather we are having so far. I would like to give a big thanks to Sharon, Sue and Charlene for the fine job that they did setting things up at the Fall Conference in Clare. All your hard work is much appreciated. Bill Moy, we all owe you a big thanks for the fine job you did putting on the classes. The Education Committee works very hard at getting us the credits we need to keep up our registrations. So when you run into Bill Moy, or any of the Education Committee members please remember to thank them for all their hard work.

I am still working on the SB150 Committee and we are now on revision number seven. I will keep you posted on new developments as they are available.

I would also like to thank all of you for putting up with me as president, I know I'm not a good speaker in front of a crowd. Remember you only have to put up with me for one more conference. Enjoy this fall and winter and good luck to all the deer hunters. I hope everyone makes it to the Spring Conference in Clare.



Have a safe and happy holiday season.

### **THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR**

is published quarterly at  
3221 West Big Beaver Road,  
Suite 305  
Troy, MI 48084-2812  
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Fax: (248) 649-2024

#### **Committee:**

Eugene Burke, Rick Coules, Jeff Laski, Robert Logan, Scott Paddock, Vernon Pappas, William Paquette, Mark Riley, Ed Wainwright, John Wolter, Co-Chairs, Guy Mitchell, William Moy

#### **Ask the Committee:**

Send your questions about Mechanical Code enforcement to the Education Committee for discussion and research. As space permits, they will be answered in this Newsletter. The address is:

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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#### **Inform the Committee:**

These articles are directed to membership participation. We welcome you to please submit your comments and answers.



## MIAM President Guy Mitchell

I hope everyone had a wonderful time this summer. While we were working hard this summer, our elected officials in Lansing took a vacation. This is good news because no action was taken on any of the new bills which are still in various House and Senate Committees. We are all watching for any movement and I will report any changes as soon as they become available.

The ICC Code Hearings in Detroit were concluded the last week of September. We can all look forward to several code changes when the new books come out in 2006. Remember, the only constant in life is change. So get those new code books when they become available. Be careful out there and I'll see you at the next meeting.

# MMIA, Inc.

**IT IS 2006 ELECTION TIME FOR MMIA**

THE *MMIA ELECTION OF OFFICERS BALLOT* WILL BE MAILED TO ALL 2005 PAID MMIA MEMBERS WITH YOUR 2006 DUES INVOICE. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THE *MMIA ELECTION OF OFFICERS BALLOT* IT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE **MECHANICALINSPECTOR.COM** OR CALL THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT 248-649-5443 AND WE WILL GET IT TO YOU. **GET INVOLVED!**

# 2005 International Code Conference Detroit Michigan

## Mark Riley, ICC Liaison

The 2005 ICC Code Conference was held in downtown Detroit from September 25th through October 2nd. Here are some highlights from the conference.

Henry Green was elected ICC President. At the Annual Banquet on Wednesday night Mr. Green gave a speech to the members stating, "we are three years old and it's time to start walking, we're getting better, but we can't rest on our laurels." He also discussed that he would like the ICC Code Hearings to implement the use of computers for online voting on proposals to benefit communities that can not afford the time, or funds to send their ICC Members to the conferences.

During the conference ICC and IAPMO (International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize ongoing talks. The purpose of the MOU is to explore a joint venture that allows the two organizations to work cooperatively to develop successor codes for Uniform and International Plumbing and Mechanical codes.

The Code Hearings continued long into the night in order to keep up with the schedule of numerous code changes that were challenged. Here are some of the highlights from the Code Hearings:

### *International Fuel Gas Code:*

- A proposal to eliminate boiler low water cutoffs on certain ANSI approved boilers was overturned by a floor action vote.
- Commercial cooking appliances that are moved will require the use of approved connectors listed to ANSI standard Z21.69.
- Commercial cooking appliances will require a means of interlocking to the hood exhaust system to turn the exhaust fan on during operation.

### *International Mechanical Code*

- The ventilation code was a hot topic, proponents wanted to adopt ASHRAE 62 requirements or allowances (3 hour rule), which repeatedly got overturned by a floor action vote.
- A code change to increase the distance for dryer venting from 25 feet to 45 feet was denied.
- Fire dampers in hazardous ducts will not be allowed in the new 2006 IMC code.
- A code change proposal to allow air admittance valves in return air plenums was denied both by the committee and floor action at the final hearings.

Overall there were some good debates about the codes and I felt that some ground was gained concerning the Code Hearings. The deadline for the 2006 code change proposals is March 24, 2006 followed by Code Hearings in Orlando, Florida, September 20-30, 2006.

## **IMPORTANT FIREPLACE RECALL**

### **CPSC, DESA Heating Products Announce Recall of Compact Gas Fireplaces**

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firms named below, announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** "VANGUARD" and "FMI" COMPACT FIREPLACES

**Units:** 534

**Manufacturer:** DESA Heating Products, of Bowling Green, Kentucky

**Hazard:** The burner tube connection to the gas valve can leak gas when the main burner is on. This leaking gas can ignite, causing a minor flare-up, which could cause nearby combustibles to ignite.

**Incidents/Injuries:** DESA has received one report of a minor flare-up of the fireplace. DESA has received no reports of personal injury or property damage.

**Description:** The recall includes DESA Heating Products 10,000 BTU Thermostatically Controlled Compact Classic Hearth Fireplaces that burn propane or natural gas. They have the following model names and numbers: Vanguard (VMH10TPC & VMH10TNC) and FMI (EFS10TPA & EFS10TNA). They have serial numbers between 015200000 and 017400000. The model and serial numbers are on the end of the shipping carton and on the model data tags inside the lower access door of the compact fireplaces.

**Sold At:** Hearth shops, central heat and air conditioning retailers and gas suppliers nationwide from April 2004 through June 2005 for between \$639 and \$912.

**Manufactured:** In the United States

**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using this fireplace immediately and contact your retailer to schedule a free repair. If consumers have any questions concerning this recall, they should contact their local retailer or DESA.

**Consumer Contact:** Contact DESA toll-free at (866) 279-3225 between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm CT Monday through Friday, or visit the DESA website at [www.desatech.com](http://www.desatech.com).

# MIAM FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Guy Mitchell, Co-Chairman



Hopefully we all have received our education credit report from the state. Please review them carefully. The cutoff date for this report was September 1, 2005 so the MIAM Fall Conference credits are NOT in this report.

We have two more MIAM conferences for the current code cycle. If you attended all the conferences you should have all your credits. We will offer a variety of classes at the MIAM Spring Conference (March 23-25, 2006) to help those of you that are short on your necessary credits. Please let the Education Committee know if there are any special requests you may have for the Spring Conference now so we can get all the classes ready. Remember better construction through knowledge!

## MIAM CLASS AND CREDIT UPDATE

CYCLE SEPTEMBER 18, 2002

THRU

SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

<u>REQUIRED</u>		<u>Totals to date (10-20-05)</u>
Administration	5	Administration 11
Technical	32	Technical 54
Communications	2	Communication 4
Specialty	24	Specialty 30
Plan Review**	16	Plan Review** 16
Total	79	Total 115

\*\* Not a Mechanical requirement

## FYI...NEW PLENUM CABLE VIDEO

Vernon Pappas, Walled Lake

Go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10575---\\_00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10575---_00.html) (link also available on the association website MECHANICALINSPECTOR.COM on the Technical News Page) and then click on the new video the State of Michigan has on its website regarding Plenum Cable. It takes about a half and hour to view the entire video, but it is well worth it. Pass this information along to all Building, Electrical and Mechanical Inspectors as well as your Fire Safety and Sprinkler Inspectors.

## Fishing Charter...



2005 MIAM Spring Conference Grand Prize Winner **Garrett Smith** (far left) of St. Clair with his crew after a great day on Lake Michigan aboard the **FINSATION**.



**Garrett Smith** was the lucky winner at the 2005 MIAM Spring Conference who won a four person, seven hour, Lake Michigan fishing trip aboard the **FINSATION** a Salmon Charter. Garrett said that he had a great time and even suggested the trip to other family members who also had a great time. I too can personally say that this is an amazing charter for the experienced and non-experienced fisher person. I bring my family fishing with Captain Kevin Laaksonen every year (sometimes twice) and we always have a great time as you can see below.



Experience the vitality of Lake Michigan's Salmon and Trout fishing while relaxing aboard a fully equipped 31' Tiara. Your guaranteed memories that will last a lifetime. For Reservations call **269-353-7171** or visit them on the web at **FINSATION.COM**

Charlene Agnew, Captain Laaksonen and the Agnew Family.



**Mechanical Inspectors Association of Michigan  
would like to thank its  
FALL COFERENCE SPONSORS**

**JANSON ASSOC. INC.**

**WEST MICHIGAN PLUMBERS, FITTERS  
AND SERVICE TRADES LOCAL UNION #174**

## ALL DOCUMENTS NOW ONLINE FOR REVIEW

Submitted by Joseph Otis, *MIAM NFPA Liaison*

As of July 1, 2005, NFPA has made all of its codes and standards available for online review by the public.

Established as a corporate goal by the Board of Directors in 2002, the effort is part of NFPA's commitment to enhancing public safety through the adoption and enforcement of its consensus codes and standards.

Online review of these documents places important safety information on the desktops of traditional users, as well as others who have an interest.

NFPA is committed to serving the public's interest with online access to technical information to key codes is a valuable resource.

Since 2002, NFPA had made more than two dozen of its documents available for online review, including:

- NFPA 1 *Uniform Fire Code*
- NFPA 54 *Natural Fuel Gas Code*
- NFPA 58 *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code*
- NFPA 5000 *Building Construction and Safety Code*

Online users can flip through the pages or access specific pages of the documents by using the table of contents as a navigational tool. The documents are designed for online review only, there are no "print", "save", "cut and paste", or "search" options. While viewing these documents, however, visitors may purchase them from the NFPA online catalog.

Users must also consent to a licensing agreement before they are granted access to the online documents.

Source: "CODES AND STANDARDS All documents now online for review." *NFPA Journal* September/October (2005): 18.

You can find a link to the NFPA website on our website: [mechanicalinspector.com](http://mechanicalinspector.com). The link is on the Technical News page.

## MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR INSPECTOR REVIEW BOARD UPDATE FROM MAY 18, 2005 MEETING

A communication from John Sedine of Engineered Heating and Cooling regarding additional permit fees per unit for "factory built chimneys" (installed separately) was discussed. It was agreed that insufficient information was available to make a determination on the correct permit fees, however, if the "B vent" was for a fireplace, it was agreed that that issue should be covered under "Solid Fuel Equipment & Decorative Gas Appliance" (includes chimney/vent) and should not require an additional permit fee for the "B vent".

Four issues were submitted by board member Bill Georges. The first issue was whether the Michigan Residential Code requirement that ducts be substantially tight requires taping or sealing. It was agreed that the board would get additional information from the ICC Commentary and contact Greg Gress at ICC for his opinion. Tennison Barry would be asked for the state's interpretation. Some members of the board felt that all ducts (even in basement ceilings) must be sealed. Others disagreed.

Bill asked to have Section 1601.1.1 7.3 which states "stud wall cavities shall not convey air from more than one floor level" clarified. The board attempted to explain the rationale for this prohibition.

Bill asked for a clarification on Section G-2427.6.4 (offsets), which prohibits direction changes of type B or type L vents greater than 45 degrees. The definitions of "connector" and "vents" were explained and the rationale for this section was discussed.

The last issue discussed was duct insulation materials (Section 1601.3.4) approved to reach the R-8 requirements. The various materials and methods of assembling duct insulation to the R-8 requirement were also discussed, including the use of foam solar board.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUERY TO THE MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR INSPECTOR REVIEW BOARD AND GET SOME HELP WITH THOSE TOUGH QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ON YOUR MIND.**



On Behalf of the association and its members we would like to express our deepest sympathies to, The **Family and Friends of Del Logan**, wife of Bob Logan, MIAM Senior Vice President with SCMCCI. Del will be greatly missed. And we also send our sympathies to the **Family and Friends of Phillip Mannino**, MMIA Secretary with Clinton Township. We were very sorry to hear of his untimely death, he will be missed.

*"The guardian angels of life sometimes fly so high as to be beyond our sight, but they are always looking down upon us" - Jean Paul Richter*

# INSPECTOR EDUCATION

## MMIA CLASS AND CREDIT UPDATE

CYCLE SEPTEMBER 18, 2002 THRU SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

REQUIRED		Totals to date (10-20-05)	
Administration	5	Administration	7
Technical	32	Technical	19
Communications	2	Communication	4
Specialty	24	Specialty	23
Plan Review**	16	Plan Review**	12
Total	79	Total	65

\*\* Not a Mechanical requirement

• Nov 17, 2005

Mark Riley Code Requirements for Sealing & Insulating Ductwork 3T

• Dec 15, 2005 Annual Holiday Party / Gift Donations

Guy Mitchell Residential Walk Thru Inspections 2T

## HOME STUDY COURSES \$7.00 PER CREDIT HOUR

Fee includes:

Shipping & handling, correction and forwarding of course material and Attendance Roster sent to State of MI BCC & FS for you.

*Available Courses Based on 2003 Michigan Codes*

Plumbing Technical: 10 programs = 38 credit hours

Plumbing Specialty: 7 programs = 26 credit hours

Mechanical Technical: 13 programs = 41 credit hours

Mechanical Specialty: 7 programs = 25 credit hours

Administration: 2 programs = 3 credit hours

For a complete listing of available programs send large self-addressed envelope to:

Wayne Shepard  
2111 Vanderbilt  
Portage, MI 49024  
OR

Call 269-327-1103

E-Mail wayneinsp@juno.com

## MIAM CLASS AND CREDIT UPDATE

CYCLE SEPTEMBER 18, 2002 THRU SEPTEMBER 17, 2006

REQUIRED		Totals to date (10-20-05)	
Administration	5	Administration	11
Technical	32	Technical	54
Communications	2	Communication	4
Specialty	24	Specialty	30
Plan Review**	16	Plan Review**	16
Total	79	Total	115

\*\* Not a Mechanical requirement

## CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

### 2005

Oct 19-21 PIAM Fall Conference Boyne Falls, MI

### 2006

Mar 23-25 MIAM Spring Conference Clare, MI

Apr 20-22 PIAM Spring Conference Frankenmuth, MI

Sep 14-16 MIAM Fall Conference Clare, MI

### 20th Anniversary

Oct 19-21 PIAM Fall Conference Boyne Falls, MI

### 2007

TBD MIAM Spring Conf Clare, MI

Apr 18-20 PIAM Spring Conference Clare, MI

TBD MIAM Fall Conference TBD

Oct 10-12 PIAM Fall Conference Lansing, MI

### 75th Anniversary

## IAEI SEMINAR SCHEDULE

December 8-9, 2005 Frankenmuth, MI

March 9-10, 2006 Kalamazoo, MI

December 7-8, 2006 Gaylord, MI

*For more information contact*

*IAEI Secretary Darrick Whitaker 313-235-7751*

*MIAM / IAEI Liaison Ed Harris 269-966-3382*

## CIT JANUARY 2006 SCHEDULE

JANUARY 9	PLUMBING
JANUARY 10	MECHANICAL AND PLAN REVIEW
JANUARY 11	BUILDING AND PLAN REVIEW
JANUARY 12	ELECTRICAL

**CLASSES HELD AT DOHERTY HOTEL, CLARE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION 248-624-0570**

## MMIA

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005

12:00 NOON

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Help MMIA bring holiday joy to a child this year and bring an **UNWRAPPED** gift to present to our chosen charity.



Bring your office staff along to celebrate the holidays

The charity organization who will receive our donation will be chosen at the November 17, 2005 General Membership Meeting.



**MIAM** would like to thank the speakers who volunteer their knowledge and time for a great cause!

A special **THANK YOU** to...

**Al Arens**

**Mike Berry**

**Dan Hutchins**

**Bill Moy**

**Jim Partridge**

**Darrell Shaugabay**

We really appreciated the information and effort from all of our guest speakers. **Thank you!**

**INSPECTORS EDUCATION FUND**  
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