



By Arron Pfeifer

Clark County Building Department Inspector Wesley Walters introduced a proposed framing certification program to the attendees at the February 18 Framing Contractors Association luncheon at Texas Station. "The average house inspection usually takes an hour to an hour and a half to complete, if inspectors can improve on the inspection time, it will make life easier on all of us," Walters said.

At Clark County Walters is responsible for educating the inspection staff and new employees on the International Building and International Residential Code Requirements.

Walters started the luncheon by stating that both electricians and plumbers already have certification programs in place that works well. Once approved framing certification program will be the first created locally and will follow the guidelines of similar professional certification programs. In the beginning stages of the process, all framing input is immensely valued to ensure that the correct information will be applied to the program, Walters noted. He said the overall purpose of the program is to educate and that this new certification will allow the subcontractors and the inspectors to do their jobs better and quicker.

The certification will apply for both commercial and residential work, with both generally dealing with the same requirements. The program is designed to give framers a general knowledge of the code requirements and will not include practical application requirements.

Walters went through several proposed framing questions with the luncheon audience, giving them a sample of questions that could be in store for the certification test.

"I'm not asking people to be code experts, I just want them to have a general knowledge of what the codes include," Walters explained.

Walters told the attendees, "This is your profession. Be wise on what you do and continue to improve on your trade so you can make more money. He said knowledge of the code not only can help framers avoid costly remedial work, but also could prevent them from unnecessary overwork. He encouraged framers to build a core of knowledge that might even allow them to challenge their inspectors on whether the code really requires remedial work they request to be done over.

"If the inspector can't prove it, it doesn't exist," Walters said.

Walters encouraged everyone to read the code book and he promised the inspections would be easier.

The International Code Council helped developed both the electricians and the plumbers certification process and it will help develop the framing certification process also. The ICC was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The founders of the ICC are Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials and Southern Building Codes Congress International, Inc. The ICC will be participating in a meeting at the Clark County Building Department March 12-13 from 7 a.m. to 3p.m. to help create the framing certification process sample test. There will be a list of about 100 sample questions that will be narrowed down to the key questions that will be used for certification test. Those who wish to attend the meeting to help develop this program can contact Walters at 455-0557 or by email at hww@co.clark.nv.us

There will be a fee that is still to be determined for this certification. With the certification in the introductory phases, all input is encouraged from the framing industry. The estimated date for completion of this certification will be March of 2010.