



November, 2011

B.O.C.O.N.E.O. Officers

President

Ray Sack
Wickliffe, Ohio

First Vice President

Paul Kowalczyk
South Euclid, Ohio

Second Vice President

Dave Smith
Ashtabula County Building
Department

Secretary

Dave Hocevar
Village of South Russell

Treasurer

Mike Skvasik
Village of Glenwillow

Past President

Phil Seyboldt
Bedford, Ohio

President's Message

Dear Members,

At our last monthly meeting, concern was raised over a proposed amendment to the Bylaws that would allow the Board of Directors to amend provisions of the Bylaws. I would like to explain more in depth our thinking behind the need for amendment of the Bylaws so that you can better understand my motivation in proposing this project, and the Board's goals for undertaking it.

BOCONEO is an organization formed in 1981 for the purpose of providing education and support to building officials and other building professionals in Northeast Ohio. Over the years, our organization has grown by leaps and bounds to include over 350 members. During my tenure on the Board of Directors, I came to realize that the daily demands placed upon the members of our Board of Directors, who serve with little or no compensation and who each have full-time jobs of their own, has left little time for attention to organizational maintenance. For this reason, we reviewed our Articles of Incorporation and found they were in need of amendment, which we recently addressed. Along the same lines, we are now reviewing our Bylaws, which are outdated and inconsistent.

Continued on page two...

Education Institute

Remember we are holding an educational institute on November 17-18. Details and sign up forms are available at the website.

This Month's Meeting

IBI Compliant Post Installed
Instructor: Craig Warner
#BBS 2012-025 Approved for 1Hour
All commercial certifications except ESI

[Register Here](#)

or at the website
www.boconeo.org

Plumbing Roundtable

@ 10:15 am

&

Electrical Roundtable

@ 10:15 am.



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To give you an example of what I am talking about, there is a provision in the Bylaws that provides that a quorum for a meeting of members, where the meeting has “not been publicized,” is 15 members if there are more than 45 members in the organization. A quorum is the number of people required to be present at a meeting in order for a vote to be taken. Clearly, this rule is outdated! At the same time, the rules provide that notice must be given of all meetings, and for special meetings, it must be given “as stated herein.” Nowhere in the Bylaws does it state how notice of a special meeting is to be given. Also, why is there a rule about quorums for matters not publicized when notice is always required? Sound confusing? It is! One of the main reasons to overhaul the Bylaws is to eliminate this type of confusion, and create clear rules that everyone can understand.

Another one of my goals as President has been to take advantage of new technology to make our organization more efficient and cost effective. One of the rules being considered is a single notice provision (replacing 5 other provisions) that will provide for notice by email, unless a request for notice by regular mail is made. This will save the organization money in postage and provide for instant notification with little effort.

There are other changes being considered and a summary of these proposals is provided. For your information, a committee has been appointed to study the proposals and make a recommendation to the Board, who will then vote on whether to amend the Bylaws. As suggested, we have also come up with an appeal provision that will allow members to ask that a vote be taken on any amendment.

I hope this explanation makes you more comfortable with what the Board is doing on your behalf. To sum it up, this is an organization of professionals; therefore, the organization itself should be organized and professional. I hope you'll support us in our efforts to make it so.



Warmest regards,

Ray Sack, President



NOTICE
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of BOCONEO will be held on November 16, 2011, at 12:00 p.m., at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Drive, Independence, Ohio.

Pursuant to the Bylaws of BOCONEO, notice is further given of the slate of candidates who have been recommended by the Nominating Committee and are running for election for the 2012 to 2014 term:

For President: Paul Kowalczyk
For First Vice President: David L. Smith For
Second Vice President: Jerry Flanik For
Secretary: David Hocesvar
For Treasurer: Michael Skvasik

Further, pursuant to the Bylaws, opportunity to present further nomination from the floor will be given at the annual meeting and a vote taken.

Further, notice is hereby given that a vote will be held to amend ARTICLE XI of the Bylaws of BOCONEO. Article XI – AMENDMENTS currently states as follows:

Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors who shall consider the same and report their recommendations at the next business meeting of the Conference. The members shall vote upon such amendments at that or any subsequent meeting, provided a summary of the proposed amendments to these bylaws has been included in the notice of said meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum meeting shall be required on such amendments.

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing all of the Bylaws with the goal of amending them to make them easier to read, more succinct, cohesive, and up to date with current procedures that have been found to be more efficient for the operations of BOCONEO. Most of what needs to be amended is procedural or editorial only. It is not the intention of the Board to detract from the right of the membership to be heard; rather, the Board does not wish to burden the members with tedious discussions on language,



restructuring and reorganizing the Bylaws, or other similar matters that do not affect members' rights. A provision has been included to permit members to request a vote on any proposed amendment.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors is recommending that ARTICLE XI be amended as follows:

- (A) Except where the right to vote on amendments is expressly reserved to the members, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Proposed amendments that would increase the amount of dues, change the qualifications for membership, or diminish the right to participate, vote at meetings, or hold office shall only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting after proper notice.
- (B) Whenever the Board of Directors votes to amend a provision of these Bylaws, notice of the amendment shall be given to the members. Any voting member in good standing may request in writing that the amendment be voted upon by the membership. Said request must be received by a member of the Executive Board within thirty (30) days of the date notice was sent.
- (C) If three (3) or more timely requests for vote are received, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to vote at the next regular monthly meeting of the membership. A two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting shall be necessary to pass the amendment.
- (D) If no timely request for vote is received, the amendment shall automatically go into effect thirty-one (31) days after the date on which notice of the amendment was given.

A majority vote of the members present at the November 16, 2011 meeting shall be necessary to pass the amendment.



Summary of Possible Amendments

Please note that this is a list of proposed amendments that are being *studied* by the Board. No decisions to amend have been made at this time. This list does not address the numerous language changes that have no impact on the way business is conducted.

ARTICLE I, General

1. Add notice provision providing for notice via email unless regular mail is requested.
2. Amend name provision to reflect recent Amendment of Articles of Incorporation

ARTICLE II, Purpose

Amend to match purposes stated in Articles of Incorporation

***ARTICLE III, Membership**

1. Add language to Regular Membership Provision to permit certified professionals who have a contract with a government agency to be a regular member
2. Combine Regular and Associate Membership as there is no difference between dues or rights.
3. Add statement of rights for honorary members as none exists in Bylaws.
4. Amend to allow Retired Members to include persons who have retired from building profession, but who may have other employment
5. Change provision on revocation of membership. Current Bylaw permits Board of Directors to revoke membership without cause. Set forth reasons (non-payment of dues, unprofessional or disruptive behavior, proof of lack of qualification for membership) and give members a right to notice and opportunity to be heard.
6. Make membership automatic upon submission of application and payment of dues, removing requirement of committee review for each application
7. Require Bylaws to be amended to reflect changes in dues, rather than merely attaching them to Bylaws. Update Bylaws to reflect current dues (previously approved by membership)

***NOTE:** Numbers 1 through 5, as they change qualifications for membership, would be submitted to a vote if the Board recommends the amendment. Numbers 6 and 7 involve internal procedure and would not be submitted to a vote unless requested.

ARTICLE IV, Board of Directors

1. Define "Executive Board" as voting members of the Board.
2. Add Webmaster to Board of Directors.



ARTICLE V, Elected Officers and Duties

1. Limit authority of President to authorize ordinary expenditures to those under \$500.00
2. Add authority to President to supervise contracts unless otherwise assigned by Board
3. Add duty to Secretary to authenticate corporate documents
4. Clarify rules regarding appointment of successors when office becomes vacant.

ARTICLE VI, Appointed Positions and Duties

Change name from Educational Chairman to Educational Director

ARTICLE VII, Nominations and Elections

1. Clarify and document procedures in use (no change) when nominations are made from the floor
2. Define “member in good standing,” a term used in current Bylaws as a prerequisite to the right to hold office and vote, but which is not defined

ARTICLE VIII, Meetings

1. Eliminate reference to “Robert’s Rules of Order,” a complex book on parliamentary procedure, as rules to be followed in meetings, and replace with rule requiring votes to be taken on motion after opportunity for discussion.
2. Provide that President give notice of all Board Meetings to Board members
3. Change quorum rules to provide that a quorum is the voting membership present at a regular meeting and at special meetings for which notice of the special purpose has been given.

ARTICLE IX, Committees

Make appointment of committees optional rather than mandatory.



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Paul's Update

The new code cycle goes into effect on November 1st. The Board of Building Standards will be having a code book distribution and training for the Building Officials of each department on November 8th and 10th in Reynoldsburg. Each department will be receiving a set of the new code editions, code commentaries and associated handbooks. As with each new code cycle there is mandatory training. The BBS will be instructing the departments on the mandatory code training which will be online for all certified personnel. The code books and training is being funded by the three percent assessments collected on behalf of the Board.

On November 16th at the annual business meeting for the BOCONEO organization, you will have the opportunity to select the officers for the 2012-2013 terms. I am asking for your support to elect me as the next BOCONEO President.

In 2008, I was selected as the Second Vice President to fill the unexpired term of William Griswold and have had the opportunity to serve this organization along with President Phil Seyboldt. During my first term, the Board successfully grew the membership to a point where we are now the largest building official group in Ohio. In my next term as Vice President with the organization, under the leadership of President Ray Sack, the Board began demonstrating our dedication to education by formulating the Fall Educational Institute which will be held for its second year later this month. If elected your next President, I would like to build upon the work started in these past two terms. I believe we are a strong organization that provides exceptional educational opportunities and we are made up of hundreds of individuals with diverse talents. I would like to lead our group to expand beyond our bounds and begin to give back to the community through volunteer activities. We have educated our members, now let's educate and help the public.

It has been a pleasure serving on the Executive Board for the last four years and I look forward to your support! On November 8th, do not forget to get out and vote on Election Day. As a United States citizen, our right to vote is a privilege that we must not take for granted!

Paul Kowalczyk, CBO, RA
Vice President





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This Months Educational Presenter

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Craig Warner with Hilti
bbs2012-025 Approved for 1Hour
All commercial certifications except ESI

Dear Members,

Because of the new Code changes, The Board of Building Standards recently advised that new course approvals would be necessary for courses being taught after November 1, 2011, that included any commercial content. In trying to arrange for November's class, we were unable to find any instructors available for this month's class who had updated their course approvals or who taught strictly residential courses. I am very thankful to Craig Warner, who will teach our November class, for having stepped up to the plate with an approved course on fasteners. Unfortunately, the course does not cover any residential certifications and for this, I apologize to our residential inspectors. We look forward to providing a well-rounded educational program in 2012 to cover all certifications.

I hope you all have a great holiday season. Thank you,



Rob Brown
Educational Chairman
BOCONEO



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Technically Speaking...

Class registration : Beginning this month, you can now sign up for roundtables at the same time you sign up for the general meeting and class. There is no longer a need for separate sign up links. There is an extra field to click when registering. It states, are you a City of Cleveland Employee. It is mandatory to click yes or no to proceed with your registration. Again, this was incorporated to be able to use only one sign up link and still be able to separate the information as is required by BBS and Cleveland.

Membership Roster: We have added a membership roster to the website. It is located under the "About Boconeo" tab on the home page. In the interest of privacy, we have only included the following: name, employer, employer phone, email. This roster is for personal use only and not for unsolicited mail or advertising. Anyone wishing to NOT be on the website roster can send an email to webmaster@boconeo.org for removal.

Job Openings: The job openings posted on the website have been upgraded. Each position now has its own webpage. They are listed under the "Positions" tab on the home page. When you hover your mouse over this tab, a drop-down opens showing all the pages with the most recent at the top.



Gregory Fort, Webmaster
BOCONEO