



NEWSLETTER, 28 FEBRUARY 2007

It's Time to Be Counted!

Folks, as I write this – literally - there are bureaucrats in Lansing attempting once again to determine what they think a home inspection ought to be, and how it ought to be done. There was even a suggestion that we all use the same form for reporting inspection results to clients. Does that have your attention? Good, because there is work to be done again this year. So roll up your sleeves, and read this.

A meeting was held with Representative Frank Accavitti Jr. on this past Tuesday the 27th of February, to discuss the Representative's intentions for new legislation licensing home inspectors. We had known that Representative Accavitti intended to introduce new legislation this session, and had been in contact with his office through our legislative counsel, Mat Dunaskiss. A decision was made at the December board meeting to have material ready for the Representative by the end of January. Tuesday's meeting presented this material to the Representative.

Back-tracking just a bit, in January MichAHI was given a copy of what legislators call a “Blue”. This is a document from Legislative Services Bureau that is in the format of a Bill, but has not yet been introduced, and is usually produced by LSB at the request of a legislator. The Blue was shared among MichAHI Legislative Committee members and the Board. The primary concern with the Blue we had been given was that it in many ways appeared to be worse than the last version of HB 4076 that we were working so hard on last year. Obviously, MichAHI had to suggest changes. Hence the meeting on Tuesday.

MichAHI reiterated the importance of good legislation that will protect consumers and raise the bar for home inspections. The Blue had left out grandfathering, and so would have created an “inspector vacuum”. MichAHI asked that a grandfathering clause be inserted, and provided draft wording. In the end, it is difficult to say what will come back from LSB. In theory, Representative Accavitti will allow MichAHI to review the new Blue before introducing it as legislation. However, I am personally not convinced this will happen. We need to be ready.

The political circumstances have changed in Lansing since last session. Last session, HB 4076 was stalled in committee. Nothing happened with it until House Republicans attempted to recruit Representative Accavitti for support. Representative Accavitti now finds himself a member of the majority party in the House, and has said “this will be like a greased pig”. His intention is obviously to fast-track his legislation to license home inspectors. And that, fellow MichAHI members, is why MichAHI came into existence, and the very reason why we now have a “call to arms”. We could very well need to be licensed by July of this year, and that license may not have any more meaning than an increase in overhead for your business. Stay tuned, as there will be frequent updates via e-mail as new developments come to our attention.

Educational Tidbit

[http://www.gamanet.org/gama/inforesources.nsf/vAttachmentLaunch/5B203FDB4BEC43D985256F-BE00549431/\\$FILE/GAMAInspector.swf](http://www.gamanet.org/gama/inforesources.nsf/vAttachmentLaunch/5B203FDB4BEC43D985256F-BE00549431/$FILE/GAMAInspector.swf)

from the E.C. & M. Newsletter:

Code News Update

The Need for Tamper-Resistant Wiring Devices

Proposal 18-40 of the 2008 NEC Report on Proposals calls for the addition of a new section to Art. 406. The new section (406.11) would require the installation of tamper-resistant receptacles in dwelling units. More specifically, the proposed wording would read: "In all areas specified in 210.52, all 125-volt, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles shall be listed tamper resistant receptacles." According to a news item in the January 2007 issue of NEMA's *Electroindustry*, the submitter referenced a 10-year study by the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System -- a recording system of the Consumer Product Safety Commission -- in support of this proposal. The study documented approximately 24,000 electrical injuries to children caused by inserting objects into unprotected electrical receptacles.

Members of Code-Making Panel No. 18 have voted 11 to 1 in favor of accepting this proposal.

Politics

The new bill, which we have yet to see, may not meet the standards that the old HB 4076 met, and may include higher fees for examinations and licensing. The Department of Licensing and Economic Growth now supports new licensing with higher fees and strong enforcement. This is a change from last year. That is one more point for licensing. Be prepared to make telephone calls, send faxes, and write letters. You will be notified when action is needed, and how you can help. For the time being, cultivate a relationship with your state legislators, whether in the House or the Senate. Don't put this off! One good reason to contact them is the proposed "Service Tax". This is an excise tax on services. Home inspections would be taxed.

Though it appears this may not pass, and even insiders are saying it is dead, this would still be a great excuse to contact your senator and representative to let them know your thoughts on it, and how it would impact your business. You might also be interested in commenting to them on the governor's proposed budget for 2008. You might find it interesting to note that, while state troopers are being laid off and prisoners set free, the governor and her lieutenant are not taking even a penny's pay cut under the proposed 2008 budget. How might that impact your business? As a responsible business owner, how do you think this reflects on businesses in Michigan? In a recent poll, over 85 percent of the MichAHI membership opposed the excise tax. Read the budget proposal (a mere 114 pages) and excise tax proposal to learn more. Both the excise tax and budget can be found on-line at the state web site. Try these links:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/budget_2008_small2_186327_7.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmb/Services_Taxed_and_Exempt_2-12-07_188245_7.pdf

Information

Standing Committees:

Nominating and Election Committee	Chairman:	(you!)
Membership Committee	Chairman:	Steve Schlicker
Rules and By-Laws Committee	Chairman:	(you!)
Audit Committee	Chairman:	(you!)
Legislative Committee	Chairman:	Mike Goewey

Additional Committees:

Education Committee	Chairman:	(you!)
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for a list of Board Members, and membership list, visit our web site at www.michahi.org

Additionally, votable polls are posted from time-to-time, and your vote will help determine how MichAHI responds to various state activities that affect our membership. Click on the MichAHI Bulletin Board link on the lower left-hand side of our web site!

Agenda for General Membership Meeting

When: 15 March 2007, 1800 hours [6:00 p.m.]

Where: Baker's of Milford

6:00 p.m.	President's Address, State of the Association
6:20 p.m.	Update on Legislation, Questions
6:55 p.m.	Election Results, Installation of Officers and Board
7:15 p.m.	General Discussion

meals available

mark your calendar, this is the ONE meeting this year you dare NOT miss!