



## **Oregon Mechanical Officials Association**

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### **Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes**

**February 18, 2016**

**Marion County Public Works, Salem**

*The Oregon Mechanical Officials Association is dedicated to providing a professional environment for mechanical code officials and industry professionals to share knowledge and educate each other to enhance public welfare.*

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President John Corliss called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m., February 18, 2016

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Executive Board members present: President John Corliss, First Vice President Bill Hendrix, Past President Mike Remesnik, and Member-At-Large Randy Soelberg. Also present were Troy Skinner, Chris Trussell, Jay Winchester, and Jim Trussell.

**MOTION:** Randy Soelberg motioned, and it was seconded, that the minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting be approved with one correction for misspelling. Motion approved unanimously.

## **OMOA COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

*Education Committee:* The Education Committee is recessed at the current time, by direction of the Board, as we continue to work through re-establishing the Association duties and areas of responsibility per the recent changes of the Association. The direction of the Board was to not renew the Cross Enterprises contract for 2016 but to become an all-volunteer Association.

*Code Change Committee:* No report.

*Scholarship Committee:* Jay Winchester informed the Association that Portland Community College has about 12 students currently working through their 2-year BIT degree program. The school is having ongoing discussion with BCD to get their courses approved, in lieu of additional BCD training, to allow students to be able to set for future license exams after completing their program. Troy Skinner additionally mentioned that Chemeketa Community College is still in discussion with stakeholders to restart their BIT program. He is going to ferret out the facts of their progress towards restart and report back to the Association next month. With that information brought before the members there was discussion about presenting our Association's purpose to current students and possibly reinstating our scholarship grants. The decision has been tabled so additional information can be verified.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Corliss has filed our Association information and annual report with the State of Oregon for 2015/2016.

John Corliss passed out Association Annual Membership invoices to the members to return to their respective jurisdictions for the Jan. 2016-Dec. 2016 calendar year. The members also charged John with sending these renewals to all state-wide jurisdictions to allow them to join or rejoin the Association. John stated that he would spearhead the effort to get those out ASAP as we are late getting them out due to Board changes. Jim Trussell also noted that most AHJ's will likely join as jurisdictions instead of individual employees joining separately. We would like to present our Association to current BIT students so we can invite them to join and participate with the other members at a reduced student fee. A straw poll determined that the AHJ's should be billed by mail and followed up with emails. Trade groups, non-AHJ members, retirees, and other interested people need to be invited to join by mail or email. Randy Soelberg made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Remesnik, to spend monies for the postage of these billings and invitations. The vote was unanimous to pass the motion.

John Corliss strongly encouraged all of our members to acquire articles of relevance, useful links, and other pertinent information for our Association to add to the website. These articles, as agreed by the members, need to be vetted out through our meetings before they are added to the website.

John Corliss passed out a list of the current Board officers to the membership present. He also provided members with a copy of the latest (2010) Association By-laws and tasked those members to review these by-laws for suggestions on updating/revising them for current use.

Suggestions and recommendations need to be brought to the Association for discussion at the next meeting.

John Corliss is going to query Edward Jones Financial on what is necessary to update our Association information on their records. He will bring that information to the next meeting.

Bill Hendrix has completed the Oregon State Business registry changes to reflect the 2016 Executive Board changes.

Past President Mike Remesnik is going to research and determine what needs to occur to send our annual report to ICC. He will bring provide this information at the next meeting.

Member-at-large Samantha Vandagriff has been tasked with updating our website to remove all dated, archaic and non-functioning information/links while updating other information that reflects current information.

Samantha needs to decide where she would like to change our banking to so that it will be convenient for her and so the Board can complete this decision to move or not-to-move process. Randy Soelberg will research which popular banking institutions (Chase, B/A, etc.) will not charge us an annual fee for our banking needs, as a 501(c) 6 organization, and which will be compatible with the current financial records that are kept on QuickBooks software. He will report back to the Board at the next meeting with this information.

It was brought to light that our current files in QuickBooks software can be changed into a Quicken storage format. Randy Soelberg volunteered to research that compatibility question and provide information and approximate pricing of changing to Quicken Small Business record keeping software. Bill Hendrix made the motion to allow the Board to spend the necessary funds to purchase this software, if so agreed, for the financial record keeping needs of the Association. Troy Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This project has been tabled until next month's meeting where the research information can be reviewed by the Board.

Member emeritus Jim Trussell suggested assigning the Board and other members to reach out into our respective areas for speakers and other opportunities for teaching and training in our meetings each month, in our continuing effort, as an Association, to grow and be relevant within our state.

## **CODE DISCUSSION:**

Jay Winchester stated that several of his hi-tech companies were using mini-split heat pumps to heat/cool small spaces within their facilities. Several of the installing contractors are requesting that his jurisdiction inspect the pressure tests for these small refrigerant systems. He polled the members present on how many of them witness these tests as a regular part of these installations.

It was generally agreed by the members present that 5/8" tubing size or smaller wasn't generally pressure-tested for these installations as we typically don't do them on similar installations.

John Corliss mentioned that often he will only ask for the brazing certificate cards of the person(s) doing the brazing in lieu of the testing.

Randy Soelberg noted that in many instances hi-tech and other larger projects are requiring the jurisdictions to inspect and witness these tests as a preferred practice for their customers. The group agreed that if the contractor/owner/installer/project manager wanted these systems pressure-tested, and witnessed by the AHJ, that it should be done to satisfy their requirements and desires for their projects.

The 2014 OMSC, Section 1108.1 requires, “Every refrigerant-containing part of every system that is erected on the premises, except compressors, vessels, evaporators, safety devices, pressure gauges and control mechanisms that are *listed* and factory tested, shall be tested and proved tight after complete installation, and before operation.” Exception #2 states that, “Systems erected on the premises with copper tubing not exceeding 5/8-inch (15.8 mm) OD, with wall thickness as required by ASHRAE 15, shall be tested in accordance with Section 1108.1, *or by means of refrigerant charged into the system at the saturated vapor pressure of the refrigerant at 70°F (21°C) or higher*”. (*Italics mine*)

The 2012 IMC Code Commentary explains that, “Exemption 2 describes the optional test for small field-assembled systems that are constructed with small diameter copper tubing. The vapor pressure of a refrigerant varies with the temperature and the type of chemical. The test pressure must not be less than the vapor pressure at 70°F (21°C) of the refrigerant for which the system is designed. The saturated vapor pressure is the pressure exerted by a refrigerant when liquid and gaseous refrigerant are in equilibrium in a container.”

Jay Winchester polled the members present about the need to raise furnace condensation pumps 18” above the garage floor or to surround them with at least an 18” high metal surround to prevent the potential of fire in an atmosphere where flammable vapors may be present inside the garage. (ORSC M1307.3) None of the other members are making this a requirement in their jurisdictions for a couple of reasons; 1) The condensation pump is a plug-in portable appliance that is not regulated per the OMSC 101.2 Scope, and which is similar to the installations for clothes washers/dryers, etc.; & 2) The 2014 OPSC Chapter 5, Water Heaters, states in Section 507.4 (4) that, “Electrical water heaters installed in garages may be installed at floor level.” No designation is made between the flammable vapor ignition resistant water heaters and other water heaters.

John Corliss brought in a field picture of a residential furnace replacement where the B-vent was touching the roof plywood and was sealed with aluminum tape at the connection with the existing vent. The group agreed that it was required that the roof deck meet the 1” minimum clearance-to-combustible standard of the B-vent, by whatever method the contractor chooses to implement, regardless of it being an existing or new vent installation. The aluminum tape at the connection with the existing system violated the listing and labeling of the vent manufacturer and that it blocked off the air gap designed into the vent. It was agreed it was a Band-Aid© approach to incorrectly combine two incompatible vent products into a pseudo-working connection and was not correct for the any application. The contractor needs to replace the vent materials with products that will connect together properly for the job to be completed per its listing.

Bill Hendrix brought to the members a contractor question. The HVAC contractor is using a stud cavity in an interior residential wall for passive air movement between two adjacent spaces

without lining this cavity with any other materials. The question was, “Is this acceptable by ‘building code’ for this application, or were other requirements necessary?” He cited the ORSC Section M11601.1.1.1, Use of building cavities in new construction that states, “The use of building cavities for air ducts, or plenums is not allowed in new construction or in an addition to an existing structure.” The contractors premise was that since he is not using this cavity to duct conditioned air into a space or using it as an air return then this section did not apply. The members present agreed with the contractor stating that since it was only being used for passive air movement between spaces that it did not apply to the code section presented and it could be done in the manner described. The example most prevalent was that manufactured homes typically have openings between rooms that are used in similar fashion; and also that combustion and make-up air openings into appliance spaces were not required to be ducted into the spaces but were merely cut into the walls between the rooms.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business with the exception of Executive Members completing assigned tasks in the change-over without Cross Enterprises, which are ongoing until completed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully,

Bill Hendrix  
Administrative Assistant Pro Tempore

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2016  
General membership meeting at 12:30 p. m.  
Marion County Public Works Building  
5155 Silverton Rd. NE  
Salem, OR.

Please note: An Executive Board meeting may be scheduled  
prior to the General membership meeting. TBD & TBA