

2007 Chapter Awards

To earn the Chapter of the Year designation, a chapter must demonstrate a high degree of professionalism in promoting the vision, mission and goals of the Code Council. The chapter distinguishes itself through the development and implementation of programs designed to increase the professionalism of its members and code officials everywhere, and participate in local, state, regional or national activities to increase the public awareness of safety in the built environment.

Chapter of the Year—Building Officials Association of Florida

This year's 2007 Chapter of the Year award was presented to the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF). The chapter has experienced a banner year, with a membership increase of more than 50 percent, bringing their total membership close to 2,000. They were leaders as the host chapter for last year's Code Council Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, and worked hard with staff and members to ensure it was a success.



On behalf of the Building Officials Association of Florida, BOAF officers accept the ICC Chapter of the Year Award from Code Council Immediate Past President Wally Bailey and Awards Committee Chairman John Darnall. From left: BOAF Treasurer Claudio Grande, BOAF VP Tam Landis, Bailey, BOAF President Bob Boyer, Darnall and BOAF Secretary John O'Connor.

BOAF consistently supports efforts to increase public awareness for building codes and building safety. Chapter members participate in state commissions that oversee codes, contractor licensing and inspector licensing. They work closely with Florida's Division of Emergency Management to provide disaster response and assessment

assistance. They hold several education programs every year and are active in the code development process.

BOAF also works with “Building a Safer Florida,” a statewide organization of building officials, architects, engineers, contractors and others to promote compliance with the state’s building codes.

Accepting the award was Chapter President Bob Boyer. “I’m truly honored to be up here accepting this for the association,” said Boyer. “We want to thank Wally [Bailey], Steve [Shapiro], the committee and all the ICC staff for all the support they’ve given us over the years. Actually, I just verified our membership today and we’re at 2,800 and climbing. So we are still growing and we’re doing a lot of things to increase the membership. We’re moving in the right direction. Thank you very much, we’re truly honored.”

International Code Council chapters provide a means for industry professionals to stay current with building safety industry news, network with colleagues, increase their knowledge of the Code Council through chapter-sponsored continuing education, and enhance their reputation in the local community. The Council has more than 300 chapters worldwide, with new chapters formed each year. The Chapter Merit Awards are presented to chapters who distinguish themselves through activities that demonstrate the goals and objectives of the association.

Chapter Merit Award—Virginia Building and Code Officials Association



On behalf of the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, VBCOA officers accept the Chapter Merit Award from Code Council Immediate Past President Wally Bailey and Awards Committee Chairman John Darnall. From left: Bailey, VBCOA Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Collins, VBCOA Second VP Lynn Underwood, VBCOA President Guy Tomberlin, VBCOA First VP John Glover and Darnall.

The Virginia Building and Code Officials Association (VBCOA) broke the 1,000-member mark this year, making it one of the Code Council’s largest chapters. The VBCOA is a very active group and conducts numerous activities to support the Code Council and code officials. VBCOA members participate in the code development process and submitted more than 100 code

change proposals in the last code change cycle.

The Chapter conducts several education programs throughout the state, including at local colleges and vocational schools, and works to increase public support for building safety in Virginia.

Accepting the award for the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, Chapter President Guy Tomberlin, had the following remarks, “It’s truly an honor and privilege to receive this award as chapter president on behalf of the VBCOA membership. All of our members in the organization are the ones who have worked tirelessly to achieve this outstanding accomplishment. This year, we have worked hard towards President Bailey’s goal of raising the profile of the code official. In fact, we dedicated this year to communication and outreach. I believe this effort is an initiative that has served us well. We’ve reached out to all our membership and industry to gain input and better serve the code community. At the international and local, state and regional, and national levels, it has opened doors and enabled partnerships in collaborative efforts and consensus building. I embrace the opportunity to continue working with ICC and all the ICC chapters towards the goals and missions of the ICC organization, as we all continue to grow in a healthy direction. Again, I’m humbled to be a part of the VBCOA and ICC—amongst the most committed and dedicated building safety professionals in the world. Thank you.”

Chapter Merit Award—Heart of America



On behalf of the Heart of America Chapter, HOA President Tina Rakes accepts the Chapter Merit Award from Code Council Immediate Past President Wally Bailey (left) and Awards Committee Chairman John Darnall.

Within hours of the devastating F-5 tornado that leveled the small town of Greensburg, Kansas, more than 30 Heart of America members were on-hand to assess the damage. The Chapter members helped Greensburg create a modern Building and Codes Department and they are providing inspectors, plan reviewers and permit technicians until the town can staff itself. Heart of America is committed to helping Greensburg rebuild and the Code Council honored them with a Chapter Merit Award.

In accepting the award for the Heart of America Chapter,

President Tina Rakes stated, “Thank you on behalf of the members of Heart of America Chapter for bestowing upon us the Chapter of Merit Award. We are deeply honored and we are proud to accept it. I suppose I should take this opportunity to wax on about our chapter’s achievements and describe our lofty plans for the future. I should take this opportunity to thank the officials and staff of ICC who have helped us at every turn to manifest the shared vision of ICC and our chapter. And on this second trip to the podium in as many years, I would like to share my feelings.”

“I was deeply moved Monday during the Chapter Presidents Breakfast by the words of guest speaker John Watson about professionalism. He reminded me of my mentor and the relationships of professionalism I’ve seen over the many years. I’m struck by the profound importance of taking the time to foster the potential in others and developing the kind of passion we all have for the codes. Whether it takes the form of spending a moment to help a citizen understand why the codes require what it does, or takes the form of a kindling spark in a new inspector, helping them understand your passion for inspection professionalism, those are truly important moments we need to dedicate ourselves to creating.”

“I want to give special thanks to Henry Green and to Wally Bailey for giving themselves to me this past year so that I could better understand the scope of the stage upon which Heart of America Chapter and the International Code Council play. They have truly fueled my passion for the profession.”

“In closing, I want to thank Jerry Mallory, Tim Ryan, Sean Reid and every member of Heart of America Chapter for making this moment possible. Thank you all.”

Chapter Merit Award—Washington Association of Building Officials

The Washington Association of Building Officials is represented on the ICC Board of Directors, the Washington State Building Code Council and several other organizations. The chapter has taken several steps in the past year to promote and enhance the professionalism of building officials. They produced an informational video about building departments and building officials to share with elected officials around the state.

With their lobbyist, the Chapter is working with the Washington Legislature to establish a building officials licensing program to assure the public that building officials meet the highest possible standards. And the Chapter continues to offer education programs, including a five-day institute held in partnership with the Washington State Fire Marshals Association.

Washington Association of Building Officials President Gary Schenk had the following to say about his chapter, “First of all, I’d like to thank everybody who made this possible especially our members here....We are a very unique chapter. We are very

multifaceted in everything we do. And it's really a remarkable organization. One thing that's unique about WABO is that we're a great example of change. We're now 30 years old and for a long time we just sort of rested on our laurels. We were successful and we maintained a level of that success. Then we started putting together a strategic plan about what we're going to do in the next year, two years, five years, ten years, and started following that plan. And then most recently, we developed a business plan to help build and be successful...Throughout this change, we decided we weren't just going to maintain, we were going to try to make change happen. And if you're going to make change happen, you might as well make it happen in a way that's beneficial to you and the members of the organization. That's what we're really involved with now. With the adoption of the I-Codes, we put together a coalition that has served us well because we are now considered a resource in the state for a lot of different things...It's funny, if you don't change, eventually you die and I see some chapters do that too, where they just kind of maintain what they're doing and didn't keep up with the industry...It's good advice to keep up with change and to develop a plan and work the plan. I thank everybody that made this possible, not only the people in the state of Washington but also the officers and board members of ICC. Have a great conference. Thank you."



On behalf of the Washington Association of Building Officials, WABO President Gary Schenk (center) accepts the Chapter Merit Award from Code Council Immediate Past President Wally Bailey (left) and Awards Committee Chairman John Darnall.