My master’s degree in gerontology required that I intern for an agency that deals with the aging population. I was very excited when I was told I would work at an agency called the County of Orange Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services, Older Adult Services (OAS). This county agency provides services for homebound individuals aged 60 or older who suffer from behavioral or mental health issues. My expectations were that I would have the opportunity to work directly with these individuals. The assignment I expected was not remotely related to the assignment I was given. Imagine my surprise when I was informed that I would interview code enforcement officers about how they handle cases involving hoarding. Hoarding is defined as the acquisition of, and inability to discard worthless items even though they appear (to others) to have no value, according to The Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Foundation. Hoarding behaviors can occur in a variety of psychiatric disorders and in the normal population, but are most commonly found in people with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Before beginning this internship, I had no idea that code enforcement officials worked with hoarding individuals or that working with these officers would help me learn more about the complexities of working with older adults. These interviews provided an astounding real-life educational experience that I could not have received in a college classroom.

My internship supervisor who oversaw OAS, and also co-chaired the Orange County Hoarding Task Force (OCHTF), indicated that the OCHTF’s membership included code enforcement officers continued on page 8
Letter from CACEO President Dirk Voss

A roaring March to all of you...

The first quarter of the 2009 year is nearing a close, and for many of us it’s been a humbling experience. Whether it was the visit with your accountant to file income taxes, or getting the first billing statement for the Christmas gifts that were purchased last year, or like most of us, having to encounter layoffs, tough budget decisions and constraints within the agencies we work.

In many respects it’s like a cross-country ride on a Harley Davidson, whereas it’s not the destination, but rather it’s the journey getting there. The 2009 year will be an incredible journey for CACEO, which was mapped out during the strategic planning session the Board of Directors held last January.

As daylight savings shines before us, the wheels of CACEO continue to move forward. A restructuring of the Board Committees was done to maximize the effectiveness, streamline operations, increase accountability and ensure the services CACEO provides its members are of the highest quality.

Even though we may have had to change how we as individuals do business in our personal or professional lives, or we know of others who have been affected by the state of the nation’s economy, as an organization, CACEO continues to strive to improve itself, and to offer the best service it can. The goal is to reassure the members that CACEO is there for them and will do what it can to deliver cost-effective services.

As you read through the newsletter, you will notice a similar theme. The Board has adopted a “back to the basics” philosophy in how we prioritize and conduct business for CACEO. The goal is to lay the foundation for success and provide the tools for the committees to build from as goals and objectives are created so we can ride together throughout the journey with a clear outline of what we’re trying to achieve, both now and in the future.

Briefly touching on some of the items the committees will be handling this year, CACEO will be focusing on getting the definition of code enforcement and code officer codified, and developing standards for the code enforcement profession and standards for officers. In addition, we have expanded educational opportunities by providing a North, Central and South coordinator for both the academics and continuing education. The coordinators are in the process of reviewing and changing the curriculum CACEO provides its members so it is successful in getting its education program accredited. These are required steps for the profession of code enforcement to be recognized by the state.

Having these items in place will enable the members of CACEO to excel in the profession, and assure that code enforcement staff have the foundation to build upon, and be recognized for the importance the profession has in providing clean, safe, and prosperous neighborhoods.

However, to effectively communicate the activities and successes of CACEO, we must improve the message to the members and non-members. In doing so, the Communications Committee has expanded the Web site and will be adding more tools to assist you in looking up information. In addition, we will add an additional newsletter, increasing it to three issues this year. Further, the Marketing Committee will be vigorously working on methods to enhance the profile of CACEO and let the members know of the services it provides and expanded educational opportunities.

The results of the survey that many of you took last year are posted on the CACEO Web site, which of course we encourage you to check frequently for updates and important information. Some of the points are here in the newsletter, but there is one question I will focus on. The question was asked of the members if they believe CACEO is providing the level of service expected by its members. Of those who were surveyed, 83 percent believe CACEO is providing an expected level of service. Although this may be acceptable, our goal is to build upon it and take the necessary steps to improve the organization, so the next time the question is asked, you’ll be willing to grab the throttle and rev it up to 100 percent.

In closing, as in any journey, along with the sun, there will be the rain and thunder storms as we ride toward the destination. However, with the open road before us, the possibilities are unlimited and in looking at the big picture, be assured that the CACEO board of directors are doing the best that they can to guarantee that the membership receives the highest quality service in the most efficient manner.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this year’s annual seminar, Sept. 9-11, which is being held at the Westin Hotel, just half a mile from the Gaslamp District in the beautiful coastal city of San Diego.

Respectfully,
Dirk Voss
President
Executive Director’s Report

As we begin CACEO’s third full year as a unified statewide organization, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the benefits of being a CACEO member.

Education
CACEO provides top-notch education designed specifically for California’s code enforcement officers. With up-to-date topics ranging from foreclosures to rights of entry, access to our education alone would be worth the cost of membership. Remember, CACEO education is only available to CACEO members.

Certification
CACEO is the only organization in the state that will certify a code enforcement officer, something a number of California’s jurisdictions require. We offer our Academy training through three junior colleges, open to anyone. To be certified, however, you have to be a member of CACEO.

Legislative Advocacy
What is a code enforcement officer? What rights do you, as code enforcement officers, have? CACEO has a legislative advocate that is working both in and out of the Capitol to try to put the answers to these questions into law. Should code officers wear a vest? Should you be allowed to carry weapons? Our legislative goal for this year is to begin standardizing these practices throughout the state and unifying the profession.

Annual Seminar
Each year, CACEO holds an annual seminar designed to educate, bring together, and entertain code enforcement officers from throughout California and into neighboring states. This event is the perfect opportunity to share ideas and issues with your fellow officers, as well as receiving continuing education credit for your certification renewal. Attendance at the Annual Seminar is open to members only.

Hertz Discount
CACEO has secured a discounted rate for rental cars through Hertz. Simply provide Hertz with your CDP# (located on the back of your CACEO membership card) to receive up to a 25 percent discount.

Liberty Mutual Discount
New this year for our CACEO members is a discount on personal lines of insurance (auto, home, life) through Liberty Mutual—just for being a member of CACEO. You have the potential with this program to save more than the cost of your membership with CACEO! See more details on this new program below.

At CACEO, we don’t just have one staff person...we have over a dozen. This means that your phone calls are always answered by a live voice! We strive to respond to all requests within twenty-four hours, and to be your resource hub for anything related to code enforcement. If there’s ever anything you need that you can’t find on our Web site (www.caceo.us), please don’t hesitate to contact us at 916.492.2223!

A NEW BENEFIT OFFERED THROUGH CACEO MEMBERSHIP:

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE SAVINGS

CACEO members can now obtain superior personal insurance products and services with Liberty Mutual’s Group Savings Plus® program. The program provides you with a convenient, economical way to protect you and your family with the insurance you need at rates discounted from Liberty Mutual’s already competitive prices. Contact Juli Ayers to start saving!

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National Accreditation Sought for CACEO Certification Program

CACEO’s certification program consists of two parts: taking our Academy classes through one of three junior colleges, and then submitting notification to the CACEO office that you’ve completed said classes. Once that notification is received, CACEO will certify you at the appropriate level, up to Certified Code Enforcement Officer.

A number of jurisdictions require CACEO certification of their employees, but wouldn’t it be something if they all required it? Wouldn’t it be a great day for our profession to have that sort of standard level of competency?

To help accomplish this, CACEO will be working legislatively to have education required for California’s CEOs. But before this, we need to validate our education program. The Board this year is working toward earning accreditation of our education program through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) was created in 1987 by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs/organizations that assess professional competence.

NCCA uses a peer review process to establish accreditation standards; evaluate compliance with the standards; recognize organizations/programs which demonstrate compliance; and serve as a resource on quality certification. NCCA accredited programs certify individuals in a wide range of professions and occupations including nurses, automotive professionals, respiratory therapists, counselors, emergency technicians, crane operators and more. To date, NCCA has accredited more than 190 programs representing 78 organizations.

This accreditation will ensure that the CACEO education program meets the highest standards...and, through our required education, that California’s code enforcement officers meet those standards as well.
Keith Morales knelt in front of his brother’s picture and kissed the image. His voice choked when he spoke.

“Rodney was outstanding,” Morales said. “My brother was a great man. He was my friend, and I loved him so much. “He was my hero.”

Rodney Morales, 40, an Aurora code enforcement officer, was shot to death Thursday during a routine inspection at an apartment building.

Tuesday, nearly 500 family and friends gathered at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Aurora to celebrate his life and remember the “momma’s boy” with the infectious smile and a zest for life.

“No worries,” he used to say all the time.

“When I think of Rodney, I think of him as being brilliant, compassionate and loving,” said Gail Pough, who worked with Rodney. “He exhibited his love to all of us by his actions. He knew love was an action, not just a word. “Rodney, I’ll never forget you.”

Morales was born in the Bronx and earned a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University before joining the Navy Reserves and then the New York Police Department, where he investigated domestic violence cases for five years.

He came to Colorado in 2005, working part time as a hotel chef and then becoming a code enforcement officer in Aurora in 2006.

Colleagues said Morales loved his job and was dedicated to leaving the world a better place. He never hesitated to volunteer for after-hours duty.

“Rodney was conscientious, hard-working and dedicated. In short, he personified excellence in public service,” said Aurora City Manager Ron Miller. “While we cannot repay the debt of gratitude we owe him, we know his memory will serve as a lasting inspiration to all of us.”

Morales was gunned down Thursday. An intense manhunt ended Friday afternoon with the arrest of Harry Denard Williams, 22, in the Montbello neighborhood of Denver.

“As we think of Rodney’s passing, it simply doesn’t make sense,” Aurora Mayor Ed Tauer told mourners. “It’s wrong. It’s an unimaginable loss.”

A montage of pictures captured snapshots of Morales’ life. The little boy sitting on a park bench. The older boy standing with his family. The grown man in uniform. Always, he was smiling.

He loved Dave Matthews, concerts at Red Rocks and Boulder.

Though his family still lived across the country, Morales remained close to them, and co-workers used to tease him about how often he called his mother.

He was a NASCAR fan and when Jimmy Johnson would win a race, he’d come in to work on Monday morning and ask Trudie Adams, “Did you see my boy?” Adams is a fellow NASCAR enthusiast, but she favors Jeff Gordon.

“We all enjoyed having him around because he was as crazy as the rest of us,” Adams said. “We have a crack in our family, but we are not broken.”

Morales’ only “fault” was that he was an Oakland Raiders fan, joked Ron Moore, who oversees Aurora’s code officers. Moore said he had tried “to correct Rodney of this flaw,” but it never worked.

“We, too, will look back on the times that we had and smile at the memories,” Moore told Morales’ family.

Morales, he said, “had a confidence and a warmth in his smile that made you feel good about the day.”

On the day he died, co-workers said Morales was “classic Rodney,” happy and smiling and joking around.

At the service, Dusty Allen, Morales’ supervisor, pulled three red roses from a wreath and presented them to Morales’ mother, sister and former wife.

His mother held a teddy bear.

“Rodney loved life, his job, his friends,” said Barry Dombrowski, who worked with Morales. “I thank God for bringing him, this great man, into our lives and our hearts. His million-dollar smile, his laughter and his zest for life will never be forgotten.

“I love you, my friend.”
NEWS ALERTS

Stay Up To Date With Happenings In The World Of Code Enforcement!

By Joe Garcia, Communication/Newsletter Committee Chair

Ever wonder what issues other cities in your state and the nation are facing when it comes to code enforcement? I recently discovered Google News Alerts, a service that scans news articles throughout the country for key words. For example, I used the key words of “Code Enforcement” for the search terms. Whenever Google finds an article with “Code Enforcement” mentioned in it, it sends me link to the article. Want to try it out? Here’s what you do:

• Go to http://news.google.com/
• On the left side of the page click on “News Alerts”
• Enter the search terms you wish—Code Enforcement, Code Compliance, etc.
• Select where you wish Google to search for your key words.
• Choose how often it alerts you of a news item.
• Enter an e-mail address for the alerts to be sent to.

Try it out. If you don’t like it, you can always edit your settings or cancel it all together.

Good luck and stay connected!

2009 Strategic Planning Session

By Gary T. Merk, Region 6 Representative

The 2009 CACEO Board of Directors met on Friday, Jan. 9 to discuss the Strategic Plan for the 2009 year. All of the committees convened as a whole and reviewed the association’s goals and objectives for the coming year after which the individual committees broke off to hash out their own priorities and projects for the year. The Board is made up of the Education, Legislative, Administrative, Communication and Marketing committees, each of which has regional representatives that sit on these committees. The Board had a very successful and productive meeting and strategized new and exciting endeavors for this year.

The Education Committee came up with their priorities of enhancing the existing Code Enforcement Officer Academies and continuing to improve the schedules, venues and instructors. They also plan on developing and implementing both “mini-ed” weeks and “hot topic” classes in response to the overwhelming membership requests for these kinds of continuing education opportunities. In addition, the Board will strive to provide enhanced training opportunities for the outlying and/or less populous area of the state.

The Legislative Committee will present several bills and continue to work on existing legislation related to codifying the definition of a code enforcement officer in state law, DMV confidentiality and standards of accreditation. The committee also promises to better track pending legislation that could affect the code enforcement profession as well as issue “letter of position” in support or opposition to such bills. Our legislative lobbyist will provide membership with timely reports (to be included in future newsletters) on the status of the many bills that affect us as code enforcement officers and staff.

An improved bi or tri-annual newsletter will be developed by the Communication Committee and the CACEO Web site will be continually updated with innovative and exciting new features such as a Code Enforcement newsfeed, Code Enforcement “wiki,” photo gallery and the ability to post bios/resumes online among other changes.

The Marketing Committee has set themselves to the lofty task of being the “spokesperson of Code Enforcement” and reaching out to not only the Code Enforcement community but the general public as well. Marketing will work with community groups to educate them on the benefits of a Code Enforcement program to the community it serves, reach out to members to advertise educational opportunities and member benefits and work closely with large metropolitan areas in an effort to increase CACEO membership. To this end, the board will research the feasibility of contracting with a Public Relations firm to assist in getting the word out more effectively and possibly solicit expanded media involvement in the Association’s activities.

It looks to be a busy and exciting year for CACEO and the Board of Directors share a unified vision for the direction the Association is headed. With the hard work of not only the Board, but all the members, we will reach our destination in 2009 and make many improvements along the way. The board is looking forward to a year of growth and positive change!

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Incident Report

If you have been threatened or injured on the job, please take the time to go online at www.caceo.us and fill out an Incident Report. The Incident Report is located in the Resource Library. This information helps support CACEO’s attempts for legislation to protect code enforcement officers throughout the state.
CACEO Director Spotlight
By Sid Pineda, City of Santa Ana

On Jan. 8, 2009, on the shores of a small city in San Luis Obispo County, a small group of elected and appointed Board of Directors gathered together to steer the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers organization into a bright new future. Some of the Board are battle worn vets, some are new recruits and some are brave re-enlistees who have come back to support CACEO in its efforts to provide the best Code Enforcement related information support, education and training to its statewide members. It is with this in mind that we spotlight some of the new and returning faces you will come to know and see as your region representatives and Board of Directors for CACEO 2009. Keep an eye out for future installments of the CACEO Director Spotlight in the next CACEO Newsletter to connect the faces with the names and to get to know a little about them.

Meet Ana Lisa Hernandez, Code Enforcement Officer for the city of Norwalk in Los Angeles County. She is married with seven children and three grandchildren. She also has two dogs, a cat and a turtle. Family is number one for this big-hearted Code Enforcement Officer. Ana Lisa is also a public safety commissioner for the city of Duarte, and is proud to serve her community by helping to make the big decisions that help build and take care of her community. Ana Lisa began her career in public service in the city of Alhambra in 1991 and later transferred to the city of Norwalk in 1999 where she continues to further her Code Enforcement career.

Ana Lisa looks forward to bringing the members in the cities within her region a high level of service during her time on the Board. In addition, she would like to relate that she believes that the biggest part of the CACEO organization is the unified voice of its members in wanting the same common goals of proper safety protections, recognition, training, education; and legislation that aids in achieving those goals.

Meet Fred Fix has returned to CACEO after two years off. However, even during his absence in CACEO, Fred has not been idle. Fred along with the Service Employees International Union #721 has been instrumental in successfully negotiating the inclusion of both CACEO Intermediate and Advanced Certifications as part of the city of Santa Ana’s Career Development Incentive Pay. In addition, Fred was able to obtain his Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector and Zoning Inspector certificates from the International Code Council (ICC).

Fred began his Code Enforcement career in 1988, while studying for his master’s degree in public administration at California State University, Fullerton, while at the same time completing an internship with the city of La Mirada. He then worked for the city of Anaheim as a part-time, full-time and ultimately a Sr. Code Enforcement Officer from 1989-2001. As of 2001, Fred has been working for the city of Santa Ana as a community preservation inspector.

It should be noted that Fred brings a combined 10 years of experience to our organization, including having previously served as a Board of Director for SCACEO and CACEO before taking his two-year hiatus. Fred has served on many committees within both organizations and now has returned to share with us his expertise in efforts to better our Code Enforcement profession.

Meet Tim Burns, neighborhood preservation manager for the city of Visalia, previously with the city of Hollister in San Benito County as the city’s first, full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Tim is a retired police officer with more than 20 years of experience. Tim holds a community college teaching credential, a contractor’s license, and is a certified residential property manager. Tim has a bachelor’s degree from San Jose State University with a major in administration of justice and a minor in sociology. Tim also serves as an administrative hearing officer for the county of Tulare.

On the home front, Tim is the proud father of two wonderful children and has been married for more than 20 years.

Tim believes that there must be a concerted effort by CACEO to identify code enforcement officers throughout the state as a viable, necessary and beneficial component of public safety, capable of solving the most difficult problems, improving the quality of life, and increasing property values in communities and cities throughout the state of California. Tim thinks that in order to take the Code Enforcement profession to the next level, there needs to be effective and focused legislation which will define the code enforcement officer position. Tim believes that doing this will provide standardization throughout the state of California.
An updated Web site was the vision of CACEO since we merged three years ago. Countless hours were spent designing the new Web site with our membership in mind. Besides a visual overhaul of the Web site, some of the features of our new site include:

- All members are now able to login to the Web site to review and update their membership information, register for classes, and view their history. For login information, please contact the CACEO office.
- An always expanding Resource Library containing sample documents, Internet links, tips, foreclosure contacts and our professional survey.
- Full course outlines of our Code Enforcement Academies and Continuing Education programs.
- An area dedicated to our legislative actions. You can stay up to date on the bills that CACEO is sponsoring and supporting as well as find links to your local lawmakers by visiting the Legislative section.
- Visit the About Us section to find out what region you are in, who your region director is, how to contact them, and what they are up to.
- An up to date Calendar of all CACEO events that allows our membership to plan in advance for academies, continuing education classes, and our annual seminar.

Some of the features we will be adding to the Web site this year are:

- Results from Listserv questions. By posting the results, this will eliminate a lot of duplicate questions from being asked. Results and how to sign up for the CACEO Listserv will be posted in the Resource Library.
- A new photo gallery of code enforcement violations. Feel free to submit or borrow pictures!
- An interactive region map. Find your county on the map and click on it to take you to your regional representative’s contact information.
- Code enforcement Wiki’s. As our profession evolves, stay up to date with new ways of dealing with the common and rare problems that we face. Membership participation will be needed to add and edit each topic.
- Post your bio or resume with your membership information on the Web site. This will allow other members and potential employers to find out more about YOU.

It is our hope that the Web site will continue to grow along with our organization. If you feel that you have something to add to our Resource Library, please do not hesitate to contact me at jgarcia@caceo.us. Stay connected! 

It is our hope that the Web site will continue to grow along with our organization.
from several cities, city social workers, representatives from Adult Protective Services (APS), fire department personnel and specialty clean up companies. Each representative had worked with hoarding individuals and were experiencing increasing numbers cases involving hoarding behaviors.

From 2005 to 2007, OAS had increasing numbers of cases involving people who hoard. There were 77 cases referred to OAS in 2005, 80 in 2006 and 210 in 2007. While these cases were referred by several agencies, it was common for code enforcement to be involved in these cases. Increased numbers of referrals combined with increased need for resources initiated the task of gathering information so that local agencies could gain an understanding of how extensive the issue of hoarding is, the involvement level of the various agencies involved and start coordinating efforts to utilize resources effectively.

This process of information gathering started with interviewing code enforcement officers. Officers from 33 of the 34 Orange County cities agreed to be interviewed. These 33 interviews revealed the officers’ amazing dedication, empathy and patience in dealing with reluctant hoarders. Despite these qualities the officers found it very difficult not to become frustrated with the hoarding residents’ slow progress to compliance.

A veteran officer from one of Orange County’s largest cities gave me a three-hour introduction to code enforcement. Much of the information provided in this initial interview was new to me because I had never interacted with code enforcement officials. This officer indicated that she believed hoarding was not willful, but caused by a mental disorder. Her experience was that most code violators did so with disregard to city codes, but residents who hoard wanted to abide by city code, but could not because of a mental health issue. This official dealt with four hoarding cases between July 2007 and June 2008.

She explained that these four cases took more time than the ‘typical’ and that additional time for getting the hoarding residents into minimal compliance was needed for two reasons: volume of items to be cleaned up, and the residents’ hesitation to get rid of what may have taken a lifetime to collect. The discouraged officer indicated that hoarding cases had almost a 100 percent failure rate.

In 2006, this official and another veteran officer experimented with alternative handling when dealing with a grandmother whose front and back yards were filled with toys, picnic furniture and potted plants. These officers requested that the resident attend a local hoarding support group, and an agreement that the officers would check on the clean-up process every two weeks. The hoarding resident, “Grandma M”, agreed that this plan was feasible. The hoarder attended support group meetings for two months and complied with regular checks from the officers.

We visited this resident during this interview. The resident welcomed the official and I when we arrived. Grandma M spoke about her experience with the clean-up process and her interaction with code enforcement. She indicated that she was grateful for the patience and understanding that was shown to her. Two years after the case had been closed, the exterior of the home was still in compliance.

Two code enforcement officers from a mid-size Orange County city pointed out that most of their hoarding cases involved senior citizens living alone. They estimated that 6 hoarding cases were dealt with between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. An officer told about a case where one individual’s daughter explained that she had not been to her mother’s house in five years because each time she called to let her mother know that she would be dropping by to visit, the mother always showed up at the daughter’s house instead.

The officers communicated that most residents who hoard can afford to pay for clean up assistance; however, a network of volunteer groups was created to assist those not able to pay for clean up. The officers would connect hoarding residents to the network with a caveat that the city will not be involved in this action, so any agreement made was strictly between the residents and the volunteer groups.

Because of their experience with hoarding cases in the past, these officials warned volunteer teams to ask in-depth ques-
tions about important items. One volunteer team reported back to the officer that this advice was invaluable as the team had worked with one resident who indicated that she liked to put important papers inside books. The volunteer team thoroughly examined each book of the resident’s large collection. Following these instructions, the volunteer team recovered $18,000 in cash!

For one mid-size Orange County city, family involvement was considered an essential component when dealing with hoarding cases. Representatives from this city conveyed that almost all of their city’s cases end up in red-tagging the homes because of the extent of the hoarding problem. Officials asked that family members find housing for the hoarding residents before the homes were red-tagged. Officers conveyed that having to red-tag the home of hoarding individuals was especially hard because the residents almost always were very upset about being forced out of their homes (and being traumatized by losing their belongings).

“Displacing vulnerable senior citizens is so hard because you know that they have probably lived in their homes for many years and probably don’t have the money to move anywhere else,” an officer explained.

Unfortunately, ensuring public health and safety often left this city’s officers with no other viable choice. The officers estimated that their team dealt with four hoarding cases between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. This interview concluded with the officers summarizing that it was inevitable that clutter would begin to build up shortly after the residents were allowed to return to their homes. Officers were certain that new cases would be opened for the same residents and the same hoarding problems.

Another mid-size city’s hoarding cases tended to end up in court-ordered receivership because the squalor was so extensive. This team commented that the four cases handled between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008 were unusually complicated and took much more time than the average case. This city had a social worker that accompanied officers to the homes of resistant hoarders. An officer noted that many residents who resisted working with code enforcement officers would work with social workers.

It was the hope of code enforcement officers and the social worker that a therapeutic relationship would be established and this relationship continue after the abatement.

Officers communicated that the majority of these residents absolutely refused to work with the social worker after returning to their abated homes. However, these hoarders were probably greatly offended because the city threw out all their belongings and they had no say in what was kept. As far as the hoarders were concerned, the city stole all their items. Code enforcement officers conveyed that they are obligated to protect the public from the imminent danger of unsafe hoarding.

I was astounded by the complexity of hoarding cases and the incredible efforts that code enforcement officials made to work with hoarding individuals. These officers conveyed several concerns and made excellent suggestions for improving handling of hoarding cases. I will summarize these concerns, suggestions and my observations and recommendations in the next newsletter. Until then, I encourage you to visit the National Study Group for Chronic Disorganization’s Web site at www.nsgcd.org. The NSGCD created this Web site to provide professionals parameters to measure the level of hoarding.

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Legislative Corner
By Billy Owens, Legislative Committee

CACEO has made great strides in the field of legislation, with successful passage of legislation we continue to grow not only in foundation, but recognition. We will be working on three key pieces of legislation in the 2009-10 sessions.

The first is back to the basic, obtaining descriptive identification in the California Codes. People need to have an immediate recognition of what our job is when you say Code Enforcement. In our second area, we will be addressing the California Department of Motor Vehicle confidentiality for Code Enforcement Officers. The last area of focus will be identification of standards and training for Code Enforcement Officers.

The Legislative committee will be co-sponsoring and attending the 17th annual Law Enforcement Legislative Day in Sacramento on March 10-11, 2009. Attendees will have opportunities to meet with legislators and provide them information on the Bills we will be introducing.

CACEO continues to work with our lobbyist, Mr. John Lovell, who is one of the most respected public safety lobbyists in Sacramento. With the guidance of Mr. Lovell, CACEO will be issuing positions on additional legislation to show our support for items that may impact our industry, as well as seeking other sponsors of legislation to support CACEO legislation.

In closing, I leave you a quote by Aristotle:
“If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chieflly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.”

Marketing & Membership
By Peter J. Piccardo, Membership/Marketing Chair

The Marketing Committee is happy to report that 2009 is going to be a great year for CACEO. We are the largest association in California dedicated to representing the code enforcement industry. We offer a certification program, an academy with continuing education courses, legislative advocacy, a listserv to facilitate member-to-member communication, and a wealth of networking opportunities. At nearly 1,700 members, CACEO is in the forefront of all efforts and participates in all forums relating to the issues facing today’s dynamic code enforcement officers. One of our main goals of the marketing committee this year is to bring in a marketing specialist to assist us in our efforts in bringing this organization to its next level. Reaching out to the large metropolitan areas, developing a list of membership benefits, and connecting with other organizations are just a few things on our plate this year.

Together we can provide a promise of hope, health and well being for the generation and beyond. So, come join us in 2009, in this “drive to provide” the most current information, training, education, and networking. Please contact us anytime should you have any questions or ideas and stay tuned for a training class near you. We look forward to seeing you at Seminar 2009 in San Diego. On behalf of the Marketing Committee, we wish you a safe and successful year in code enforcement.
**The Survey Says**
By Stephen Jacobson, 8th Region Representative

In 2008 the CACEO board distributed an annual survey to obtain information on some of the topics that are most important to our membership. The board included the results of the survey in our strategic planning session and we will continue to establish goals and to try to advance our profession in many areas including legislation, safety, and education. The board appreciates your continued participation and support and the following is a sample of results in 10 categories in the survey:

1. 70.5 percent of the code enforcement agencies that enforce substandard properties use the California Building code and 63.5% of the agencies also use the Health and Safety code.
2. 52.7 percent of the respondents stated that their agency has a budget line item set aside for code enforcement abatements and forced clean ups.
3. 53.8 percent of respondents reported that their code enforcement agency does not receive CDBG funds.
4. 80.8 percent of the respondents stated that they are CACEO members and 97.6 percent of the respondents feel that continuing education classes should be provided within their own jurisdiction.
5. 79.9 percent of the respondents state that their jurisdiction requires PC 832 and 23 percent of the respondents state that there jurisdiction requires completion of all three CACEO certificates.
6. 68.6 percent of the respondents report that they work under the Community Development and or Building and Planning departments.
7. 29.5 percent of the respondents report they have an average of 1 – 25 new cases per month, 30.5 percent report they have an average of 26-50 new cases per month, 11.9 percent report they have 51-75 new cases per month and 6.2 percent report they receive 76- 100 new cases per month.
8. 35.1 percent of the respondents report they carry a radio and 39 percent carry pepper spray. However, 38.7 percent of the respondents report they are not allowed to carry protection equipment.
9. 25.8 percent of the respondents report they have had no officer safety incidents while at least 62.1 percent of the respondents report they have had one to 10 officer safety incidents and 45.9 percent also report they have had their life threatened while on the job.
10. Finally, 83 percent of the respondents believe that CACEO is providing the level of service expected by our members.

**Code Updates**
By Alysia Gomez, Communication/Newsletter Committee

(1) Last year, the California state legislature adopted SB 1137, a foreclosure relief bill designed to help California homeowners facing the current closure crisis. The bill also addresses the growing need for code enforcement raised by the increasing numbers of foreclosures. Specifically, the new legislation gives cities the ability to impose civil penalties on the legal owner of foreclosed properties for “failing to maintain” vacant residential property purchased at a foreclosure sale or acquired through foreclosure under a mortgage or deed of trust. This gives a City increased authority to enforce minimum maintenance standards of foreclosed properties.

SB 1137 provides that legal owners of vacant residential property purchased at a foreclosure sale, or acquired through foreclosure under a mortgage or deed of trust, must maintain the residential property or be subject to civil fines of up to $1,000 per day. SB 1137 adds new sections to the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure that:

1. Apply only to vacant residential property;
2. Impose maintenance requirements to the exterior of property; and
3. Provide examples of a “failure to maintain” the property, such as situations where the new legal owner:
   • Permits growth of excessive foliage that diminishes the value of the surrounding properties;
   • Fails to take steps to prevent trespassers or squatters from accessing the property; or
   • Fails to prevent mosquito larvae from growing in standing water, or other conditions constituting a public nuisance (Civ. Code § 2929.3(b)).

(2) A public entity can pursue the appointment of a receiver to take possession of, and remedy, public nuisance conditions. For example, there is statutory authority for an appointed receiver to remedy substandard residential dwellings. (see Health & Safety Code §17980.7(c)). The California Supreme Court recently approved an appointed receiver’s decision to demolish a substandard residential housing building, following the failure of the building owner to carry out orders from the city to abate the substandard conditions. City of Santa Monica v Gonzalez (2008) 43 C4th 905. There is also case law authority for seeking the appointment of a receiver to ensure that a judgment obtained in a nuisance abatement proceeding is carried out. City & County of San Francisco v Daley (1993) 16 CA4th 734, 744.
Please Save the Date for the 2009 Annual Seminar
September 9-11, 2009

The Westin San Diego
400 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
Tel: (888) 627-9033
http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/caceo

Room Rate Cut-Off: August 8, 2009
Room Rates:
$169 single
$189 double
$209 triple
$229 quad

Please indicate that you are with the CACEO Annual Seminar when making your reservation to ensure you receive the group discount and CACEO’s room block with the hotel is credited.

Education session information will be available as the seminar nears!