



Louisiana Automatic Fire Alarm Association, Inc.

President's Message September 2024

Danny Brown
President

September 19, 2024

Bradley Boudreaux
Vice President/Secretary

Greeting members and friends of the Louisiana Automatic Fire Alarm Association.

Greg Savant
Treasurer

I trust you have registered and will be attending our September Quarterly Meeting in Baton Rouge. It is hard to believe how fast this year has passed.

Michael Maggio
Director
Eastern Region

This year we saw our membership grow and are still looking for more companies to join. As we have mentioned through the years, if you know a company, please let me or one of the Board Members know so we can visit them.

Shane Seaux
Director
Western Region

2025 membership invoices will be going out late November. With the ease of online payments, we trust your company will have the dues paid on or before January 1, 2025.

Gene Osborne
Director
Northern Region

This past year we had Senate Bill 489 blind side us. This bill was introduced to eliminate NFPA Life Safety Code and use International Code Council's International Building Code and International Fire Code's life safety provisions. It also would have negative impacts on the State Fire Marshal's Office. Your association in conjunction with the Louisiana Sprinkler Association and Security Association fought this. We made some headway but not everything we wanted.

Bart Conradi
Director-At-Large

One thing that has come out of this, you or someone in your office needs to be involved with House Resolution (HR 291) Fire Protection and Construction Code Task Force Meetings. This is a task force to study the feasibility of transitioning from the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety and National Fire Prevention Codes to the International Building Code, International Existing Building Code and International Fire Code.

Don Law
State Fire Marshal
Liaison

The task force had its first meeting Monday, September 9, 2024, and will hold its next meeting Monday September 23, 2024, at 1:30 PM in House Committee Room 1 at the State Capitol.

Regan Mayeaux
Training

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it. Brad will be there in my place. Please join Brad in representing the LA AFAA at this meeting. I have attached the minutes from the September 9th meeting and the agenda for the September 23rd meeting for your use.

Bart Conradi
Past President

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your president. Have a great meeting and I will see you in January if not before.

Respectively Submitted
Danny Brown

2024 HR 291 Fire Protection and Construction Code Task Force

Minutes of September 9, 2024 Initial Meeting

House Committee Room 1, 10:30 a.m.

Present: Chairman Brian Fontenot (the “Chair” and the Speaker’s appointee), Chairman Daryl Deshotel (House Committee on Commerce), Chairman Foy Gadberry (House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs), Guy Cormier (PJAL), Joe Delaune (standing in for Bryan Adams, State Fire Marshal), Chief Ken Himel (Fire Chiefs Association), Chief Chad Major (Professional Fire Fighters Association), Nick LeBlanc (standing in for Jessie Bellard, PPOL),
Absent: Barney Arceneaux/Rick Allen (LMA), Chief Parker (State Fireman’s Association), and Chief Butch Browning (Uniform Construction Code Council)

The Chair stated that he would like to be brief because of weather. He aims to accomplish the goal of the Task Force in 4-5 meetings. These would be done in order to prepare proposed legislation for the 2025-2026 sessions. The Chair asked for introductions of the members in attendance.

Chairman Gadberry spoke. He is a civil engineer and a surveyor. He is on code council. He is also a building code official.

Cormier: PJAL Executive Director and past St. Martin Parish Government President.

Chair Deshotel: Commerce Chair. Particular interest in how fire code affects commerce.

Chad Major: His concern is firefighter safety. Want to come up with something good to fit everybody.
Chief Himel, from La Fire Chief Association, introduced himself.

Joe Delaune is the Chief Architect in the State Fire Marshal’s Office, which is responsible for enforcing whatever code is adopted. The State Fire Marshal’s Office has a lot of information on this subject that can be provided.

Nick LeBlanc is the Tangipahoa Parish Government Building Code Official. Also belongs to the Building Officials Association of Louisiana.

The Chair stated that in the past, he typically worked with fire officials to bring productive legislation. He would like to work to ensure that the La State Fire Marshal shall be the sole gatekeeper for Louisiana. He would like to submit a proposed Constitutional amendment to that end. The Chair believes that the safety of our firefighters should rest with the State Fire Marshal’s office.

The Chair stated that many stakeholders have reached out to him to provide information and ask questions about recognizing old and current codes and how to work with them. He recognizes that the State Fire Marshal’s Office is overworked, understaffed, and underpaid. The Chair is not supportive of local government taking over fire inspections. The Chair noted that Section 5 of Agenda would be to select the Chair and Vice Chair. Would like to defer. Chief Major moved; there were no objections. Motion carried.

The Chair stated that he would like to move the presentation from the La. Homebuilders’ Asso to the next meeting. The Chair asked the fire chiefs to please look at states that touch Louisiana, and explore how they handle these issues so that we can understand what the other states are doing in terms of this issue.

The Chair stated that he and Chairman Gadberry have had a number of conversations about which states have moved to IBCC. The Chair requested that Chairman Gadberry explore this further and bring back this information to the Task Force. The Chair requested that Mr. Delaune (Fire Marshal) reach out to organizations/businesses associated with sprinkler systems, alarm systems, and life, safety, property protection, and present this information or have these organizations present to the Task Force at the next meeting.

The date and time for the next meeting was discussed. After discussion, it was decided that the next meeting will be Monday, September 23, 2024 at 1:30. The Chair indicated that the next meeting will last between 2.5 – 3 hours. These trade organizations will speak and Chairman Gadberry will bring state-comparable information.

Cormier potentially has a conflict, but will have someone sitting in for him.

The Chair apologized that some attendees had to travel for a meeting that was so short, but the impending weather (Hurricane/TS Francine) caused Member absences and a need for everyone to get back to their jobs. The Chair wants to pass some legislation.

Nick LeBlanc asked that the Building Officials Association be allowed to speak at the next meeting, along with the other organizations that were requested to present information.

Chief Major moved to adjourn. No objections. Meeting adjourned.

HR 291 Fire Protection and Construction Code Task Force

Monday, September 23, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Committee Room 1

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

- I. Call to Order by Representative Fontenot
- II. Roll Call
- III. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
- IV. Presentation by the Louisiana Home Builders Association
- V. Presentation by Chairman Gadberry regarding his review of the way other states address the issue and goals set out in HR 291.
- VI. Discussion by fire chief appointees regarding their review of the way other states address the issue and goals set out in HR 291.
- VII. Tentative presentations from:
 - a. Sprinkler systems representative
 - b. Fire alarm systems representative
- VIII. Presentation by the State Fire Marshal Office on life, safety, and property protection concerns.
- IX. Presentation by the Building Officials Association of Louisiana.
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Next Steps/Announcements
 - a. Set date and time
 - b. Confirm upcoming topics for discussion and tasks to be completed by next meeting and those responsible for these tasks
 - c. Invite other organizations to testify/present
- XII. Adjourn