

THE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR

MIAM Fall Conference highlights inside...

COMMUNITY

January 2009



President Mike Shaltz welcoming attendees to the MIAM Fall Conference held at Crystal Mountain.

Maintain
Improve
And
Monitor



MIAM.Inc.
Better Enforcement
Today
for a Safer
Tomorrow

NEW MMIA Members

ACTIVE

George Martin, Riverview
Don Ratliff, Ann Arbor

ASSOCIATE

Alan Meier, Livonia

NEW MIAM Members

ACTIVE

Don Ratliff, Ann Arbor

CONTRIBUTING

John Burke, Burke Agency
Gary Prevo, Bulldog Inspection Agency

SUSTAINING

We Are Glad To Have You

Dear Members,

I was asked recently how I feel about Association Membership – is it a strong asset – does it meet my needs for education – does it hold added value, a sense of community and friendship. The answer to all of these questions is a resounding YES!

During my twenty years of membership, I have met and become closely acquainted with countless inspectors from all over the State of Michigan; I have learned from many of them – not only about inspections, codes, procedures, administration and laws, but also about team play, friendship and the strong sense of community. We are fortunate to have a staff to support us with administrative expertise – they are responsible for securing, scheduling and informing speakers of our requirements for all of our needs; they select our entertainment and negotiate with our venues; they keep us on a strong financial foothold at all times; they help write and edit this great Newsletter each time it is printed. They keep us focused on community.

MIAM membership has given me the opportunity to take all of my required credit hours right here. Through our Education Program, we have made sure that every inspector is able to complete all of his education simply by attending at least five conferences during each three-year cycle. During all of our twenty-three years of operation, MIAM has always provided more than the required number of hours. It's a great system – selectively choosing every class and speaker to meet the precise needs of every member.

MIAM has offered for the taking all manner of personality and brain power that I could wish for – if I don't have the answer, someone else does. We have eleven Boards and Committees in place – Officers, Directors, Liaison Representatives for other organizations (IAEI, NFPA, ICC, IFGC, and Board of Mechanical Rules), Inspectors Education Committee, Conference Committee, Nominating Committee, Bylaws Committee, Awards Committee, Protocol Committee, Legislative and Code Study Committee and the Mechanical Contractor / Inspector Review Board. It's a fantastic place to share information and learn; a great place to become smarter and more proficient at my job; the best place to develop friendships and a strong sense of community.

Ask me again what I think - I'm all for it – every inch of it!

Mike Shaltz



IMPORTANT City of Troy
Recruitment Announcement
on Page 4

Organization Updates

Inspector Education

Vern Pappas
President, MMIA



Belated Holiday wishes to all since this newsletter is sent out after all the festivities.

I want to thank the membership for all the support over the past year and a Special thank you to our Staff at the office, Sharon, Sue and Charlene. The effort and work by these three keep this outstanding Association going day in and day out.

As I look back on the year just ended we faced a number of challenges. The adoption of both the MMC last December 07, and the MRC in August 08. A lot of code changes we all had to learn, and some to still digest. With the new year we face a number of further challenges also. We have a new Residential energy code to learn and enforce also. The registration cycle will end in September 09. Please check your credits and make sure you will have enough by that time. It is your responsibility to ensure your continuing education credits are complete as required in order to reregister as an Inspector, Plan Reviewer etc.

As of this writing December has not ended and I hope we dodged a bullet with the Sprinkler Bill staying in the Senate committee, thus killing it until the new session of Congress. We, as a membership, are committed keeping it that way. I, along with Lynn Briggs and the President of MIAM are meeting with the representatives of the Bureau in early January to discuss our changes to the Forbes Act in order to get it to the Legislature and hopefully adopted before the end of the Cycle. If this effort falls on deaf ears we will proceed to submitting it to Legislators ourselves. This change to the Act should keep the Sprinkler rules in the Mechanical Division. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Check your mailings for MMIA's seminars for 09 along with the type of credits we are offering, or go to www.mechanicalinspector.com for more information.

The Spring Conference will be here before you know it. Hope to see all of you there. Until then be safe and have a prosperous new year.

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS September 17, 2006 Thru September 16, 2009

REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS	MIAM (09-27-08)	MMIA (12-11-08)
Administration	4	5
Technical	24	19
Communication	1	3
Specialty	18	12
Plan Review	12	13
Total	59	52

MMIA and MIAM would like to thank the speakers who volunteer their knowledge and time for a great cause! A special **THANK YOU** to...



Pete Kiser, Robert Logan, Vernon Pappas, Jerry Payne, Carl Pollex and Clay Shield for your contributions to the *MIAM Fall Conference*. We could not have done it without you. Excellent job all! Jerry Flanik, Guy Mitchell, Bill Moy and Mark Riley MMIA always appreciates the time you donate to the association.

MIAM Spring Conference April 30-May 2, 2009 Clare, MI

Last Conference of the 2006-2009 Cycle
Classes to include Administration, Communication, Specialty, and Technical. The Energy Code Residential and Commercial will be covered in depth. A special Cracker Barrel has been arranged to give lots of time on important new products.

MMIA Ukrainian Cultural Center

Jan 15 - Fire Protective Wraps on Grease Duct Exhausts 3 Cr T
Mar 19 - Gas Pipe Mfg Std Practices 3 Cr Sp
May 21 - ICC IRC Fundamentals "ALL DAY" 6 Cr T
June 18 - Wet Geothermal 3 Cr Sp



West Michigan Mechanical Inspector Association

Meets at the Zeeland Township Hall, 6582 Byron Rd, every 2nd Thursday each month at 12:45 pm. The Association has a business meeting, followed by a seminar. Note: May meeting will be on a Friday, 6 credit hours, Class Number to be announced. WMMIA Contacts: Paul Schaut: pschaut@ci.grand-rapids.mi.us

NEED A SUB? The following people may be available: **Ed Barnes 248-224-3357 Ed Durbin 586-739-1600 Bill Karas 810-650-8183 Bill Myers 248-348-5830 and Dan Roy 586-294-1716** or cell 586-214-3769. If you would like to be added to this list, please call the Association offices at **248-649-5443**.

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS—CELL PHONE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Since 2004, teens Brittany and Robbie Bergquist and Cell Phones for Soldiers have raised millions of dollars to help our troops call home. Proceeds from donated cell phones are used to purchase prepaid calling cards for American troops.

Cell Phone Recycling Instructions:

1. Deactivate phone(s) and turn off power
2. Keep battery attached to phone
if battery is not attached to phone, place tape over terminal
3. Place phone(s) in envelope, seal and drop in mailbox.

MAILING INSTRUCTION: PUT ON ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE
IN ADDITION TO ADDRESS: BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 245 DEXTER, MI
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE
ADDRESS: CELL PHONE RECYCLING CENTER
2555 BISHOP CIR W DEXTER, MI 48130-9916



Community



WE SHARE

WE LEARN

WE CARE



The membership of MMIA and MIAM made generous donations to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Turning Point, and the Bemzie Area Christian Neighbors.



Cake Teambuilding Winners L to R Marilyn Otis, Carol Swanstrom, Kendra Pappas and Marilyn Smith. Great job ladies



THANK YOU SPONSORS



**Air Handlers Corporation
Behler-Young
Burke Agency
Dood Enterprises**

**Flame Furnace
Janson Associates, Inc.**

**Metropolitan Mechanical Inspectors Association
Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union #174
Road Sprinkler Fitters, Local Union #669
SMACNA Metropolitan Detroit Chapter**



A big thanks to Crystal Mountain for all their efforts to support the Fall Conference. The weather made the location perfect, although a little distracting being indoors getting educated!

Thursday night Bingo was a big hit. We had over 100 attendees enjoying pizza and bingo. Thanks to Kendra Pappas for introducing new games for our enjoyment. The Nintendo Wii's were a big hit after Bingo and during the ladies activities on Friday. Thanks to Alyssa and Ben Wainwright and Sierra and Zac Haynes for instructing how to play the games.

The chef demonstration creating Banana's foster was well received, of course eating the dessert was the best part.

The walk in the Legacy Art Park was perfect. An opportunity to be outdoors and catch up with old friends and learn about new ones.

The biggest surprise was the incredible cakes from the ladies team building exercise. The chef demonstrated basic cake decorating techniques and provided us with great supplies. Groups became teams and the rest is history. The cakes were displayed at the Friday evening banquet and voted on by the membership. The team with the most votes won a cash prize. Even better, Saturday morning the leftover cake was enjoyed again!

Saturday morning the recipient of the Clothing Donation, Benzie Area Christian Neighbors was very grateful for the generosity of the organization.

The faithful Bingo players returned for one last round on Saturday morning and than said goodbye til the next time.





LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Construction Fee Bills Passed. The Michigan Legislature has passed House Bill No. 4843 (plumbing), 4844 (electrical), 4846 (mechanical), and 4848 (building officials and inspectors). The bills would increase temporarily the fees paid for licensing, registration, and examinations by various contractors and apprentices regulated under the State Plumbing Act, the Electrical Administrative Act, the Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act, and the Building Officials and Inspectors Registration Act. Mechanical contractor licensing fees will increase from \$75 to \$100. The building officials, inspectors and plan reviewers fees will increase from \$10 to \$25. The fees under the Forbes act had not been increased since 1989, and the fees for building officials, etc. had not been increased since 1986. The increase in fees will be in effect until September 30, 2012. After that date the fees would revert to the current amounts. The bills have been enrolled and sent to the Governor for her approval (or veto).

Fire Sprinkler Fitters Licensing Legislation. With only a few session days left, it is highly unlikely that House Bill No. 6353 will be passed by the Senate. This is the legislation which would have created a new Michigan Fire Sprinkler Board under the Department of Labor and Economic Growth. The Board would license contractors, journeymen and apprentice fire sprinkler fitters and create a new fund to operate the "board". We have pointed out to the key Senators that the bill would directly conflict with the Forbes Act which licenses fire sprinkler work as one of many classifications. As you know, under current law, mechanical inspectors inspect the fire protection systems as a part of the mechanical systems of a building. Frequently, the inspections are conducted in cooperation with fire marshal personnel.

As this article is written (December 16, 2008) only one session day is planned for this week and, since next week is Christmas, it is highly unlikely that this bill will be considered by the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform and by the full Senate. All bills, not enrolled on December 31, 2008 will die and no further action taken.

Boiler Operators License. Public Act 159 of 2008 created a voluntary registration program for individuals operating boilers. The law prohibits the use of certain terms, such as "licensed boiler operator" unless the individual has voluntarily joined the registration program with state government.

Forbes Act Amendments. Meetings are being arranged with the new Director of the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth to discuss our proposed amendments to the Forbes Act. The amendments, of course, will establish continuing education for licensed mechanical contractors and their employees. The bill will license journeymen and apprentices and increase penalties for violations. Operating without a license would become a felony which could be prosecuted by the state or county prosecutors. Of particular interest to building officials and inspectors is language to prohibit licensed contractors from being part-time inspectors in rural areas of the state. We will continue to fight to remove this restriction from the bill. Other less important changes would provide that the State Fire Marshal could not have a designated person sit on the Board of Mechanical Rules. Under the proposal, only the Fire Marshal himself would be eligible to serve on the Board.

INSPECTORS EDUCATION FUND

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It was a great year. See you in the Spring!

City of Troy Recruitment Announcement PLUMBING INSPECTOR
Starting \$47,489—59,362/yr with growth opportunities to \$71,235/yr

Applications are available at the Human Resource Dept. located at 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, MI or please call 248-680-7296. Applications are also available at www.troymi.gov. Closing Date January 30, 2009