10th Anniversary of ICC's Consolidation: Looking Back, Moving Forward

# A Decade of Safety and Service: ICC Celebrates 10 Years as a Consolidated Association

**By Trey Hughes** 

**February 2013** 



In what was described as "the most historic day in code enforcement in 100 years," the official consolidation of the International Code Council took place on January 21, 2003, at a special ceremony in Las Vegas.

Representatives from the legacy organizations – Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) – signed a joint resolution to create a unified association that combined more than 190

years of building safety experience and 30 years of anticipation for one set of codes for use across the country.

Following are some of the highlights and events of the past 10 years that have helped the consolidated International Code Council become the hallmark professional membership association that is dedicated to providing its Members and building industry professionals with the tools they need to ensure the public's safety in the built environment.

The International Codes are in use in 48 states, with local jurisdictions ranging from Anchorage, Alaska, to Miami, Florida.



Noting the significance of the Code Council consolidation, ICBO Chairman Roger Evans said: "We now move forward with one code, one staff and one purpose. Having a unified organization will do nothing but let us be more helpful to the public, a goal that I'm sure the ICC will pursue as effectively during the next century as it has in the last." Pictured at the signing ceremony in Las

Vegas are: (seated, left to right) ICBO Chairman Roger Evans, ICBO CEO Bob Heinrich, SBCCI Board President William L. Duck, SBCCI CEO Dominic Sims, BOCA Board Chairman Steve Shapiro, BOCA CEO Paul K. Heilstedt, (standing, left to right) Frank Thompson of the National Association of Home Builders, Ron Nickson of the National Multi-Housing Council, Dave Collins of the American Institute of Architects, and ICC Board President Paul E. Myers.



Anne von Weller of Murray City, Utah, is sworn in as President of the 2003-04 ICC Board of Directors.

ICC's first post-consolidation Annual Conference is held in Nashville, Tenn. Heilstedt is presented the Bobby J. Fowler Award and David L. Wismer of the city of Philadelphia is the recipient of the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees are: Affiliate Award—Dave Collins of the American Institute of Architects (AIA); Community Service Awards—Jerry Mallory of Johnson City, Kan., Ron Hampton of Ashland, Ky., and the city of Asheville, N.C.

At the 2004 Spring Meeting in Overland Park, Kan., more than 600 delegates participate in Final Action Hearings that are the final step of the 2003/2004 Code Development Cycle.

ICC and the National Storm Shelter Association announce they are working along with Governmental Members, design professionals, industry representatives and academics to create a new standard for the design and construction of community storm shelters and residential safe rooms. FEMA is providing funding for the project.

On its one-year anniversary as a consolidated association, the Code Council launches an initiative to develop an energized vision and refocused mission statement that defines the ICC and meets the needs of its Members and the building safety industry. The ICC Board implements the "Blueprint to the Future" initiative to develop a new long-term business plan for the association.



In the wake of Hurricanes Charley and Frances in Florida and Ivan in Alabama, ICC launches an initiative to create a hurricane resistant construction standard with prescriptive details for light-frame construction in highwind coastal areas. (ICC 600-2008 Standard for Residential Construction in High-Wind Regions is currently being updated for inclusion in the 2015 International Codes.)



Frank Hodge of Hilton Head Island, S.C., is sworn in as President of the 2004-05 ICC Board of Directors.

At ICC's Annual Conference in Salt Lake
City, Utah, Jim Sealy, a Fellow with the AIA,
is presented the Fowler Award while Terry
Summey of Asheville, N.C., is the recipient
of the Code Official of the Year Award. Other
honorees are: Fire Service Award—Jackie
Gibbs of Marietta, Ga.; Community Service
Award—Phillip Randall Whisman of Winchester, Ky.; and Affiliate Award—Building
Owners and Managers Association (BOMA).
The ICC Chapter of the Year is the Virginia
Building and Code Officials Association.

More than 14,000 U.S. jurisdictions are enforcing the International Codes.

The United States Marines Corps is the first federal agency to earn International Accreditation Service (IAS) Accreditation.



Following Hurricane Katrina's landfall in Louisiana and Mississippi, CEO James Lee Witt says the Code Council will spare no resources in assisting ICC Members and jurisdictions in their recovery efforts. "We may not be able to replace their hopes and dreams, but together we will help them build new ones."



The ICC Foundation (ICCF) hosts the inaugural Silent Defenders Awards Dinner in Wash-

ington, D.C. The inspiration for the awards comes from a comment by Pennsylvania Congressman Curt Weldon (pictured) who refers to the "Silent Defenders" in the building and fire safety community who work daily to ensure the safety of the built environment. The first honorees are Weldon, Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Fire Marshal George Sacco and the World Bank.

**ICC Technical** Services staff is among the approximately 220 participants in the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Technical Conference on the Federal Building and Fire Safety Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster.



Newly-elected Code Council Board President Henry Green appears before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science to share ICC's insights regarding NIST's report on the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. In examining the report's 30 recommendations, Chairman Sherwood Boehlert of New York asks Green to

assist the committee in understanding what is being and remains to be done to present NIST's recommendations as code change proposals.

ICC holds its 2005 Annual Conference in Detroit, Mich. Ron Nienaber, Building Official for the city of Maple Grove, Minn, is presented the Fowler Award while Ron Bell, Chief Building Official for the city of Sioux Falls, S.D., is the recipient of the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees are: Fire Service Award—retired Chief Robert Weitzel of Hamilton County, Ohio; Community Service Awards—Quinn Davis, Building Inspector for Wasatch County, Utah, and the Building Officials Association of Florida; and Affiliate Award—Robert Raymer, Technical Director for the California Building Industry Association. The ICC Chapter of the Year is the Building Officials Association of Texas.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state of Louisiana is poised to rebuild stronger and safer as the state legislature approves the adoptions of the International Building, Residential, Existing Building, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes. In one of its first official actions following Hurricane Katrina, the new Mississippi Building Codes Council adopts the 2003 International Building and Residential Codes for rebuilding efforts. The Mississippi council's action requires jurisdictions that adopt building codes to use the I-Codes.

ICC is among the cosponsors of the Restoration 2006 conference held in New Orleans. The conference, which draws over 900 participants, focuses on long-term and sustainable community and economic recovery in the aftermath of natural or manmade disasters.

Two new ICC Certifications introduced—the Coastal and Flood Plan Construction Inspector Certification and the Disaster Response Inspector Certification—help ensure that code officials are competent to assess that coastal homes and businesses meet site-specific code provisions and can focus on key site assessment activities and related duties required of an inspector during post-disaster response.



Wally Bailey of Fort Smith, Ark., is sworn in as President of the 2006-07 ICC Board of Directors.

ICC holds its 2006 Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla. Rick Vognild, retired Director of Technical Services for the SBCCI, is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Donald "Mickey" Arp of Chattanooga, Tenn., is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees include: Fire Service Award—Robert Davidson, retired Fire Marshal for South Brunswick, N.J.; Community Service Awards—Jill Gray, North Central Texas Permit Technician Chapter co-founder, and the Washington Association of Building Officials; and Affiliate Award—Shirley Muns, Texas A&M University Research Engineering Associate and Code Specialist. The ICC Chapter of the Year is the California Building Officials (CALBO) Chapter.

Massachusetts is the 35th state to adopt the *International Residential Code* statewide while Georgia, Iowa and Washington update to the 2006 I-Codes. Also, the Federal Bureau of Prisons approves the use of the *International Building*, *Plumbing* and *Mechanical Codes* for all federal prison building projects.

Following an EF-5 tornado that devastates Greensburg, Kan., the Code Council and its Heart of America Chapter partner to establish the city's first Building Inspection Department. ICC Board member James T. "Tim" Ryan plays an instrumental role in setting up a code library for the city. Ryan is Codes Administrator for the city of Overland Park, Kan..

The Code Council and National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) announce the development of the *National Green Building Standard* for residential construction. Later in the year, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) Green Building Focus Group announces plans for the development of the state's first voluntary green building standard for state buildings and residences. The standard will include best practices and most restrictive requirements, including the *National Green Building Standard*.

With adoptions in Hawaii, the *International Codes* are now enforced in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.



Mayor Michael Bloomberg signs legislation approving the New York City Construction Codes, which are based on the I-Codes. Department of Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster (front row, fourth from left) participates in the ceremony. On the other side of the country, the CBSC unveils the new California Building Standards Code, which is based on the International Building Code.

The city of New
Orleans and
state of Louisiana
update to the 2006
editions of the
International Building, Mechanical
and Fuel Gas Codes
and require that all
new homes and
businesses built
in coastal areas be
able to withstand
winds of 130 miles
per hour.

ICC opens its new World Headquarters in Washington, D.C., located just blocks from the U.S. Capitol.



Steven I. Shapiro of Hampton, Va., is sworn in as the 2008 President of the ICC Board of Directors.

ICC holds its
2007 Annual
Conference
in Reno, Nev..
Retired Waco,
Texas, Building
Official George

Walker, Sr., is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Johnson County, Kan., Building Official Jerry Mallory is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees are: Fire Service Award—Thomas Brace, Executive Director of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association; Community Service Awards—Amarillo, Texas, Building Official Scott McDonald and Hoffman States, Ill., Administrative Director of Code Enforcement Don Plass; and Affiliate Award—David Eisenberg, Executive Director of the Development Center for Appropriate Technology. The ICC Chapter of the Year is the Building Officials Association of Florida.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approves ICC 500-2008, Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters as an American National Standard. The Code Council welcomes the American Gas Association as its newest strategic partner. AGA joins the AIA, the NAHB, the National Multi Housing Council and the BOMA as organizations that have publicly stated their support for the *International Codes* and consistently lend their resources to achieving code adoptions.

The ICC Board of Directors approves the creation of a Sustainable Building Technology Committee to support its many ongoing efforts in green, sustainable and safe construction. ICC Evaluation Service announces the development of the Green Verification Program in response to the Code Council's commitment to developing and fostering sustainable design and construction activities. ICC-ES also announces the creation of the Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE) program where participants have the opportunity to earn confirmation that their products are sustainable.

ICC and FEMA sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support the maintenance, adoption, outreach, training and enforcement of disaster-resistant building safety codes to reduce human and economic losses resulting from natural hazards including hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados and flooding.



Adolf Zubia of Las Cruces, N.M., is sworn in as President of the 2008-09 ICC Board of Directors. ICC holds its 2008 Annual Conference in Minneapolis. Bob Weber, code consultant

and former Building Official and Director of the Clark County, Nev., Building Department, is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Costa Mesa, Calif., Building Official Khanh Nguyen is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees are: Fire Service Award— Chief John Mueller, Deputy State Fire Administrator for the State of New York; Community Service Award— Sun City, Ariz., Fire Prevention Bureau; and Affiliate Award— Jim Messersmith, Coordinating Manager of Regional Code Services for the Portland Cement Association. The ICC Chapter of the Year is the Heart of American Chapter in Kansas.

The economic stimulus bill signed into law by President Obama includes the *International Energy Conservation Code*. The stimulus package calls for funding through 2010 for state energy programs, and for states to certify they will implement building energy codes for residential buildings that are likely to meet or exceed the 2009 IECC.

The ICC Foundation Code of Honor Scholarship Program receives its first donation from the AIA.



The Code Council, American Institute of Architects and ASTM International launch the initiative to develop the International Green Construction Code. Other cooperating sponsors are the U.S. Green Building Council and the Illuminating Engineering Society. Pictured at the unveiling, from left, are ICC CEO Rick Weiland, AIA Executive Vice President/CEO Christine McEntee, Code Council Board President Adolf Zubia and ASTM International President James A. Thomas.



Ronald L. Lynn of Clark County, Nev., is sworn in as President of the 2009-10 ICC Board of Directors. ICC holds its 2009 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md. Emory Rodgers, Deputy Director of the Building and Fire

Regulation Division of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Michael Fink, Deputy Commissioner of the city of Philadelphia's Department of Licenses and Inspections, is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees include: Fire Service Award—Azarang "Ozzie" Mirkhah, Fire Protection Engineer for the Las Vegas Department of Fire and Rescue; Community Service Award—Building Officials of Suffolk County, New York; and Affiliate Award—Thomas Phillips, Code Compliance Manager for Target Corporation's Property Development. The Chapter of the Year is the Colorado Chapter of ICC.

Public Version 1.0 of the International Green Construction Code is officially unveiled in Washington, D.C. Endorsements include the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Green Building Council and the Building Officials Association of Florida. The city of Richland, Wash., and the state of Rhode Island are the first jurisdictions to adopt the IgCC. After 1,500 Public Comments are received and reviewed during hearings in Chicago, Public Version 2.0 of the IgCC debuts in November.

The ICC Board's Code Development Review Ad-Hoc Committee (CDRAC) begins developing recommendations for improving the code development process.

#### **International Code Council Chief Executive Officers**

William J. Tangye was named the first Chief Executive Officer of the International Code Council in 2001. Tangye, who passed away one year later, served as Chief Executive Officer of the legacy organization Southern Building Code

Congress International from 1982–2002. Prior to joining SBCCI, Tangye was director of field engineering for the legacy organization BOCA. Tangye was succeeded by:



**Bob Heinrich** 2002-2003



James Lee Witt 2003-2006



Richard P. Weiland 2006-2012



**Dominic Sims** 2012-present



After three decades of success, the Code Council and ICCF expand Building Safety Week into a month-long celebration.



James L. Brothers of Decatur, Ala., is sworn as President of the 2010-11 ICC Board of Directors.

ICC holds its 2010 **Annual Confer**ence in Charlotte. N.C.. Terrence L. Cobb, Director of the Department of Codes and Build-

ing Safety for Nashville and Davidson County, Tenn., is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Jay Elbettar, Building Director for the City of Newport Beach, Calif., is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees include: Fire Service Award— Cleveland Fire Department Battalion Chief and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) advocate Sean DeCrane; Community Service Award—Fort Smith, Ark., Development Services Department; and Affiliate Award— William E. Koffel, President of Koffel Associates. The Chapter of the Year is the Southern Nevada Chapter of ICC.

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ICC re-engineers its Code Councils and expands its Code Action Committee structure. New Membership Councils along with a multi-disciplinary Codes and Standards Council broaden participation in ICC technical committees and councils. The Code Action Committee structure also expands to increase the quality of code change proposals.

The Code Council Board adopts the recommendations from its CDRAC committee along with two additional recommendations from the Code Appeals Board not addressed in the CDRAC report.



While Tuscaloosa, Ala., continues to recover from a devastating EF-4 tornado that struck the city in April, local officials are eyeing the future and the city's rebuilding process. "There's some good coming from the bad, there's no doubt about that," says Chief Building Official Alan Boswell.

After a May tornado destroys more than 2,000 structures and renders another 2,000 uninhabitable, Joplin, Mo., makes a number of inexpensive upgrades to its building code to help mitigate future storms. "It's not going to stop direct hits," Building Official Steven Cope says, "but will help in peripheral areas where people lost roofs, or where walls lifted off foundations. For a couple of hundred dollars extra in building cost, we are looking at a significant improvement in preventing the type of damage we experienced."

The 2012/2013 Code Develop Schedule is the first to fully implement a change where the International Codes are distributed into two, 12-month code cycles: Group A Codes in 2012 and Group B Codes in 2013.



William D. Dupler of Chesterfield County, Va., is sworn in as President of the 2011-12 ICC Board of Directors.

ICC holds its 2011 **Annual Confer**ence in Phoenix. William D. Dupler of Chesterfield County, Va., is sworn in as Presi-

dent of the 2011-12 ICC Board of Directors. Tenn., Division Manager and Building Official Tim Ward is the recipient of the Fowler Award while Boswell is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees include: Fire Service Award—Ken Kraus, retired Inspector for the city of Los Angeles Fire Department; Community Service Award—25year industry veteran and long-time building safety advocate Tony Falcone; and Affiliate Award—Ron Nickson, Vice President of Building Codes for the National Multi-Housing Council. The ICC Chapter of the Year is the Virginia Plumbing & Mechanical Inspectors Association.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Building Energy Codes Program Annual Report cites the *International Energy Conservation Code* as the national benchmark for development, adoption and compliance of energy-efficient buildings.

The ICC Board approves Group C Code Development in 2014 to include the IgCC.

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code debuts and is the first comprehensive code to upgrade pool and spa safety and meet the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. The ISPSC uses prescriptive and performance-related provisions to establish minimum safety requirements for public and residential pools, spas and hot tubs.

ICC and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) create the Coalition for Current Safety Codes to advance public safety in the built environment by advocating states and municipal jurisdictions adopt current building, fire prevention, sustainable, electrical and life safety codes. ICC and NFPA seek participation in the coalition from other standard development organizations, the construction and insurance industries, government and the private sector.



ICC launches the cdp ACCESS initiative to expand participation in its code development process while preserving the quality and transparency of the proceedings. During its winter meeting, the ICC Board approves the cdp ACCESS Steering Committee's final recommendations that outline several key elements for the initiative.



Ronald E. Piester of the New York Department of State is sworn in as President of the 2012-13 ICC Board of Directors. ICC holds its 2012 Annual Conference in Portland, Ore.. Ryan is the recipient of the

Fowler Award while John Terry, Manager of Code Services for the state of New Jersey, is presented the Code Official of the Year Award. Other honorees include: Fire Service Award— Joe Sauerwein, District Manager of the Blue Point Fire District on Long Island, New York; Community Service Award— Deborah Vanek, Code Compliance Officer for California's San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District; and Affiliate Award— Judith Rothschild Dicine, Supervisor and Assistant State's Attorney of Housing for the state of Connecticut. The Chapter of the Year is the Central Florida Chapter of ICC.