

TRANSMITTER



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Hot Topic

Industry to see tighter controls

Changes bode well for reputable companies



Mike Nelson
Past President

THE ISSUE: The Oklahoma Burglar & Fire Alarm Association was successful in lobbying for tighter controls within the industry to ensure reputable companies receive licenses. Also, the

association was able to update guidelines to isolate those companies who fail to follow the new rules.

The state Advisory Board approved rules changes in December, as lobbied by the Oklahoma Burglar & Fire Alarm Association.

The work began last February and, with these changes, the association leadership agrees the changes are positive for the industry.

Twelve rules changes were requested, with all but two approved. The two that did not pass involved mandating education classes for licensing. However, in the end, the OKBFAA

board agreed removal of class requirements from state oversight and placement of the continuing education class work under the trade association's control is a better decision.

Mike Nelson, past president said most of the approved changes involved updating rules to make them stronger to the industry's and consumers' benefit. Some adjustments were simple, involving definitions and minimum standards for installation.

License requirements and enforcement requirements were updated, some involving residential alarm tagging, that is, all residential systems will require white tags.

And for license renewal, the individual company must submit the names of all licensed employees which will be checked against individual applications. If all the names are not listed, the license won't be renewed. Individual technician renewals will have to have a licensed signature. The state will institute an "inactive" file, where the incomplete application will be



placed.

Also, citation reviews all must be presented to the state advisory board.

"We accomplished a lot," said Nelson. "I think we made improvement in the industry. There were more issues resolved this month than in the past 20 years."

He said much of the success was due to the creation of the adhoc committee, and much of the work was done in those informal meetings before presentation to the state board.

Jack Sink, new chair of the adhoc committee, agreed, and congratulated Nelson for his extensive work on the issues.

Inside:

- Charles Hudecek, State Profile
- No dues increase
- Board reviewing member certification

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From the President

Financials, rules changes challenges of this past year



Rick Spring
2010-2011
OKBFAA President

(Editor's note: The following is a Q&A with Rick Spring, 2010 and 2011 OKBFAA president and co-owner of HESI in Oklahoma City, on how the Association fared in 2010 and what the coming year holds.)

Q What has been the biggest challenge the Oklahoma Burglar and Fire Alarm Association has faced this past year?

A I'm sure that this is a common denominator for a lot of folks this year, but the Association's financial situation was one of – if not the most – the difficult challenges in 2010. We began the year with a more than \$25,000 budget shortfall. This was largely attributed to a lack of educational class revenue. We discussed a number of ways to help bridge the gap.

Q OKBFAA submitted a letter to the State Alarm and Locksmith Committee requesting a response on several items that were of concern to the industry. What was the end result?

A The Association was able to have a very productive meeting with the State Health Department regarding these issues, which mainly focused on unattached license holders, financial reports, status on investigations and license revocations, as well as committee member attendance.

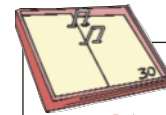
I'm happy to report that with the help of our Ad Hoc committee, 10 of 12 provisions were passed, including:

- New plan and design license requirements
- New monitoring facility license requirements
- New residential alarm tagging requirements
- Individual application renewal requirements

Q There's been discussion around the possibility of OKBFAA implementing a rating system. Can you expand on that?

A This is something that has been discussed for quite some time. Unfortunately, the state is not able to devote the resources necessary for a program like this.

So, OKBFAA is now looking at the possibility of developing, implementing and monitoring a five-



Calendar

2011 NESA Certification Classes

Burglary, Codes/Standards with Electronics, Fire, CCTV/Access Control. All classes will be held at the Best Western, Stroud (Exit 179, Turner Turnpike, 918-968-9515).

**January 7-9
February 4-6**

The NESA program expands your knowledge of the constantly evolving world of electronic security and life safety systems. Classes will be available if 10 or more students are enrolled. For more information and registration, please visit www.okbfaa.com.

OKBFAA Meetings

New this year

Meetings are to be held monthly at 1:00 p.m. after state advisory board meetings in Oklahoma City.

Feb. 2, SGI-OKC
3217 Cooke Way, OKC 73179

March 2, ADI-OKC
3801 So. Moulton Drive, OKC 73179

State Advisory Board Meetings

*Alarm & Locksmith
Advisory Committee*

State Dept of Health, Room 806
1000 N.E. 10th Street, Okla. City

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are held at 9 a.m.

Jan. 5

Feb. 2

March 2

star rating system for companies and technicians. Right now, we're pulling a committee together to research and will present ideas on how to do this.

Q Why is this something that OKBFAA is looking at doing?

A OKBFAA is committed to high standards for our industry – be it professionalism, consumer safety or education. We're looking at a more formal system and regulated compliance of these values.

Hudecek: An investigator of sorts

Charles Hudecek's lifelong dream was to go into the military, and so he did. He retired after more than 20 years of service in the Infantry around the world and as a senior instructor, division chief, live-fire inspector and instructor trainer at Fort Sill in Lawton. His wife, Debra, had followed him throughout his Army career.



Charles Hudecek, CFL, owner, D&D Locksmith and State Advisory Board

"The agreement was that while I was in the service, she'd have to follow what I chose," Hudecek said. "And she did. When I was about two years from retirement, we discussed what I would be doing when I retired."

Hudecek took some time and came up with a three-page, legal-sized, single-entry list of everything that he was qualified for and handed his wife the list. After a couple of months, she came back to him with the list.

"That three page list was narrowed

down to about seven items," Hudecek said. "Then she snatched it back and scratched out another two items. Locksmithing was one of the remaining choices."

Hudecek has been a locksmith at D&D Locksmith in Lawton since 2002. He said he enjoys the challenge of discovery most.

"You come across something daily. Someone broke something and you have to try to figure out how to unbreak it, open it or defeat it," he said. "It's a challenge."

Although Hudecek does perform standard locksmith services, his locksmith credentials are in forensics and he spends much time working on high-tech locksmith and access control projects for attorneys who hire him to determine how something was done and how it was defeated.

Although his business and involvement as president of the Oklahoma Master Locksmith Association (OMLA) keeps him busy, Hudecek takes the time to serve as a

member of the State Alarm & Locksmith Advisory board and serve as an advocate at the State Capitol.

"We're there to ensure the legislators know there's an industry out there that deals with physical security in one form or another, and to allow them to better understand what is done in the industry," he said. "We also work to inform the various legislative committees of legislation that would be hurtful to the industry."

Hudecek is well-versed on the legislative happenings in the state, and advises those new to the industry to become just as knowledgeable.

"Understand the laws of the state," he said. "Also become extremely proficient through education on the job. As time goes on, governmental agencies will look more and more at what we're doing and how it relates to the codes."

"Codes, code enforcement and understanding your job are the top priorities you should have," Hudecek said.

Newly licensed businesses

Oklahoma

- Innovative Plumbing Design dba IPD Inc. (Norman, OK) – Residential Fire Sprinkler
- Jack's Lock & Key (Wister, OK) - Locksmith
- Professional Locksmith Services (Oklahoma City, OK) – Locksmith
- South Tulsa Lock & Key (Bixby, OK) – Locksmith, Access Control
- Auto Rescue of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City) – Locksmith
- C2 Innovative Technologies Inc (Oklahoma City) – CCTV
- Security Professionals (Purcell) – Burglar, Residential Fire Alarm, CCTV, Access Control
- Reasoner Pro A/V Solutions (Ardmore) – CCTV
- CastleCom (Tulsa) – Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control)

Out of State

- Automatic Maximum Fire Protection (Forney, TX) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler
- Security Equipment Inc. (Omaha, NE) – Monitoring
- Technical Security Integration, Inc. (Lake Stevens, WA) – CCTV, Access Control

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Companies and individuals must be licensed in Oklahoma before placing a bid or they will be in violation of the Alarm and Locksmith regulations, however, they are not required to hold an office in the state at this time.)

New committee appointments OK'd

The board approved new committee assignments for 2011.

Scholarship: Wanda Day, OKBFAA executive director, and Bobby Graham with Access Security

Adhoc committee, with direct report to the state advisory board:

- Jack Sink with Security Solutions, chair
- John Brothers, sergeant-at-arms
- Mike Nelson with Network Alarm
- Rick Spring, OKBFAA president
- Paul Conrady, first vice president
- Jana Davis, secretary-treasurer
- Ron Thomas with U.S. Technologies
- Wanda Day, OKBFAA executive director

Associates Committee: Jennifer Bruce, Rapid Response, chair; and Stevani Plumley, ADI/OKC branch.

Transmitter' goes digital

To keep members informed in a more timely manner, the board has ok'd a new newsletter format to improve the distribution method.



Beginning this year, the OKBFAA newsletter will be distributed as it as, via email. The distribution will be monthly, instead of every other month, and the newsletter will be split up into three or four news "links" to the website.

The changes allow leadership to notify members quickly of developing news, and also the association would like to provide fresh material faster. Also, subscribers are more likely to read and keep an electronic version rather than an attachment. It will be more end-user friendly as opposed to an attachment, as an e-newsletter may not get blocked by a system because it does not have a sizable attachment, as was the case before.

A more robust effort will be made to sell on-line advertising in support of OKBFAA and its membership needs.

We would love to hear your feedback!
Email Wanda Day at okbfaa@cox.net.

Five-star certification sets you apart?



The board is researching a "certification" program for its members to help them distinguish themselves from run-of-the-mill burglar and fire alarm companies.

President Rick Spring suggested the association pattern a program after the statewide "certified builder" program in place by the Oklahoma State Home Builders Association. Certification might be tied to meeting attendance and participation, continuing education units, and fiscal responsibility of a company.

This program would also provide a "grievance" process for the consumer, through the association's standing grievance committee.

A "certified company" could promote its designation through its marketing efforts, be it yard signs or advertising.

Hats off to SecureNet

OKBFAA would like to thank John Brothers with SecureNet for being the first paid advertiser in the new OKBFAA e-newsletter in 2011. To sign on, go to www.okbfaa.com for pricing, deadlines and contact information.

Also, the newly revitalized associates committee will be contacting membership to purchase advertising as well.

Meeting time and places change

The OKBFAA board will meet every month after the state advisory board meetings, held the first Wednesday of each month.

The meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Oklahoma City. The location will alternate between SGI and ADI beginning Feb. 2 with SGI.

The change allows many to attend the state meetings, and then to followup with a separate short board meeting to discuss the issues.

Also, periodically, the adhoc committee meets, virtually via phone. If you are interested in patching in on that meeting, please contact executive director Wanda Day at okbfaa@okbfaa.org.

Dues to remain at current levels

In December, the state board voted to retain the current level of payment for dues. The board expressed the "absolute critical" nature of the OKBFAA financial picture.

"The association is in its weakest financial position in 20 years," said past president Mike Nelson. This is due to a change at the state level of not requiring OKBFAA classes for licensing. However, the board is considering offering a new structure of classes for a "certification" membership level.

Nelson said the association is at a turning point in its organization, particularly as the oversight agenda may change and the OKBFAA needs to be vocal about its preferences.

U.S. Senate fails to repeal 1099 provision

November Electronic Security Alliance e-blast reports that the U.S. Senate failed to repeal a 1099 provision that would require businesses to file a 1099 form for every purchase above \$600 beginning in 2012. The amendment failed to pass under the Senate's two-thirds rule with a vote of 61-35.

ESA states that they will continue working with other groups in Washington, D.C., to monitor and pass a full repeal of the 1099 provision. Members are urged to contact their senators and ask that they support a full repeal of the 1099 provision in the 112th Congress before it takes effect in 2012.

Members can get contact information for their senators by visiting www.senate.gov. They also ask that John Chwat, ESA director of government relations, be copied on all communications at gov.info@alarm.org so that he may follow up on the requests later.