



Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association

*Dedicated to the prevention of fire through
Fire Inspection and Public Education*

Passion and Forethought

Thank you for the opportunity to serve a second term as your President of Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association. I deeply appreciate your confidence in regards to my ability to move this Association forward. As I had predicted our conference was a resounding success. From the key note speakers, to the educational tracks for Life Safety Educators, Juvenile Fire Safety Educators, and Code Enforcement Officials. We had superior educational opportunities for all venues, my compliments again to our conference committee for an excellent job.

As I look forward to 2008, our strategic plan will guide us forward. Training is still the top priority on our agenda. As you read this, Inspectors and Chiefs contemplate training that would benefit your department, which in turn will benefit your community. As ideas arise, please feel free to contact the Association. We will make it a priority to facilitate quality training. Once the code package is adopted in early '08' there will be more NFPA 1 UFC training state wide. All inspectors need to be familiar in navigating through and implementing it.

The Associations Strategic Plan is a guiding document to help us look into the future. Now is the time for you to look forward to what needs to be accomplished for your departments in 2008. You need a plan and vision to carry you forward. As we listened to Ozie Mirkhah one of our key note speakers, we all came away with a call for action. As I said during the conference, "don't let this passion die, take this and strive forward". Passion is what makes our Association – members and in turn each department being progressive in protecting our communities. You need to lay out some objectives. A class at the National Fire Academy "Strategical Analysis for Community Risk Reduction" goes through the steps needed to come up with an action plan to address specific problems. As you look within your community, this plan will help guide you through the planning process. You need to look at one particular problem or challenge within your community and draft an action plan to address it. Be it candle fires, Juvenile Fire Setters, or falls within your senior community. Then through strategic analysis of the problem you can develop an action plan to address the issues. You may also want to implement new safety programs for middle schools, high schools, or seniors; you don't stand alone, when you start to craft these changes. There are numerous departments throughout out this state, and members of this Association that are more then willing to share programs, ideas and draft ordinances. Utilizing these resources will only help achieve your objectives. The old adage "Don't reinvent the wheel" is true.

I have seen this sharing throughout the country especially with EPARADE, which is an excellent example of how we can help each other. Our jobs have numerous dynamics, especially with the changing governmental budget constraints; we need to work smarter not harder.

Utilize our web site www.wfia.org to obtain and exchange information and ideas. Use the forum section as a sounding board. You can also access e-mail addresses and phone numbers for the executive board. Any one of them will do their best to assist you. Look into the future, strive forward and carry on the passion that was started at our conference.

The momentum of this passion is going to carry us through to the 2008 conference, in Eau Clair November 3-7, 2008. This is part of your planning – plan now to attend.

Many breakout sessions from the conference are available through the Association. Ozie Mirkhah presentation, which has fantastic information, is available for your use. This would be a vital presentation to emphasize why you are looking to make changes. Historically we saw that we have not accomplished the items stated in the America Burning report. Information and resources are what is going to help us along. EPARADE is again an excellent information exchange – that is its purpose, utilize it. NFPA has numerous resources available. All of these resources can make your job easier.

Look into the future and carry the passion on. This is our theme for 2008, carry them through.

Before we know it, 2008 will be over. The conference will be done, where we will have participated in another excellent educational opportunity.

We need to take time to nominate people for Fire Inspector, Public Educator and Chief of the year. You can get the nomination papers off of our web site. People out there that have done an exemplary job need to be recognized. We all work extremely hard, and very seldom do we hear “you did a great job”, “I appreciate what you are doing”. It is time we recognize those individuals that put forth their heart and souls into their jobs.

I do need to say how appreciative I am of your confidence in the work we have accomplished and the upcoming goals we all will accomplish for this Association.

Passion and Forethought will drive us forward.

Be safe.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tod Doebler
President Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association