

TRANSMITTER



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Hot Topic

Finally, pact on electricians' licenses

THE ISSUE: *Electricians must have background checks and be certified in area of installation specialty.*

A loophole in the state's alarm regulations the industry has been fighting since 1986 has finally been closed.

Effective immediately, all electricians who install alarm or fire systems are now required to meet all the criteria of the Oklahoma alarm licensing law.



Paul Conrady

"This is a huge step toward deepening consumer confidence in the alarm industry," said Paul Conrady, First Vice President, OKBFAA, and owner of Edmond Security Inc.

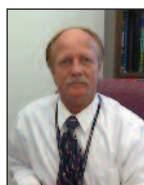
Now, electricians who install burglar or fire systems are required to undergo a mandatory background check. In addition, electricians must become licensed in the alarm industry category in which they are installing. If they are not licensed in that area, they must have a licensed third-party sign off on the installation.

"Our members need to be aware of the implications of this new law," Conrady said. "If they are contracted to complete a third-party verification, they must do it properly. Kicking the tires and going off face value isn't going to cut it because if they sign off and there is something wrong, it's going to come back on them — not the electrician."

Changes in the electricians' rules were agreed upon by the Construction Industries Board (CIB), OKBFAA and electricians.

The electricians and CIB are paying heed to the new law, and are being more

strict in enforcing the new licensing requirements, said Matt Schue, director, Occupational Licensing Division at the Oklahoma State Department of Health.



Matt Schue

"They have jumped through every hoop and hurdle that we've presented," Schue said. "They've been diligent in meeting every requirement. CIB sent more than 6,000 electrical license renewals recently, and we're now watching for the background checks to come through."

Those electricians will still need to be licensed, however.



"Let's help them get trained," Conrady said. "Invite them to classes. Invite them to join the Association. Let's make every effort to make this work."



President Mike Nelson, left, awards Pat Redpath with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the industry. Redpath, with PSI of Del City, is a past president and was helpful in formulating bylaw language for the association, which he joined in 1984. He also attended several national association meetings in Washington D.C.

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Spring new president, Sanders joins board

see photos inside

Left: Several Native American dancers entertained attendees of the OKBFAA annual banquet in October, at the Renaissance Tulsa hotel, with more than 50 persons attending.

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From the President

Thanks, goodbye, stay involved



Mike Nelson,
President

(Note: Mike Nelson has been an Association member 18 years, and on the board nine years, three of those as president. OKBFAA, as a whole, would like to extend our sincere appreciation for years of service.)

As the end of my term as President draws to a close, I would like to thank all of the members who have been involved in making our Association a positive influence on the electronic security industry.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Association along with my fellow board members.

I would also like to thank our new and returning board members for their service in the coming year. As our industry continues to grow and evolve, I believe Rick Spring will provide exceptional leadership for the Association. He could not have a better group of board members to work alongside him.

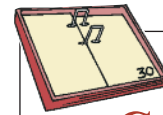
This leadership, though hard working, will need the assistance and input of the full membership as they tackle issues important to each of us. In order to have your voice heard, you need to be involved in attending member meetings, participating on committees and being present at the monthly meetings of the Alarm and Locksmith Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each calendar month. In addition to reviewing license applications, this group deals with many issues the industry faces on a daily basis. The meeting is open to the general public. The agenda provides a forum for issues to be presented directly to the Advisory Board.

As a group, the board members welcome input and historically have striven to meet the needs of the industry in the service of the consumers.

The importance of attendance cannot be understated. This board determines the rules and regulations under which each of you operates your business. As business owners and managers, we are responsible for making sure we are aware of every decision which affects our industries, companies, employees and families.

In closing, thanks again to everyone for the opportunity to work on your behalf.



Calendar 2010 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).

Jan. 15-17

March 19-21

May 22-24

July 16-18

Sept. 17-19

Nov. 18-21

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

All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. Please note that meetings are held quarterly.

December 3, 2009, SGI- Tulsa
3148 S. 108th E. Ave, Suite 110.
(918) 250-9298

State Advisory Board Meetings

Alarm & Locksmith
Advisory Committee
State Dept of Health, Room 806
1000 N.E. 10th Street, Okla. City

Five reasons why you should join OKBFAA

1. We take care of you and your business
2. We train and educate you and your employees.
3. We keep you informed.
4. We keep you up-to-date on legal and contractual issues.
5. You can readily exchange thoughts, ideas, and questions with your peers.

Need more convincing? Contact an OKBFAA Board Member, or find membership information and applications on our Web site, www.okbfaa.com. Membership isn't limited to only alarm industry businesses, but to companies that service the burglar and fire alarm industries.

State panel created due to gang burglary

Since July 1985, Bob Carroll has served Oklahomans as lay person on the state Alarm & Locksmith Licensing Committee. The role of consumer advocate serves him well. Carroll is owner of Robert G. Carroll & Associates, an insurance agency that specializes in insurance for the jewelry industry.



Carroll, longest tenured member and original advocate behind state advisory panel.

Carroll isn't just the only original member still sitting on the Committee — he is the reason the Committee was created.

His efforts began when he discovered the head of a gang responsible for a major burglary in Tulsa on New Year's Eve in 1983 was a professional alarm installer. Carroll approached his personal friend and State legislator Keith Leftwich to ask how to create a law to regulate the alarm industry.

The Oklahoma Alarm Industry Act was signed into law by then-Gov. Nigh on July 8, 1985. This law immediately created the Alarm Licensing Committee, consisting of five members: three from the alarm industry, one state health department representative, and one lay person. Carroll was

appointed the lay person of the committee the same day the law was signed.

The state started licensing locksmithing a few years ago and, at that time, expanded the committee to nine.

"I bring to the table the perspective of original intent," Carroll said. "Also, as a certified insurance counselor for more than 25 years, I also bring background and perspective from another highly regulated Oklahoma industry."

"We're able to still have a law that is reasonable and helps promote the industry, but gives the public confidence in the industry as well," he said.



Education Award: Jim Rockholt with Rock Security, of Collinsville, was honored by President Nelson, right, with this award as he has donated his time with false alarm classes in Tulsa and as an instructor.

Redpath receives award For Lifetime Achievement

Several special awards were presented during the OKBFAA's annual meeting and awards banquet in October in Tulsa.

Past-President Pat Redpath, PSI Security in Del City, was presented the Wanda Day Lifetime Achievement Award for his role in writing the first OKBFAA bylaw language in 1984, and working with the national association during several trips to Washington, D.C.

Jim Rockholt, of Rock Security, Collinsville, was presented the Education Award for donating his time with several false alarm classes in Tulsa, as well as serving as an OKBFAA instructor.

Other special awards were presented at the annual meeting and banquet.

Jordon Brown, GuardTronics, in Fort Smith, was honored with the President's Award for his work on the Association's web site. Jim Rockholt accepted the award on his behalf.

The OKBFAA membership approved the 2010 Board of Directors during the Association's annual meeting and awards banquet in October at the Renaissance Tulsa hotel:



Outgoing president Mike Nelson of Norman addressed the gathering, which was attended by more than 50 people. Rick Spring of Edmond was sworn in as the new president.



Native American dancers entertain State Rep. Jeannie McDaniel of Tulsa, left, during the banquet.



Another generation of Lays help lead Comtec Security of Choctaw, with Cole and Heather Lay in attendance at the banquet. Cole's father Charles (Zeke) Lay and grandfather led the company for 30 years.



2010 new board of directors. New officers were elected in October at the annual banquet. From left, are First Vice President Paul Conrady, Second Vice President Lisa Fields, Executive Director/Training Officer Wanda Day, Secretary/ Treasurer Jana Davis, President Rick Spring, State Rep. Jeannie McDaniel of Tulsa, Past President/ Bylaws Committee Chair Pat Redpath and outgoing President Mike Nelson. Not pictured is Sergeant-At-Arms Gary Sanders.

Newly licensed businesses

Oklahoma City Metro Area

- **A-1 Security Systems, Inc.** (Tulsa) – Burglar, Residential Fire Alarm
- **Atlas Integrated Systems, LLC** (Broken Arrow) – Burglar, Commercial Fire Alarm, Access Control, CCTV, Nurse Call
- **C&F Cabling Solutions, Inc.** – Burglar, Commercial Fire Alarm, Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control
- **Duncan Lock & Key (Duncan)** – Locksmith
- **Engineered Systems & Energy Solutions, Inc.** (Oklahoma City) – CCTV, Access Control
- **Ferguson Security Solutions, Inc.** (Tulsa) – Locksmith, CCTV, Access Control
- **Jett Electric, LLC** (Duncan) – CCTV, Access Control
- **KC Electric Co.** (Enid) – Commercial Fire Alarm
- **Lynxsystems, LLC** (Tulsa) – CCTV, Access Control
- **Robin Frieze dba Custom Communications** (Broken Arrow) – Locksmith, Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control
- **Terran Company, LLC** (Oklahoma City) – CCTV
- **Tel-Star Communications, Inc.** (Tulsa) – Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control
- **The Master's Key** (Duncan) – Locksmith

OUT-OF-STATE

- **Central Security & Communications** (Indiana) – Monitoring
- **Certified Life Safety, LLC** (Kansas) – Commercial Fire Alarm, Commercial Fire Sprinkler, Locksmith, Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control
- **Convergint Technologies** (Texas) – CCTV, Access Control
- **Cornerstone Security, Inc.** (Georgia) – Burglar, Commercial Fire Alarm, Nurse Call, CCTV, Access Control
- **Detection & Suppression International, Ltd.** (Texas) – Commercial Fire Alarm
- **Fire Engineering Company, Inc.** (Utah) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler
- **Fireline Sprinkler Corporation** (Wisconsin) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler

- **Global Core Group** (Ontario, Canada) – CCTV
- **Mi 5 Security Solutions** (Texas) – CCTV
- **Michigan Monitoring** (Michigan) – Monitoring
- **Northstar Fire Protection, Inc.** (Minnesota) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler
- **Premier Security Systems, Inc.** (Georgia) – Monitoring
- **Shilo Automatic Sprinklers, Inc.** (Idaho) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler
- **Strong Systems International, Inc.** (Georgia) – CCTV
- **Texana Security, LLC** (Texas) – Burglar, CCTV

(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.)

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Fla.-based locksmith chain raided by feds

Federal agents raided the headquarters of Dependable Locks, a national locksmith chain based in Tampa Bay in early November. The raid came shortly after a television news investigation into deceptive sales practices by the locksmith chain.

"This reaches throughout the United States," said Doug Smith with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the agency to raid the office. "Clearwater... is where a lot of the employees were working, basically in a call center-type scenario."

Investigators arrested one of the owners of Dependable Locks -- Moshe Aharoni -- charging him with federal mail fraud. An affidavit accuses Aharoni, 28, and fellow owner David Peer, 31, of laundering money through Postal Service money orders. A federal warrant is out for Peer's arrest.



The affidavit also accuses the owners of instructing their more than 100 employees -- many of whom were Israeli nationals in the U.S. without work visas -- how to overcharge and deceive customers.

U.S. Postal Inspectors have established a hotline at 1-877-876-2455 for those believing they are victims of locksmiths' deceptive sales practices.

-- Gannett News Service

Trend: Security company could be liable for murder damages

MINNEAPOLIS -- A recent decision by a U.S. District Court judge here could set a very bad precedent for the security industry -- where a negligent security company could be found liable and have to pay 100 percent of damages for a murder -- even though the murderer intentionally committed the crime.

The case involves a double murder here and security giant ADT. A man and woman were murdered by the woman's ex-boyfriend. The family of the woman who was murdered is seeking damages from ADT, saying the ADT system did not function. Further, the federal judge's opinion says that the murder victims specifically sought a security system that would warn them if the ex-boyfriend tried to break into the house.

It's a complicated and unusual case that industry attorney Eric Pritchard, a partner in the law firm of Kleinbard, Bell & Brecker, where he specializes in security industry

matters, sums up this way: "Bad facts, bad case, bad law." And it's not good for the industry, he said.

The case is ongoing and could ultimately be decided in ADT's favor, but U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tunheim in September issued a decision that says that ADT could be "jointly and severally" liable in this case.

What this means is "the plaintiff can recover 100 percent of the judgment from the negligent security provider even though the negligent security provider is only 1 percent liable and the intentional wrongdoer [the murderer] is 99 percent liable," said Eric Pritchard, a partner in the law firm of Kleinbard, Bell & Brecker.

ADT spokeswoman Ann Lindstrom declined comment on the case because litigation is ongoing.

-- Security Systems News

Readers: No light at end of tunnel

YARMOUTH, Maine—Some people have begun to say the economic slowdown is almost over and that times are starting to get better. Some are claiming we're surely almost out of the woods. Security Systems News, in an early November survey, asked readers what they thought.

As of early November, more than half of those who voted—53 percent—said they thought times were still hard and there was no light at the end of the tunnel. A very small percentage—seven percent—asked "What economic downturn?" A little less than half of you—40 percent—believed things were starting to improve.

Brent Hamachek of Northbrook, Ill.-based Ionit Technologies, was not optimistic. "Nothing in the underpinning fundamentals of the economy has improved. In fact, everything done or proposed to be done by the current administration will create impediments to free-market solutions and an economic revival," Hamachek said. "Upward pressure on interest rates, a necessary increase in the money supply to monetize debt and an uncertain tax and regulatory climate are all harbingers of darker times ahead."

Howard Feldman of Solana Beach, Calif.-based Pioneer Security Services stated his apprehension simply: "The light at the end of the tunnel may be a train," Feldman said.

The final question SSN had to ask you concerned your plans for the future. The majority of you—58 percent—said that though times have been hard you refused to be timid and planned a more aggressive plan of attack for your business. A little less than a quarter of you—24 percent—felt the opposite approach was warranted and voted for a more conservative approach in 2010, while 18 percent of you said there would be no change in your market strategies in the New Year.

--Security Systems News

Member Profile

Always looking to the future



Lon Turney started Security Alarms Co. almost 37 years ago.

Hulbert native Lon Turney's perspective on life may be simple, but it's hard to dispute.

"Life is wonderful if you think it is," he said. "And life is very good right now."

An educator with a master's degree in education, Turney, 61, founded Security Alarms Co. in Muskogee in 1973. He said he began to look for a business he could get into for the future, and felt that the alarm industry was the way to go.

"At that time, electronics were getting better and crime was getting worse," Turney said. "Back then, there were no licenses, and you couldn't give an alarm away in the rural areas like Hulbert. It took the bigger cities – like Muskogee – to be able to sell alarms."

"In the 1980s, crime really took off and it got a lot more mean and vicious in the 1990s. It's only gotten worse since then, and I believe that trend will continue."

Turney was raised in Hulbert and splits his time between his home in Muskogee and his nearly 300-acre farm in

Hulbert. While he ranches cattle, he is most proud of his own handiwork on his Hulbert house. He's done most of the work himself, but he always looks to the future. He is building a burial mound for his remains.

"Right now I'm working on a burial mound for my ashes," Turney said. "It's not so much part of my heritage. I had decided that when it's my time, I'll be cremated, but then what would happen to my ashes? This mound will offer a place for the family to come."

Turney has two daughters from his first marriage, who both followed in their father's footsteps and began careers as teachers. Today, one works for her father's company and the other stays at home. He has several step-children and grandchildren, and of the 30 people that Security Alarms employs, several are family members.

"I don't plan on getting out of the business any time soon," Turney said. "And I see no reason for the alarm industry to not be around for a while. It will change, but you have to expect and prepare for that."

Each issue of Transmitter we will feature an OKBFAA member. To be considered for a feature, please call (918) 231-1696 or e-mail wandalday@yahoo.com.

Annual banquet in Tulsa a success



Newly elected 1st Vice President Paul Conrady 'steps out' as well as Tammy Turney of Muskogee, at left.



Newly elected president Rick Spring has been an association member 11 years, and previously was legislative liaison for NESAs. He is owner of HESI in Oklahoma City. With him is his wife of 21 years, Pamela.



Carol Fletcher accepts gifts for this year's scholarship winners: Juliet Davis, Tulsa, \$1,000 (industry); Stevie Elise Abernathy, Broken Arrow, \$1,000 (fire department); Jon-Luke Ratliff, \$500 (industry), and Raymond C. Greninger, III, Pryor, \$500 (police department).