



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

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www.njsfpe.com

December 2002

NJ SFPE Meeting Minutes – Nov. 4, 2002

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sarge Slicer
2. There were approximately 40 attendees, and everyone introduced themselves.
3. Ed Armm read the minutes from the October 7th meeting and a motion was made and carried to accept them.
4. Dave Gluckman read the Treasurer's Report and a motion was made and carried to accept it.
5. Jim Tolos reported the chapter flag, charter, 25th anniversary re-charter and other memorabilia will be on display at the NJ Chapter Bob LeBlanc Library. Rich Reitberger asked the membership to provide him with any SFPE periodicals, journals or other SFPE literature that they were willing to donate to the library. Joe Janiga will be the contact at FM Global for those wishing to visit the library.
6. Rich advised the membership that the board wished to have them vote on Affiliate Membership for a new member. Todd Abrams of Atlantic Fire Service who is known by Frank Savino and others. A motion was made to accept his membership and carried. Welcome aboard Todd.
7. Rich made an announcement about next months meeting, the program and how important it is for all members to turn out. The NJ SFPE Excellence in Government Award for those in federal, state or local government that create legislative action promoting life safety and our society's principles. The award will be presented to the Honorable John V. Kelly former NJ State Assemblyman for his actions in creation and passage of the Sprinklers in Dorms bill.
8. Jerry Nellis brought us up to date as to the passage of the Balanced Housing Act, where-by any development including at least one unit of balanced housing will require all of the units to have automatic fire sprinklers. Jerry added that an assembly bill was in progress to repeal stand-by water charges currently charged for residential fire sprinkler systems.
9. Tonight's presentation on "Fire Sprinkler Recalls, Replacements and Remedies" was by Russ Fleming, P.E. of the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

10. Russ informed the chapter that the NFSA offers on-line seminars and this is the live version of one of their many offerings.
11. The Main points of the presentation covered issues including the history of reliability of sprinklers, recalls, replacements, as well as changes to NFPA 25 and the UL Standards for fire sprinklers.
12. Russ stated that sprinkler reliability is directly related to system performance, not sprinkler device performance. This has led to increased recognition in the building codes. Rates of loss for buildings/property as well as life have dropped significantly since the widespread use of sprinklers.
13. NFPA 13 A no longer requires sprinklers to be changed after 50 years, today a sample test of four (4) to six (6) sprinklers. Testing has proven that 97% of sprinklers are still good after 50 years of service. However, any sprinkler manufactured prior to 1920 must be replaced.
14. Russ discussed the potential problems with sprinklers;
 - Non activation by heat, which is almost unheard of however, there are some issues today with there being no liquid in glass bulb sprinklers.
 - Non operation to water flow
 - Impaired operation due to numerous reasons including corrosion
 - Pre operation or opening with no fire stimulus.
15. In 2000 Firematic Nickel Plated links were investigated by UL due to non-operation. For info go to www.UL.com

In 1990 Star Sprinkler's dry sprinklers were investigated, troubles were originally discovered with those manufactured between 1961 and 1981 including pendent, upright and sidewall sprinklers.

In 1995 the Omega problem was brought to the surface after two failures, one in a NY VA Medical Center and another at a Marriott Hotel in Michigan. Originally this was attributed to either the use of stop leak or residual hydrocarbons in the steel pipe that affected the synthetic seals. Russ showed us the four basic types of water seals to illustrate the two that utilize O-Rings. UL originally looked to steel pipe however when additional failures

came to light demanded all types of systems to be inspected.

In 1997 the US CPSC investigation began, they discovered a rate of 30% failure at 7 PSI in the 800 sprinklers they tested. Two new problems were considered reaction to antifreeze and dezincification.

In 1998 the US CPSC instituted the Omega recall, for additional information go to WWW.OmegaRecall.com which is still an active site even though the deadline for recall - replacement ended November 1, 2001. One good thing has come of this investigation by the CPSC and that is an affirmation of sprinkler importance. As sprinklers are such an important part of fire safety 99% plus reliability is demanded.

In 1999 the Star Dry Sprinkler recall was instituted see WWW.Star-Recall.com for details. Scrutiny of all dry sprinklers as well as those incorporating O-Rings has spread. One test of 500 different sprinklers showed that 46% required greater than 7 PSI and 22% actually required over 40 PSI to operate. Sprinkler failure is higher when they are subject to wide temperature fluctuations.

A TIA to NFPA 25 was written in 1999 and later incorporated into the 2002 edition in regard to testing.

Tyco O-Ring voluntary replacement program information is available at the web site WWW.SprinklerReplacement.com . Tyco is prepared to replace up to two million dry sprinklers and thirty three million wet ones at no cost to their owners.

UL - 199 was revised July 2001 to ban O-Rings by December 2003, the ban is based on their inability to develop accurate tests that include aging. Additional changes deal with deposit loading tests for dry sprinklers as well as dezincification tests for sprinklers with greater than 15% zinc.

Other remedies are improved model identification, more stringent inspection requirements and more comprehensive product standards.

New language has been added to the appendix of NFPA 25 2002 dealing with recalls, sample testing and internal inspection for dry sprinklers every ten years. Air tightness testing for ice plugs and lodgment tests are also included. For glass bulbs impact testing is in effect that requires an orange protective cover for a sprinkler to pass. The protective covering is to be removed only after installation.

16. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

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ONE MODEL BUILDING CODE ORGANIZATION

During the October 1-4 Code Forum the three model Building Code organizations BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI, unanimously voted to consolidate all of their activities as the International Code Council (ICC). This includes all services, products and operations. The new organization is expected to formally begin operations by early spring, 2003. Simultaneously the former three organizations will cease to exist.

ICC CEO Bob Heinrich notes that “the consolidation unites our nation’s leading building safety experts under one common goal – to serve public health and safety. This will ensure that our members and the public will receive quality technical and educational services that support the ICC International Codes. The ICC will continue to service BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI with regional code products as municipalities and states transition to I-Codes that have no Geographic boundaries.

In 1994 the three Model Code Agencies created the ICC to develop a single set of comprehensive, coordinated model construction codes. The first I-Code was published in 1995 and by 2000 a complete family of 11 construction codes became available.

The I-Codes have already been widely adopted including the States of New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and New Hampshire and New Jersey. Adoption processes are progressing in North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Kentucky as well as in other states and numerous local municipalities.

The U.S. Department of Defense has selected the International Building Code as the primary reference in its Unified Facilities Criteria. This new document, UFC 1-200-01, Design: General Building Requirements, incorporates private sector standards including the 2000 IBC, into a single model building code for design and construction of ALL military projects. The officers and board of directors for ICC were also elected during the Code Forum in Fort Worth Texas. They are:

President – Paul E. Myers, C.B.O., Asst. Dir. Bldg. Construction, Cincinnati, Ohio

Vice-President – Anne vonWeller, Chief Bldg. Official, Murray City Corp., Utah

Each of the three former organizations also elected five (5) members each (for staggered terms) for seats on the Executive Committee of ICC.

Final approval was also given to a number of code changes for all 11 ICC Codes. These will be incorporated into the 2003 editions.

 **Associated Consulting Engineers, P.A.**
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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

More detailed information is contained in previous Fusible Link issues and on www.njsfpe.com

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The Regent Group
 3960 Howard Hughes Parkway
 Suite 500
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Phone: 702.892.3740
 Fax: 702.892.3741

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Property Loss control Consultant wanted in New York.

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- Engineering Degree a big plus

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Anyone who may be interested should call:
 Sarah Scarlata
 800-813-2353 x4754
 Aerotek Engineering
www.aerotek.com

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Allianz, an insurance company with premium income in excess of one billion dollars is currently actively and aggressively pursuing hiring an experienced (minimum 2 years) HPR (Highly Protected Risk) Property Loss Control Account Consultant for their Chicago Office. Salary is negotiable dependent upon experience level. Anyone interested can contact:

Kevin Morris
 Engineering Manager
 Allianz Risk Consultants
 PO Box 747
 Warrington, PA 18976-0747

Phone 215-491-4272
 Email kmorris@aic-allianz.com

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Company offers highest pay in industry and position could lead to equity interest in firm. All benefits are included.

Send resume with salary history. All applications will be kept in strict confidence. Positions also open for sprinkler designers without P.E.

Write to Carl Guinta, 11 Mathews Avenue, Riverdale, New Jersey 07457 or E-mail cga-fpe@worldnet.att.net

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NJ SFPE DECEMBER PROGRAM

Chapter Members: There is a change for the December 2, 2002 meeting. We will not be doing a "Protection of Transformers" presentation due to new developments. We will be having instead an Awards Dinner to honor a person whose actions and dedication to public service has resulted in major changes to fire protection in the State of NJ.

We will be presenting our "Excellence in Government" award to Former Assemblyman and State Fire Commission Chairman John V. Kelly. Assemblyman Kelly as Chairman of the State Fire Commission for ten years, sponsored many bills and programs involving fire protection and prevention. He helped push through sprinklers in college dorms as an example.

See attached flyer for details. We will offer a \$3 discount to members who respond by Friday November 29th (Discount Dinner cost will be \$22).

Indicate on your response that you are a Chapter member.

We need to maximize our membership participation at the December meeting as a number of State Legislature and State Fire Prevention Officials are expected to attend. This is our Chapter's chance to tell our story and get some "face time" with state government officials.

Before the award presentation we will brief the audience on a short overview of who we are at SFPE and how we benefit the field of fire protection and prevention.

Again we need as many members as we can get to come out and attend this important meeting. Our ultimate goal is to address the need for...Thanks in advance for your Support.

SFPE National Update

National's web site has been updated to allow members to search the membership directory by state, country and name. It also allows members to update their more detailed information found on the annual membership renewal form.

In the near future, the National website will contain a one-page informational profile on each local Chapter and a link to each Chapter's web site (to those that have one).

Special Committee Formed for NJ Chapter

In order to better support various Chapter board members, Sarge Slicer, Chapter President has authorized the formation of a Special Committee. Vicki Serafin will act as a Special Executive Assistant to the Board. She will assist individuals in planning, support services, follow up projects, etc. Thanks, Vicki, for all your help.

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R.G. "Bob" LeBlanc Memorial Library

This is the newly established R.G. "Bob" LeBlanc Memorial Library. It will hold all of our archive materials as well as copies of "Fire Protection Engineer" magazine and "SFPE Fire Journals." Rich Reitberger will be the curator. Rich is looking for someone to donate SFPE Fire Journals (little white book) as he only has a few.

Bob LeBlanc was a founder and first President of the NJ Chapter. He was also an Account Engineer for Allendale Insurance, (now FM Global) where the library is located.

We would like to thank FM Global for donating the wall and shelf space for the library. Library questions or comments should be directed to Rich Reitberger at 973-541-6776. Please feel free to drop by. Contact Joe Janiga or Rich Reitberger. FM Global's address is:

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Happy Holidays



2002-2003 MEETING DATES/PROGRAM

(Programs Subject to Change)

Watch web page concerning cancellation in case of possible inclement weather conditions

Dec. 2	Excellent Government Award – Awardee is former NJ Assemblyman John V. Kelly
Jan. 6	Changes to NFPA 20 – Ken Isman, PE, NFSA
Feb. 3	Tour of Siemens/Pyro
Mar. 3	Legal Liability – Chris Wood, Arupt
April 7	Seminar
April	Officer Nominations due to Secretary Chapter Anniversary 4/4/77
May 5	Malden Mills Loss, John Cholin, PE
June 2	Gaseous Suppression Systems Update (NFPA 2001 – Phil DiNenno, PE Annual/Election

*Watch Web Page for Weather Announcement

POSITIONS TAKEN BY SPEAKERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE POSITION OF THE NJ S.F.P.E.

All meetings are held at the Hanover Manor, Eagle Rock Road, Hanover, NJ (approximately 1/2 miles west of Eisenhower Parkway). Get Acquainted Hour 5:00-6:00 p.m. Adjournment is usually before 8:30 p.m. The Executive Committee meets at 4:00 p.m.

Editors Note--If you would like to advertise your company and help offset the cost of this publication, as well as having your business card in front of over 150 Fire Protection Professionals please call John Cholin at (201) 337-8621 for further information. The cost is \$100 for 10 issues.

COMMITTEES 2002-2003

Standing Committees

Program:

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chairs, with input from all members
Consulting – Nick Chergotis & Chuck Gandy

NY Chapter Liaison:

Rich Reitberger (Pat Egan back-up liaison)

Arrangements:

Mike Newman, Peter Rullo, Co-Chair

Membership:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman

Nominating:

Chuck Gandy, Chairman
Glenn Deitz
Bob Murray

Scholarship Fund:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Robert Hall
Mike Machette

Auditing:

Joe Janiga

Archivist/Historian:

Jim Tolos

Communications:

Fusible Link: Brad Hart, Editor

Dave Gluckman, Asst. Editor
Ana Crisostomo, Publishing
Vicky Serafin, Mailing/Automation

Special Committees

Bylaws: Jim Tolos, Chairman

Joe Janiga – Co-Chairman

Career Recruitment:

Al Dopart, Chairman
Tom Brereton
Joe Stavish
Glenn Deitz
Dave Gluckman

Golf Outing:

Richard Reitberger, Chairman

Awards: John Ed Ryan

Jim Tolos
Frank Savino

PE Examination:

John Cholin, Chairman
Joe Janiga
Mike Newman
Chuck Gandy

Joint Seminar/Chapter Seminar

Richard Reitberger, Chairman
Nick Chergotis
Pat Egan
Dave Gluckman

Legislative:

Rich Reitberger, Chairman
Jerry Naylis

Special Executive Assistant to the Board:

Vicki Serafin, Chairwoman



Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Awards Committee
SFPE NJ Chapter
November 5, 2002

Proudly Announces Award Dinner for

John V. Kelly

Former NJ State Assemblyman & NJ State Fire Commission Chairman
Named NJ Chapter SFPE 2002 Recipient of the

Excellence in Government Award

Monday, December 2, 2002

AT

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Phone 973-992-7425

\$25/person at the door, \$22 in advance

Cocktail Hour: 5:00 – 6:00 pm (Cash Bar)

Dinner at 6 p.m. (beer, wine and soda will be provided at the tables)

Program to follow

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

“SFPE N.J. CHAPTER” TO:

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400 Interpace Parkway
Building C – Third Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054-1196

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____ TELEPHONE _____

Prime Rib

Salmon

ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY **FRIDAY, November 29, 2002**. TELEPHONE RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY NOON OF THE MEETING DAY.

Fusible Link Editors NJSFPE
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Affiliated FM Ins. Co.
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Parsippany, NJ 07054