

COLORADO CHAPTER, INC OF ICC – HISTORY

1953 TO 2008

The Colorado Chapter has a long and industrious history. This article will attempt to provide some of this glorious history. The following information was written by Larry Pirkel for a Chapter newsletter from 1986.

“The Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference was formed in 1922. The first president was Mr. M. C. Woodruff. The 1927 edition of the Uniform Building Code was published in December of 1928. Leather bound copies could be purchased for \$2.50. The eight annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference was held in Portland, Oregon on September 3 to 6, 1929, by which time 55 jurisdictions had adopted the U. B. C.

Two paragraphs of a letter from I.C.B.O. dated July 2, 1956 are:

“The name International Conference of Building Officials was selected to more nearly delineate the scope and purpose and to reflect the widespread use of the organization’s materials and services. The Uniform Building Code is now in use in the United States, Australia, Japan, Sweden, and several Central and South American countries. Its actual maintenance as a modern document commands the co-operation of building code specialists from border to border and coast to coast.”

“A San Francisco office, on the agenda since 1953, is being opened in the Flood Building, (room 784) 870 Market Street on July 16. John Behrens, appointed to the position by the Executive Board on March 24, is exceptionally well qualified by background and experience to fill this important position.”

A meeting of Colorado Building Officials was held at the Park Lane Hotel in Denver on November 12, 1952 for the purpose of organizing a local Chapter of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference. The first meeting of the Colorado Chapter of the Pacific Coast Building Officials was held on January 23, 1953, and officers were elected.

The name was changed to the Colorado Chapter of I.C.B.O. shortly after the I.C.B.O. name change in 1956. The name was changed to the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the I.C.B.O. in 1964 since we had members from Wyoming, Nebraska, and New Mexico. We later changed the name back to the Colorado Chapter as these states formed their own chapters. The letterhead of the Chapter for 1976 read “Rocky Mountain Chapter of the International Conference of Building Officials” with the following states listed at the bottom of the page: Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska. “

Of course our current letterhead reads slightly different. We are now called Colorado Chapter, Inc. of the International Code Council to reflect the changed name of our umbrella organization after the consolidation of the three model code groups. We list the Board Officers and Board members along the left side. We also have the current Chapter mission statement at the bottom. "The Colorado Chapter of the International Code Council is dedicated to the improvement of building safety by promoting and improving the International Codes, educating the building industry, public, our membership and providing mutual aid to building professionals."

There is a list of all of the Past Presidents (from 1953 through 2007) along with a list of Board members (from 1953 through 1986) available on a separate link on our Chapter website under Chapter History.

There is a separate link which has copies of numerous newsletters from the 1980's. There is also a separate link which has copies of the 6 yearbooks that the Chapter published between 1962 and 1967. We have made copies of the articles out of these yearbooks and not the advertisements but it is very interesting to see the activity of the Chapter membership in the early stages of our Chapter growth.

This Chapter was built by a group of extremely dedicated building code professionals. We are proud of our history and look forward to moving forward with our progress into the 21st century with the same sort of dedication and professionalism from our Board members and our general membership.