



# NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS PERMIT TECH CHAPTER

## President's Corner Student Leadership Academy



"What makes a leader great?" A great leader is someone who achieves objectives while in the face of adversity; otherwise success would be easy because there would be nothing blocking the way, no challenges, and no goals to meet. So is Leadership an art or a science. It could be an art because it requires creativity and change, but then it could be considered a science due to the principles and techniques that are developed or required. As for skills used in leadership the scientific or technical view would see specific qualities like strength, knowledge, the ability to communicate, and decisiveness; while the artistic side would stress that leaders must hold skills that inspire, empathize, innovate and have the ability to make everyone around you better. But all would agree that integrity is one of the most important skills, showing people that you will do what you say and say what you do.

Leadership skills are quite different than those required to be a manager, or supervisor as leadership and management are not the same. To be a leader, one needs an exclusive set of human relations and interpersonal skills, the essence of being able to influence. It can be said that there are similarities and differences in leadership and management which are often confused; usually by managers. To me the primary difference is that a Leader bases his decision on his or her internal knowledge as part of a complete process while a manager usually bases his or her decisions on the manual. The roles are often at odds with each other and a good leader is not necessarily a good manager. While a good manager will usually demonstrate some leadership skills. It is said that leadership is not a skill that you are taught, but one that is learned, through patience, persistence, motivation, and hard work.

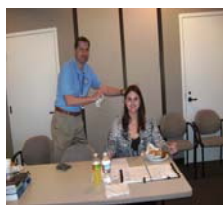
So if you would like to develop your leadership qualities and skills please take a look at your local community college and look into enrolling in a class, it will be well worth your time.

## Chapter Meetings

Come join the fun. During our meetings, we discuss the education of permit technicians all over. Education is the key to your certification. Another topic is general building issues that affect all of our ju-

risdictions. A great way to get involved is to join one of

our four committees. Education, Newsletter, By-Laws, and Special Events. These committees allow the chapter to be involved with the community and to serve our surrounding communities.



Your ideas are needed so that we may serve our permit technicians to the best of our ability.

Another great reason to attend are the door prizes.



We look forward to seeing you soon.



## 2009 Training

- May 28th—ICC eTraining Webinar—2009 I P M C U p d a t e ([www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org))
- June 18th—2006 IBC Means of Egress—Grand Prairie (206 W Church, 972-237-8230)
- September 16th—ICC eTraining Webinar—2009 IZC Update ([www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org))
- September 21-25—ICC Residential Inspection Institute—Austin, TX ([www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org))

May 2009

**Carey Frazier—President**  
**Edgar Ermis—Vice President**  
**Helen Mapplebeck—Treasurer**  
**Holly Blake—Recorder**

## Meeting Schedules

- July 15, 2009
- September 16, 2009
- November 18, 2009

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**Ideas and Future Submittals—Holly Blake—[hblake@nctptc.org](mailto:hblake@nctptc.org) or**

**Visit the website at [www.nctptc.org](http://www.nctptc.org)**



## What's in the area?

### City of Decatur

Until Recently, Decatur has been one of the best-kept secrets in north central Texas. As with any secret, however, the word is getting out...

Just 38 miles from the heart of the Fort Worth metropolitan area, and less than an hour from DFW International Airport, Decatur provides convenient access to any product or location your heart desires. But what makes Decatur unique is our community culture. Traffic problems, violent crime and fear are virtually nonexistent here. Children are safe in Decatur without having to sacrifice a quality education.



Come visit Decatur.

You can shop in our stores, study our history and meet some friendly people. Take a look at our homes, new and old. Visit our banks where you get to talk to a real, live banker. And don't worry if you fall in love with our way of life because, whether for a day or a lifetime, you're welcome in Decatur

### City Attractions:

- Wise County Courthouse—Historic Downtown Decatur
- Wise County Heritage Museum—1602 South Trinity
- EL Castile—1005 East Main St
- Texas Tourist Camp—900-904 South Business 81-287

1601 South State St, Decatur 76234  
[www.decaturtx.org](http://www.decaturtx.org)

### City of Arlington

Everyone is aware of the new Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, located in Arlington, Texas. Jerry Jones and Mayor Robert Cluck are counting down the days for their final inspection. The Grand Opening is scheduled for June 6th—George Strait Concert. This will also be the site for Super Bowl XLV in 2011. This of course is only one of many attractions.

### City Attractions:

- Dallas Cowboys—Texas Stadium
- Texas Rangers—Ballpark in Arlington
- Six Flags Over Texas
- Hurricane Harbor
- River Legacy



Texas Stadium under construction

### City of Plano

*Live Green Expo* Attended by Thousands; Ed Begley, Jr. Keynote Speaker

A respected actor and champion for the environment, Ed Begley, Jr. was the keynote speaker at Plano's April 18th *Live Green Expo*, solidly demonstrating he's a man who walks the walk and talks the talk. How exiting! This is just one of many events hosted by Plano.

### City Attractions:

- Arbor Hills Nature Preserve
- Fairview Farms
- Heritage Farmstead
- Interurban Railway Museum
- Southfork Ranch
- Amazing Jakes



Southfork

## How Do You Make And Convey Decisions?

How do you make a decision when called upon? Do you call upon your memory? Do you just decide to do it "how it has always been done"? Do you review the code section dealing with the issue and then make your decision? Which is best? Your memory is a valuable tool, and for a lot of us, fairly accurate. "It has always been done this way" may work in some instances, but have you asked "Why do we do it this way?" "Just because we always have" really isn't an answer you want to defend. If you take the time to revisit the code, you will "never" be wrong. When applied correctly, you will always be consistent. I don't know about you, but through the years, if I have heard one complaint about our chosen profession, it is consistency. Most contractors, if asked, will reply, "I don't care what your rules are. I just want to know what they are so I can follow them, complete my project, and move on to the next one."

How we as code professionals present our decisions or opinions can have a tremendous affect on the person or persons receiving the information. All too often, the person receiving the information is already wired for a dispute, especially if the decision or opinion does not suit their particular situation. Do you offer to meet with them in your office to discuss the situation? Do you offer to meet them at their construction site to discuss the solutions? If you are truly understanding of their feelings and how your decision will affect this person, your concern will come across. You can be sympathetic, yet firm. If you present your decision with a "this is what the code says, and this is what you shall do" attitude, you may achieve compliance, but you haven't done your job. Since you are the AHD (Authority Having Jurisdiction), it's your call or interpretation that counts. Check to see if there is a way to satisfy the intent of the code, thus

allowing some flexibility in a "Yes or No" answer. Don't compromise safety or minimum code, and if the situation gets to that point, you are paid to make the right decision, not the easy one. Just take a little time to explain the reason for your decision based on safety and compliance with minimum code. Then, most important of all, be consistent. It has been my experience that people may not like what you require them to do, but if everyone else is being required to do the same thing, they will abide with the decision. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care, and remember: the art of "diplomacy" is having someone do what they don't want to do, but feel it was their idea to change and/or compromise.



## Saving Lives

Nearly 80% of all fire deaths in the United States occur in the home, killing nearly 3,000 people every year. The risk of dying in a home by fire decreases 82% when sprinklers are properly installed. Fire sprinklers are economical, reliable and proven to be the best way to protect a family and home from the dangers of a fire. Sprinklers work automatically and immediately and can stop a fire before it spreads. Fire sprinkler systems have been saving lives and protecting property for more than 130 years. Residential sprinklers are now designed to respond to fire much faster than currently available commercial and industrial sprinkler systems due to improved sensitivity and can be installed with minimal work. Today, you can find fire sprinklers in homes of every size and style.

### Fire Facts:

- Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
- Nationwide, more than 4,000 people die in fires each year.
- Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss and can even help cut homeowner insurance premiums.

- Only the sprinkler closets to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler.



- Nationally, on average, home fire sprinkler systems add 1% to 1.5% of the total building cost in new construction.
- Home fire sprinklers use only a fraction of the water used by fire department hoses.
- Home fire sprinkler systems are at least as reliable as home plumbing systems.
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.

For more information—contact your city fire inspector. All codes for fire related projects can be found in the 2006/2009 IBC, IRC, and IFC.

## Congratulations Scholarship Winners

At the March 18, 2009 meeting, the NCTPTC agreed to sponsor 4 individuals for BPI. The winners are; 1) Patty Stringer, 2) Sammie Bolling, 3) Kathy Resmondo, and 4) Edgar Ermis.

Congratulations to these individuals. We hope that you enjoy your classes. Future scholarships will be awarded to individuals for future training opportunities. Keep checking the website and/or attend meetings for updates.



***It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated.***

**Alec Bourne**



## Budgets Tight, Travel Restricted and Still Need CEUs?

Because of the important role that continuing education plays in keeping the built environment safe, the Code Council is making available a variety of distance learning opportunities that will provide easy access to affordable training. Distance learning reaps benefits in increased job performance, decreased travel time and decreased costs. The Code Council offers:

### ICC Campus Online

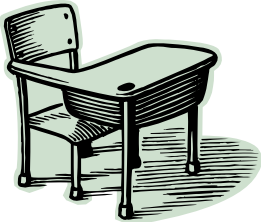
Available 24/7, the Campus provides anytime, anywhere access to training. The Campus features courses that provide detailed instruction on codes, along with popular certification practice courses that allow you to practice answer questions in an online environment. The online Campus benefits include the ability to learn at your own pace. Each course provides a 99-day subscription so you can return to the course as often as you wish to review the material and test your knowledge.

### Webinars

Webinars bring the reality of the classroom to your desktop. These scheduled events allow you to log in and learn. Each webinar features a live instructor viewable on your computer monitor, a downloadable handout that you use throughout the event and can refer to later, and a live question-and-answer session where you are able to interact with the instructor. One of the best benefits of the live webinars is the ability to bring the foremost experts right to you. Webinar instructors are selected for their expertise on the topic.

### Custom Webinars

Need training that includes local amendments, on a tight schedule, for select topics, with staff in multiple locations that need access to training? Your special requirements can be easily met with a customized webinar. Customized webinars allow us to broadcast the training you want directly to you. Call us at (888) ICC-SAFE (422-7233), ext. 33818 to schedule a custom webinar today.



For more information on how the Code Council can meet your training needs, drop us a line at [seminars@iccsafe.org](mailto:seminars@iccsafe.org)

## LENDING LIBRARY

Building Department Administration, 3rd edition

1999 Basic Code Enforcement

2006 International Zoning Code

2006 IBC Study Companion

Fundamentals of the I Codes for Permit Techs.

Permit Tech Study Companion

The Permit Counter - Skills and Strategies for the Front Line Inventory

IBC Flash Cards

IRC Flash Cards

2002 Legal Aspects of Code Administration

Legal Aspects of Code Administration Companion Guidebook

Legal Strategies for Effective Code Administration

You Can Build It!

