

Presidents Message

During the past year the Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials has worked diligently to provide pertinent and informative seminars to code officials throughout the State of Connecticut. We have rebooted our website in order to ensure a stable platform with which to display information to our members and the public at large with regard to events and happenings related to safe housing. Our organization is leading the way in the effort to ameliorate and modernize housing codes between jurisdictions through a review of the published International Property Maintenance Code. This past year, CAHCEO has provided financial support for the Annual Hoarding Conference. Finally, we have made great efforts to reach out to other code enforcement organizations to include them in our organization with the hope that many voices under our tent will help to spread the importance the built environment and how positive health outcomes can be improved through effective enforcement.

The Property Maintenance Code Working Group is an off shoot of the State Health Improvement plan. The group has been meeting regularly since early in 2017 to review the International Code Councils 2015 International Property Maintenance Code. During these meetings representatives from ICC, state agencies, property owners associations, and professional code enforcement organizations including: Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, CAHCEO, CAZEO, CBOA, CEHA, and CADH have met to debate the language of the published IPMC. Through vigorous discussion we are close to completing this work. The next step in this process is to now find a home for these regulations through the legislative process. CAHCEO has offered testimony in support of changes to the existing regulations and will continue to lobby the legislature and state agencies to move forward in adopting meaningful changes to statewide property maintenance regulations.

In June I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend a leadership conference hosted by the International Code Council in Atlanta Georgia. This event brought together leadership from member organizations of ICC from across the country. The intent of the conference was to train officers in ways to improve our organizations. A highlight of the training was the opportunity to hear from a specialist in social media and how a social media presence is best harnessed to increase and improve the public's perception of an organization. I believe that one of the challenges we face in housing code enforcement is that while we enforce laws and codes we lack the spotlight of other authorities. Because of this challenge we must constantly explain the importance of a healthy and safe built environment. Improving our presence on social media can provide our organization and its mission a platform with which to keep a higher profile with the public. By spreading our mission to the public we will create both knowledge and support of the important work we do every day.

In the coming months we will be rolling out our Facebook page. This push into the public view will serve to carry our message to a broader audience. I hope that that you will all join me in welcoming this opportunity to introduce the public to our organization. If you have ideas for content or are interested in becoming more involved in either the organization or the mission of improving people's lives through

safe housing, please contact me for more information. I would also like to encourage you to get more involved in the organization as a whole. Be it the scholarship or legislative committees, or working on community outreach through social media there is an opportunity for you to make a bigger impact on both the organization and the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to lead the organization. I look forward to the coming year and the exiting challenges we will face together.

Best regards,

Caleb Cowles
President
Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials