



Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association

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

Get involved

The beginning of 2008 is the time to look forward and get involved. Our Association, and you as members, need to look within our communities, within our state and our country, as to what we can do to become involved. We have already discussed looking within our communities to come up with goals and objectives for a safer community in 2008. It has become even more apparent with the legislative proposal of a mini-maxi code. This movement is driven by the builders and architects. The short version of the story is that they want to take away all local authority to have more restrictive ordinances. In order to do this they are tying the hands of the local jurisdictions ability to adjust the code to adapt to their communities. Smaller communities need that ability for more stringent ordinances, to protect themselves. Why do I bring this up? We all need to get involved in order to stop this legislation. If this is successful, it will hurt a majority of our communities. We still need to maintain our home rule orders. We need the ability to modify the codes for the protection of our communities. As an Association, our members need to get involved, to voice our concern that this is not for the betterment of Wisconsin. A call for action is in order to defeat this proposal. We need the fire service to once again rally as a group and stand unified against this. Each individual has a role to play. Talk to your Administration and municipal leaders; inform them of the problems with this legislation. We need to write letters make phone calls to our legislators, telling them this is not for the betterment of Wisconsin. Each member of our Association does play a role. Our Association is made up of a diverse group, as we come together to show the importance of our message. Take the time to visit waml.legis.state.wi.us web link and find your local representatives and senators. Your area chairs will also be a source of information to guide you through this. The Association web will post the most current information and links to pertinent websites. This is once again a call for action, we need to become involved.

Our foresight can not just be within the state, because of the adoption of the 2006 IBC and progressing forward with a national model code. As we look outside of our state, we also need to become involved in the next round of ICC hearings on the proposal for residential sprinklers in single family dwellings. This proposal is a move in the right direction. We have one more opportunity to get this proposal into the code. But again, we must step up and take action and rally as a fire service for this country. We must have a strong showing at the public hearings to express our dedication to this proposal. Where are our most fire deaths? Single family dwellings and residential sprinklers have been proven to save lives and property.

Each code cycle we need to fight for the future. We need to look forward in order to craft these codes for years down the road. We all know in our hearts that this is the best future for all of us. There is a lot of political and monetary backing from our opponents. This call for action shall once again show the commitment of the fire service.

2008 will be over before we realize it. We need to start planning for the upcoming summer events, and festivals. How do we handle festivals and cooking within tents? This is the new hot topic. How are we going to handle fireworks? It is not too early to address these issues and educate the public to their dangers. After that, before we turn around it will be Fire Prevention Week. Now is the time to contact the school and inform them of the programs you have available. Convince them to allocate more time for these important life safety behavior messages. Look forward constantly, not just – next week or next month, we need to look into the future in order to craft our strategies. Looking into the future, information exchange has always been a driving goal for me.

Our web site has had some technical difficulties, so we had to shut down our forum – comment section. We are looking into a new way to bring this back on line. As mentioned before, questions and concerns can be forwarded to your area chairs or any board member. Their contact information is accessible through our website.

Our Association is made up of numerous individuals that come together to make up one body. Through all our individuals, this is what makes us strong. Pass the word as to the benefits of our Association. The more members we have, the more we can do. More training, more information exchange helps us all. Go to your neighboring communities that are not part of our Association, and show them the benefits that joining will bring them. Encourage them to join us in the battle to keep our citizens safe. The growth of our association will benefit many.

Take time to look into the future, take time to become involved.

All of us are committed to the success of this organization and the protection of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Tod Doebler
President Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association