

TRANSMITTER



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Hot Topic

Governor signs voltage issue

The issue: Legislation passes, modifies code, removes 24-volt restriction.

The Oklahoma State Legislature saw several pieces of proposed legislation this past session that affected the alarm industry, including HB 2320. This legislation modified several portions of the existing Alarm and Locksmith Industry Act, including the definition of a lock, State Advisory Board member term limits, and licensing requirements.

The bill was signed into law by Gov. Henry earlier this month. It will go into effect Nov. 1. Oklahoma Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (OKBFAA) and Oklahoma Master Locksmith Association (OMLA) members' involvement in the legislative process was instrumental in the passage of this legislation, particularly in that of Charles Hudecek, OMLA president, and locksmith Lowell Roberts with J&L Lock, Safe and Security.

A lock is now defined as "mechanical or electronic devices consisting entirely of Class 2 or Class 3 circuits and power source requirements as established by the National Electrical Code and designed to control use of a device or control ingress or egress of a structure or automobile, including, but not limited to, peripheral devices to alarm systems, safes, vaults,



From left, OKBFAA Secretary/Treasurer Jana Davis, Sen. Newberry, Bobby Graham, Sen. Newberry and Charles Hudecek, president of the Oklahoma Master Locksmith Association.



OKBFAA's Jana Davis and Charles Hudecek, president of the Oklahoma Master Locksmith Association, share a laugh at the Oklahoma State Legislative Dinner in May at Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse in Bricktown. Sen. Harry Coates (R-Dist. 28) addressed state legislation impacting the electronic life safety, security and integrated systems industry, and co-authored several bills impacting our industry in the Legislature, including HB 2320.

safe deposit boxes, bio-metric/retina readers and mechanical or electronic key systems."

"This is a huge milestone," said Rick Spring, president, OKBFAA. "Our biggest issue has been the alarm act has been in effect for 25 years. It was dated and didn't allow for the changes in technology. We were regulated to everything below 24 volts, which meant that we couldn't touch anything above 24 volts. That's been changed."

Regarding licensing requirements, the amended Act states that "Any person engaged in any activity regulated by the Alarm and Locksmith Industry Act, when installing or repairing electrical circuits consisting entirely of Class 2 or Class 3 circuits and power source requirements as established by the National Electrical Code, shall not be required to obtain any license as required by the Electrical Licensing Act, if such person is licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Alarm and Locksmith Industry Act, provided that persons performing installations, repairs or other work on any electrical circuits other than Class 2 or Class 3 circuits shall be properly licensed or registered pursuant to the Electrical Licensing Act."

The legislation also provides new rules related to State Advisory Board member term limits, stating that each member currently serving may complete their term and is eligible to serve one additional term. In addition, members appointed on or after May 1, 2011 will be eligible to serve two full terms.

"Our thanks to the OMLA members who helped to make these changes possible," said Spring.

"These changes allow us to move into the 21st century and are really in the best interest of the public."

Save this date:
Annual awards banquet
Friday, Oct. 8

Online registration will be available

Inside:

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This bi-monthly newsletter is produced for Oklahoma Burglar & Fire Alarm Association members and made available to non-members.

Showcase your company by advertising in **Transmitter**. Space is available – check out our rates online at www.okbfaa.org.

Office staff: Please route this newsletter to the company's owner or primary manager.

From the Board

Tagging issues may see resolution



Rick Spring

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Rick Spring is the president of OKBFAA. He is co-owner of HESI, in business in the Oklahoma City metro area for almost 20 years.)

We're a little more than halfway through the year, and I'm proud of the effort made by members to effect positive change within our industry.

The ad-hoc committee established by the State Alarm and Locksmith Advisory Committee earlier this spring has been extremely active, working on the language and rules related to tagging various systems. We're averaging eight people at each meeting, and I encourage you to attend. This committee was formed specifically to assist in properly regulating our industry — something all of us have a stake in. Please contact either OKBFAA Executive Director Wanda Day or myself for meeting dates and times.

Licensing enforcement

The Occupational Licensing Division at the State Department of Health has been busy as well. Matt Schue, occupational licensing director, and his staff at the State Health Department have been stepping up their enforcement efforts as it relates to licensing. This is especially important as more and more out-of-state companies flood our area.

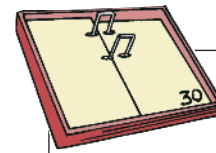
Classifying who is a sub

I hope you took the time to read (*see next page*) about the presentation made on June 3 by Oklahoma Labor Commissioner Lloyd Fields and Employment Standards Division Director Ray Andrews, who spoke about labor law, specifically as it pertains to subcontracting labor. I'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to both men for taking the time to address our group. Bringing speakers in to address our quarterly board meetings is a new initiative, and one that will bring a new perspective on everyday issues our industry faces.

EPS lead certification rule

The Association is continuing to keep an eye out for new proposed rules and regulations that would have an effect on our industry, either positive or negative. The Environmental Protection Agency's Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule requires business and individuals who conduct interior and exterior renovation repair and painting to be certified and follow specific lead-safe work practices to minimize exposure to lead-based paint dust. This certification will prove to be cost-prohibitive for members of the alarm and locksmith industry. OKBFAA has suggested to the EPA that a representative be sent to a certification class to find out exactly what happens. We will keep you posted.

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. E-mail me at rspring@hesisystems.com, or call me at (405) 348-1972.



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).

July 16 – 18

Sept. 17 – 19

Nov. 19 – 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.

Sept. 2

ADI, Oklahoma City
3801 South Moulton Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73179
405.681.4008

Oct. 8

Annual banquet/awards

Dec. 2

SGI, Tulsa
3148 S. 108th E. Ave. Suite 110
Tulsa, OK
918.250.9298

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.

July 7

Aug. 4

Sept. 1

Oct. 6

Labor Chief confirms sub rules

Members hosted Labor Commissioner Lloyd L. Fields for the quarterly meeting, held in June at SGI in Tulsa.

Fields presented with associate Ray Andrews, director of the employment standards Division of the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

Andrews directed the attendees to Page 18 of the "Wage Law" booklet, which lists letters A-K of subcontractor qualifications.



Labor Commissioner Lloyd Fields, right, with associate Ray Andrews, foreground, address the quarterly meeting of the OKBFAA in June, hosted by SGI in Tulsa.

If any the majority of the questions (see box) can be answered with a "yes," then that person could be an employee and NOT a sub.

"Are you hiring an individual to perform labor or are you hiring a separate entity, and that's critical. That's what all this boils down to," said Ray Andrews, Employment Standards Division, labor department.

Also, if your company believes another company does not carry workers comp coverage, then you can call the labor office and an on-line database system (National Council of Compensation Insurance), will check the validity of that company and the labor commission will cite that company, if appropriate.

Call the Employment Standards Division, Director Ray Andrews, at Oklahoma Department of Labor, (888) 269-5353 or email ray.andrews@labor.ok.gov.

Paul Conrady, legislative liaison and OKBFAA vice president, said, "If a company hires a subcontractor, he will either be on your payroll as an employee and, if not, he must hold a license as a company and be a licensed tech. As a sub, the person must be fully insured under workers comp or provide proof of exemption."

Are they a sub or employee?

Are you hiring a separate business entity or just a laborer?

IF you, the employer, can answer 'yes' to the majority of these questions, then it appears this person is an employee/employer relationship and not a subcontractor, said Ray Andrews, director of the Employment Standards Division of the state Department of Labor.

IF there is a "no" to the majority of these statements, below, then it could appear you are violating law as an employer of this person, Andrews said. And the person would be considered a subcontractor. And ultimately, it would be up to your workers comp insurance carrier to evaluate the risk or your employment or labor law attorney.

1. The nature of the contract between the parties – is it written?
2. Does my company have control on the details of the work?
3. Does this person work for other individuals or companies, related to the occupation?
4. Is the work the person performing usually done under the direction of your company?
5. Is your company training this person for the skill required in the particular occupation?
6. Is the person supplying their own instruments and tools, and is the place of work in the company offices?
7. Is the relationship continuous and not held to a specific length of time?
8. Is this person's work by the job? Is this person's work by the time?
9. Is the person's work an integral part of the regular business that your company performs?
10. Does the person believe they are an employee?
11. Does the company risk liability if the person is terminated early?

Advisory Board Member Profile

Brown, industry leader since '70s

Rick Brown has worked in the alarm industry — and at the family business, Guard Tronic — since he was in high school.



Rick Brown, chairman, Oklahoma Alarm & Locksmith Advisory Committee

"I had two brothers in the business and my brother-in-law's four brothers were also at Guard Tronic," Brown said. "I worked for the company during the summers since 10th grade and came to work full time when I got out of college in 1973."

Brown currently oversees operations for the company, one of the largest independent alarm companies in the nation. Guard Tronic has offices in Fort Smith, Springdale, Forrest City and Little Rock, Ark., Muskogee, Okla., and Joplin, Mo. The company has been family-owned since 1959 and has never been bought or sold.

Brown has one partner in the business, Dave Gilbert, his brother-in-law's brother, who has been a good friend since 10th grade. Brown said that while most of the family has moved on to other ventures, son Jordan has followed in his father's footsteps.

"He runs our Fort Smith office," Brown said.

Brown is married and has two additional children, Charity and Randall. In addition to work and family, he said he enjoys trout fishing in Montana.

Brown became involved with OKBFAA in the mid 1970s through friend Joe Warlick, who owned Reliance Alarms, currently Honeywell in Tulsa.

"We tried for several years to get legislation passed and were finally successful in 1985," said Brown, who is the board chairman. "I've been involved with the industry and association ever since."

He was named to the State Advisory Board in 1995 and said he's seen many changes since then.

"We hired Matt Schue about 10 years ago to help with enforcement and he has changed our industry for the better," said Brown. "It's become fairer and people are able to do a better job complying with the rules since we brought Matt on."

That's not to say that serving on the committee is at all easy. "It's an exercise in 'hurry up and wait,'" he said. "Sometimes things happen very fast. Other times, it's frustrating and slow-going to achieve the changes that will help our industry."

Industry News

Scholarships awarded for this year; Industry, please apply in 2011!

Each year, OKBFAA offers scholarships to students who are graduating from high school and have been accepted for admission to an accredited college or university. The student's parent or guardian, or the applicant, must be an active employee of an alarm company licensed in Oklahoma, a member of an Oklahoma police department, or a paid or volunteer member of a fire department located in Oklahoma. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$500 per student.

OKBFAA encourages industry members to apply next year, as that category has the fewest number of applicants, generally. The application is on line at www.okbfaa.org and the deadline is in March. Mark your calendar.

OKBFAA is proud to announce the following students as its 2010 Scholarship recipients. Congratulations!



Courtney Cass, Tulsa

Amount Awarded: \$1,000, Industry

High School: Holland Hall

Will Attend: Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

Planning to Study: Biology

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, photography



Chase O'Hara, Tuttle

Amount Awarded: \$1,000, Fire Department

High School: Tuttle High School

Will Attend: University of Oklahoma, Norman

Planning to Study: Aerospace Engineering

Hobbies/Interests: Hanging out with friends, swimming, and playing basketball



Bailey Bruning, Guthrie

Amount Awarded: \$500, Police Department

High School: Guthrie High School

Will Attend: Oklahoma State University, Stillwater

Planning to Study: Communication Disorders

Hobbies/Interests: Volunteering at Make Promises

Happen, a camp for individuals with special needs.



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Newly licensed businesses

Oklahoma

- **Newave Technology, Inc.** (Oklahoma City) – CCTV
- **Odyssey Security and Communications, LLC** (Edmond) – Burglar, Commercial Fire Alarm, CCTV, Access Control
- **Oklahoma Fire Systems** (Chandler) – Commercial Fire Alarm
- **Pitstop Pop-A-Lok** (McAlester) – Locksmith

Out of State

- **CoLiant Solutions, Inc.** (Buford, GA) – CCTV, Access Control
- **G&S Services** (Mineral Wells, TX) – CCTV
- **Protex Central, Inc.** (Hastings, NE) – Commercial Fire Alarm
- **Save On My Alarm** (Kirkland, WA) - Monitoring
- **Scarsdale Security Systems, Inc.** (Scarsdale, NY) – Monitoring
- **Sierra Detention Systems, Inc.** (Golden, CO) – Locksmith, CCTV, Access Control
- **Summit Fire Protection** (St. Paul, MN) – Commercial Fire Sprinkler
- **The Genesys Group, Inc.** (Oshkosh, WI) – Monitoring
- **Trans Alarm, Inc.** (Burnsville, MN) – Monitoring

(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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Out-of-state licenses on ad-hoc discussion list

Several members serve on State Alarm and Locksmith Industry Committee ad hoc panel. Rather than the Committee hearing all issues at once, the ad-hoc committee will form a decision on rule changes, education requirements, the adoption of new rules, etc., and recommend that decision to the state advisory board.

The ad hoc group has met for the first time, and some issues discussed were central station certification, adopted references, and customer documentation. OKBFAA past president Mike Nelson provided copies of new language concerning third-party verification for monitoring and additional to the references that should be adopted for the industry.

Nelson said the plan is to have any recommendations completed by November, so rules changes can be in place by July.

The monthly meeting is open to anyone and the committee is open to ideas from all parties. The group is facilitated by Matt Schue, director of the Occupational Licensing Division for the Oklahoma Department of Health.

The present ad-hoc committee consists of: OKBFAA leadership representatives Jana Davis, Paul Conrady, Mike Nelson, Rick Spring and Wanda Day. Other members include Bobby Graham with Access Security, Steve Lutz with IFS Resources, Drake McDannald with Mac Systems, Matt Schue and Dan Wiesel with Endex OKC.

News Briefs

Association numbers increase

The association reported recently at its quarterly member meeting that membership is up over last year, with 85 members thus far

this year. Tell your friends here's why they should be a member.

Other board action

The board approved membership dues for the Construction Industries Council, a powerful legislative advocacy group for several different areas under construction.

Workplace posters free online

The Oklahoma Department of Labor offers free posters concerning a company's labor practices, which are required to be posted in your workplace. To access, go on line at www.ok.gov/odol, and click on 'Workplace poster,' under quick links, or contact Glenda Owen in the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission at (888) 980-WORK (9675) and she will have laminated state and federal required posters, free.

Member Profile

Owner started business in spare bedroom



Glen Matlock, owner, Matlock Security Systems

Things don't always go as planned, as OKBFAA member Glen Matlock knows all too well. Matlock formed Tulsa's Matlock Security Systems in 1995 in one of his home's spare bedrooms. He planned on retiring and doing service calls and small residential sales. His retirement plan has never really come to fruition.

"The business kept growing and pretty soon I thought 'I have to get out of here and get an office,'" Matlock said.

"I did that and I leased an office for 3 or 4 years. After that, I moved into a bigger space a few doors down, and after about 2 years I outgrew that and moved into the place where I am now, which is about a 7,500-square-foot building."

"Would you believe that we're looking for a bigger space?" Matlock began his alarm industry career in alarm sales in 1980. By the mid-1980s, he became involved with the Northeast Oklahoma Alarm Association. When the organization faded out, he became involved with OKBFAA. He served as president of the association for two years.

In 1989, Matlock took a lead role in the creation of the Monitoring America Alarm Co-op. Based in Tulsa, this central station is owned entirely by alarm companies.

Matlock is originally from Chicago and moved to Oklahoma during his first marriage. Make no mistake — Matlock has no intention of leaving and Oklahoma has truly become Matlock's home. He's remarried and both of his sons work at the business.

"Randy, the oldest, had been working for IBM and was laid off

about a year ago," he said. "Rod, the younger one, came on board in about 2000."

Matlock Security Systems does most of its work in fire alarm systems, data systems, closed circuit TV, access control and school intercoms. They do some residential work, but not much, said Matlock.

"We're a systems integrator," he said.

When he's not working, Matlock enjoys riding his bicycle for recreational purposes. He's been involved with Oklahoma FreeWheel in the past, an annual week-long cross-state bicycle ride that takes place in early June. Although he's decided not to participate this year, he's ridden the FreeWheel four times, beginning at the Texas-Oklahoma state line and riding north to Kansas.

While Matlock agrees that a week-long bicycle ride is a challenge, he said that keeping up with changes in alarm industry can also be daunting.

"Keeping up with technology and the rules and regulations," he said. "That's been the most challenging part."

Six 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.
6. Access to codes in member-only section of website.

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.