



# Building Inspectors Association

Northeastern Wisconsin Organized 1971

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## Minutes: March 6, 2025

**Business Meeting-** President Luke Fischenich called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM with 31 members in attendance.

*(No additions or amendments to the agenda were noted)*

**Member Introductions-** Members introduced themselves. No new members were present.

**Speaker:** Ann Jurkowski & Sara Niehueser with the WI Safety & Health Consultation. They gave a presentation on "Safety and Health for Building Inspectors". One CEU was provided for commercial building inspector credential holders.

Discussions/Key Takeaways:

- Identify potential hazards on job sites such as chemicals, ladders, noise, confined spaces, and weather.
- Wear personal protective equipment; safety glasses, hard hat, hi-viz vest, hearing protection, clothing (shoe covers and insect repellent for bed bugs).
- Check to see if you have to check/sign in on commercial projects and make sure you follow the required procedures.
- Be careful in confined spaces like crawlspaces, attics and basements with ladders. You need to worry about spiders, ticks, snakes, mosquitos.
- Be careful around hazardous chemicals on new construction sites. Epoxy's, isocyanates or other sprays can make you very sick.
- Carbon monoxide from heaters, generators or other equipment can be a problem on job sites.
- Crystalline silica limits have been reduced. Be careful around any drilling, cutting, grinding, crushing of rock, concrete, brick, block, mortar or engineered stone. Being exposed can cause cancer and kidney disease.
- Asbestos is still an issue and be careful around any removal or fraying of fibers.
- Watch out for trip hazards, wear head lamps on your hard hats and/or use flashlights.
- The number two cause of death on job sites are due to falling objects and moving objects. Wear your hi-viz vest and hard hats!
- The workplace can be hazardous. Be prepared and plan your route, travel with a companion, carry your cell phone, carry minimal cash, and carry a noise making device.

**Approval of Minutes-** A motion was made to approve the 2/6/25 minutes. The motion received a second and carried.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report-** Rob Cormier presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve the report. The motion received a second and passed.

**Secretaries Report-** Nicole Krahn stated that as of today 114 members have signed up and 113 have already paid their membership dues.

**President's Report-** Nothing to report.

**Committee Reports:**

**By-Laws-** Peter Fetters provided an update on the proposed changes to the by-laws. We eliminated the sergeant of arms and added accountability for officers that attend training. Members will now be required to be in good standing and need to provide a report back to the association. Luke Fischenich read off the proposed by-law changes. This will be postponed to the May meeting and the by-laws will be sent out to the membership for review.

Discussion commenced on the association plaque. Members mentioned that no one has seen it for 10-15 years. Doug Hoerth will look into creating a digital plaque for the website.

**Code Coordinating-** Nothing to report.

**Information & Schooling-** Andrew Prickett is working with MiTek on lining up a speaker for May. Members would like to see presentations on steel stud framing, tall walls (Ryan Jones with Truss Joist), APA on wall bracing, plan review, and fire stopping. The June training will be residential on sites in De Pere. Chelsea Meyers and Dennis Jensen will work on setting this up.

**Publicity & Historian-** No report given.

**Registration Coordinator-** Dennis Jensen was not present at the meeting but Chelsea Meyers stated that the attendance was great and Dennis will give an update at the next meeting.

**Website Coordinator-** Nothing to report.

**Sunshine Committee-** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

Discussion on the association paying up to \$25 for members to purchase sweatshirts with our association logo on them. Doug stated that the sweatshirts he purchased for the annual meeting were \$38-41 depending on the size of the sweatshirt. Luke thought that we should allow members to spend the money on apparel which may include T-shirts, sweatshirts, light shell jackets, etc. Luke Fischenich volunteered to look into this and he's looking for suggestions. He'll get an order form together and it will be placed on the association website within the next few months.

A motion was made to approve \$25 per member for the purchase of apparel. The motion received a second and the motion was approved.

Reminder of the standing motion where our association pays for members registration or two nights of the hotel stay at the state rate for the WBIA Institute. The registration is now open for this training which will take place April 16th-18th in

Eau Claire. The signup and agenda are now on the League of WI Municipalities website. If you would like our association to pay for your hotel rooms please let Luke Fischenich know. Luke will pay for members' rooms on behalf of our association at the Institute. Luke's email is [lfischenich@foxcrossingwi.gov](mailto:lfischenich@foxcrossingwi.gov).

***New Business:***

Discussion on the WBIA Institute and putting on our own training. Luke Fischenich stated that Jim Sojlander sent out an email that he had a discussion with Carrie Jensen and she stated that she's receptive to moving the training to the fall. He's wondering if our association would be receptive to staying with the League if they move it to the fall.

Members stated that now is the time for the WBIA to ask for being able to spend money for speakers, ability to have a fee for just attending one day, having the Institute in the fall, the associations should be allowed to have an hospitality room, we should see the expenses/revenue for the event, etc Luke Fischenich will contact Jim with items to talk to the League about.

Discussion on seeing if the League of WI would be more involved in lobbying for our associations. Members mentioned that we might have to have our administrators ask for the lobbying as they have a closer relationship with the League.

***Roundtable Discussions:***

- SPS 321.02 (2) Allowance for structural analysis (calculations) is allowed in place of the accepted practice in the Uniform Dwelling Code.
- Product approvals listed by ICC are typically allowed for UDC. Make sure that the product is installed per the listing.
- Reminder to look at the BIANEW Facebook page. Peter Feters is looking for a discussion on portal framing and short wall bracing sections.
- Discussion on the allowance of owners to do their own electrical work. It was noted that WPS doesn't allow owners to do their own service panels/meter sockets.
- Taping of drywall fire separation in the garage. Seams need to be backed with blocking or taped/sealed.
- Extensions of drywall for fire separation requirements in the garage. The drywall needs to extend out to the front of porches for fire separation between the house/garage.

***Adjournment-*** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Nicole Krahn***

BIANEW Secretary

Website: [www.bianew.org](http://www.bianew.org)