



QUARTERLY UPDATE

SUMMER 2018

Upcoming Events:

2018 MAHCO/MEHA Fall Training

Thursday October 4th, 2018 7:30
am—4:00 pm
Woodlake Meeting Center
210 Woodlake Dr, Rochester, MN
55904

Hotel Info.
Country Inn and Suites
77 Woodlake Dr.
Rochester, MN 55904

Monthly MAHCO Executive Board Meetings

2nd Thursday of every month
10:00am
Location Varies
Contact a Board Member if you are
interested in joining us!

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annual conference

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"A Few Things!" From Your President



Happy Summer from your President! I hope that the warmer temperatures have given you energy to address the property maintenance issues that quickly come with the warm weather. I have recently talked with several members and they are very hard at work addressing overgrown yards, junk piles and abandoned vehicles. I applaud all of you for your dedicated and hard work to keep your communities safe and beautiful.

MAHCO has been hard at work these past few months to build up our Association. We are examining our processes and creating new and exciting ways to engage and recognize our members. The website has been updated to provide more information on annual conferences, trainings, and resources. Stop by and take a look!

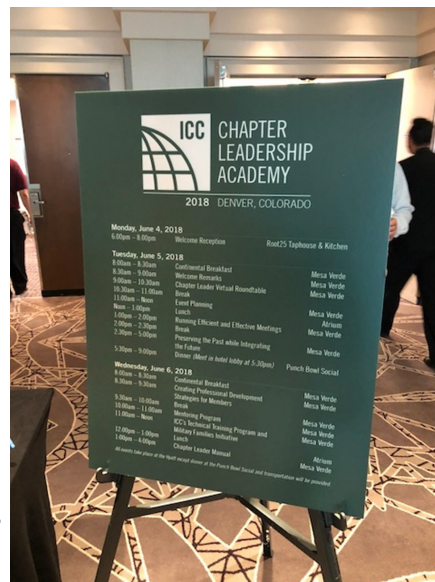
In addition, the Executive Board will be having a retreat in September to create a strategic plan for the next 2-3 years. It is our goal to make sure that MAHCO continues to progress in providing excellent training opportunities, increase Member and Association awareness throughout the state and succession planning.



“A few things!” From your President (Cont.)

Did you know that MAHCO is a recognized Chapter of the International Code Council? As an ICC Chapter MAHCO receives benefits such as free attendance and travel for the President to the Leadership Academy or registration to the Annual Conference, a free day of ICC training and discounts on ICC books and products.

In June I attended the International Code Council’s 3rd Annual Chapter Leadership Academy in Denver Colorado. Represented at the Academy were over 50 chapter leaders from all over the country.



The two-day training covered chapter best practices, running effective meetings, preserving the past while integrating the future, mentoring, ICC technical training program and military initiative and the new chapter leader manual.



All of the information I have brought back to Minnesota will be discussed by the Board and support further growth of our Association.

That’s all for now! Again, it is my great pleasure to serve as your President. Please feel free to contact me anytime. Keep up the great work!

2018 League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference

President Greg Smith and Past President Ben Pierson attended The League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference in St. Cloud on June 20-21st. This is the first time that MAHCO has been involved as an exhibitor for this event. Both Greg and Ben networked with elected officials from throughout the state handing out information on the importance of code enforcement and highlighting the diligent hard work that MAHCO members provide to their jurisdictions.



MAHCO Recognition Award

At the Spring Training President Greg Smith recognized Member Matt Novak, with the City of Woodbury, and presented him with an award for ten years of dedicated service to MAHCO. Matt was an active executive board member and also represented MAHCO, and its members, in planning several annual trainings for the Annual Institute for Building Officials (AIBO) and the ICC Region III Annual Conference. Thank you for your dedicated service Matt!



Member Spotlight

Josh Schaack

By: Shannon Rohr, Bloomington

Josh Schaack has been a MAHCO member for 2.5 years. He works as an Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Bloomington. Josh is responsible for inspecting all multifamily complexes and fielding single-family and multifamily complaints. He helps to inspect the 1500+ single family homes every summer. He also inspects Gross Unsanitary Dwellings in apartments and conducts temporary food inspections. After graduating from college, Josh worked for the UMN-Duluth medical school, having singing as a passion he then sang with a few professional A Capella groups, which landed him a 6-month cruise ship contract. When his cruise ship contract was completed, he got a job inspecting food, pools and lodging with the Minnesota Department of Health.

Josh was born in and grew up in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. At Park High School, Josh was active in theater, choir and was also on the swim team. He attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth and received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. He is currently serving on a MAHCO committee for planning the AACE conference which is coming to Minnesota in fall of 2019.

He presently lives in Minneapolis. When he is not working, he enjoys mountain biking, rock climbing, gardening, spending time in the Boundary Waters and woodworking. Josh and his girlfriend, Tara, have been together for 5.5 years but are currently separated by distance while she pursues a medical degree in Michigan. They visit each other often and share custody of their chocolate lab, Jake.

When asked why do you love your job, Josh says he enjoys getting out in the field every day, helping people improve their living environment and meeting and working with the wide variety of people. He stated that facilitating a good relationship with the owner is the best route to compliance. He also enjoys the camaraderie with fellow employees, sharing the good and bad days that occur in this work.

Board Member Contact Information

Executive Committee Contacts

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In the News (National)

Originally by: David Debolt; Bay Area News Group, November 13, 2017 — 9:18 AM

Oakland warehouse fire: Judge rules city had ‘mandatory duty’ to ensure safety at Ghost Ship

OAKLAND — Oakland may have had a duty to enforce building and fire codes at the Ghost Ship warehouse, according to a significant court ruling that could eventually leave the city liable for 36 deaths in the horrific Dec. 2 fire.

The Nov. 8 decision by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Brad Seligman pierces through broad immunities protecting California cities from civil lawsuits in which workers botched inspections of a building or failed to perform the inspection at all.

In his tentative ruling, Seligman cited the allegations by attorneys for the families of the victims and said their civil lawsuit “exhaustively” documented the dangerous conditions of the Fruitvale district artist collective:

“The plaintiffs allege the city ‘knew in advance’ of the fire of various unpermitted uses and dangers, including a ‘likely risk of fire’ and that ‘in the event (sic) of a fire occupants of the building were likely to die or suffer serious bodily injury due to the many violations of mandated building codes and safety provisions, all of which the city was aware of and required to enforce at all relevant times,’” Seligman wrote.



The Ghost Ship warehouse is seen this aerial view from 31st Avenue and International Boulevard in the Fruitvale district of Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. Dec. 2 marks the one-year anniversary of the deadly fire which killed 36 people. (Jane Tyska/Bay Area News Group)

The ruling wasn't on the merits of the plaintiffs' complaint but overruled a demurrer filed by the city of Oakland in opposition to the lawsuit. The judge said at this point, all allegations have to

In the News (National)

Continued

be considered until the facts of the case are argued. City spokeswoman Karen Boyd referred questions to the City Attorney's Office, which did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Records show Oakland police, firefighters and building inspectors visited the warehouse before the December inferno, sometimes going inside the labyrinth-like collective stuffed with pianos and a maze of extension cords where more than 20 people illegally lived.

One firefighter admitted to attending a holiday party there in 2014 for the faculty of his wife's school. The party was held on the second floor of the Ghost Ship, according to court records. In March 2015, [a police officer shut down a wild rave there](#), telling partygoers he would report them to the city. The City Attorney's Office is looking into a [report by this newspaper](#) in which multiple eyewitnesses said firefighters stopped by a September 2014 party at the warehouse. Yet a fire inspection was never performed at the warehouse, according to city officials.

Attorneys for the city argued any visits to the Ghost Ship amounted to an inspection. California government code shields public entities from liability based on a failure to inspect.

Mark Gergen, a UC Berkeley law professor who reviewed Seligman's ruling, said the judge is "finding a rather creative exception to the immunity rule."

"What the judge is doing is not alleging they were negligent in inspection but alleging they knew about this" and "it's a failure to act," Gergen said.

Oakland can appeal the court decision.

"I fully expect the city to file an appeal at some point," said Bobby Thompson, an attorney for the plaintiffs. "They feel they should be given a pass for these types of cases. We get to try to prove to the court that they failed to perform their mandatory duties under the law."

For now, the city of Oakland remains a defendant in the massive civil lawsuit. Ghost Ship landlord Chor Ng, master tenant Derick Almendra, Alameda County, PG&E and others are also listed as defendants.

Special Announcement

AACE Scholarship Winner!

MAHCO would like to announce our first annual AACE Scholarship winner. After reviewing four well qualified and deserving candidates the board chose Josie Verhasselt from the City of Minneapolis as the first recipient of MAHCO's scholarship to the American Association of Code Enforcement's Annual Education Conference in Colorado. Josie is relatively new to enforcement and will benefit greatly from educational and networking experience she will gain at this year's conference.

MAHCO would like to sincerely thank all of the applicants for taking the time to submit written requests for the scholarship. It was a very close decision this year, but we would like to encourage future requests as we hope to make this yearly scholarship for our membership. We would also like to mention that scholarships to the AACE Conference are still available through Safeguard properties. Please see the information below for how to apply for this scholarship.

Congratulations Josie we hope you make the best of this experience!



**Annual Educational Code Conference!
Safeguard Offers Scholarships to Colorado...
Broomfield, Colorado
October 29th – November 2nd**

Please visit the link below for more information and to enter

www.aace1.org

Important Information

Member & Program of the Year

MAHCO is opening up nominations to all members to nominate a member of your jurisdiction that you believe has met the criteria set forth to be selected as MAHCO Member of the Year.

MAHCO is also opening up nominations to all members to nominate a program(s) from your jurisdiction that you believe have met the criteria set forth to be selected as MAHCO Program of the Year.

The MAHCO Board will select one individual and one program. The MAHCO President will present the award to the person selected and the jurisdiction whose program has been selected at the December board meeting.

To nominate someone or your jurisdiction program(s) for the award, please review the criteria and complete the nomination entry form, then either mail or email the entry form(s) to:

MAHCO
Attn: Vonnie Linnell
250 South 4th St, Room 300
Minneapolis, MN 55415
mnmahco@gmail.com

FALL TRAINING: October 4th, 2018: MAHCO is partnering with the Minnesota Environmental Health Association (MEHA) for a joint fall training at the Wood Lake Meeting Center in Rochester. More Information Coming Soon!

*****Save the Date: The 2019 American Association of Code Enforcement Annual Conference will be held in Bloomington, MN next October!**