



# Texas Fire Alarm Association

*Dedicated to Life Safety*

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## Happy New Year from TFAA

We hope your last year was a prosperous one and 2003 will be even better.

**HOUSTON Meeting—February 19th  
At Hilton Houston Hobby, 8181 Airport  
Ph 713-645-3000 Call them Now !!**

## Time to Excel in a Down Economy

Make no mistake, the economy will very likely continue to be down though out most of 2003 and possible longer. So this is your notice that we all must get our efficiency UP and our costs DOWN, if we are going to make it through this downturn.

Be an entrepreneur for your operation, whether you are a maintenance employee, manager or owner. This will apply to all businesses, whether it be a Fire Alarm Contractor, Commercial Business, AHJ or personal endeavor. You must produce more with LESS time and LESS cost. This means make every minute productive. Cut the coffee time, talking time and goofing off time. It is time for the innovative people to EXCEL, and we will !!

This is your opportunity to show the world what you and your company can do. Your operation can be the shining star in your field. Time to show your owner what you can really do in time of need. If you are the Owner, then believe me, this is for REAL. You are about to have your best business skills tested.

## OFF & AWAY TO HOUSTON In 2003

Houston it is on February 19th for TFAA's first meeting this year. This is the time of year we meet and approve any By Law changes as recommended by the By Law Committee (Ball, Moore, Durham and Kaczmarek).

So we need you there to help us keep things running the way you want them. Bob Kaczmarek, President is our host and has our meeting set and planned. We will probably have speakers on Fire Alarm contracts and Insurance ideas for your business.

## We Want YOU Involved

Hey !! Your opinion is important to all of us. We want your input. Sit down right now and send me something. Your opinion on any fire related subject is requested. Send it to: [www.tfaa@jmee.com](mailto:www.tfaa@jmee.com).

With your permission, we will put your comments on the TFAA web site (TFAA.net or TFAA.com or in the Newsletter or both.

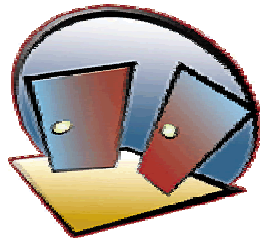
You owe it to us—come on—do it now!!

Here are some suggested subjects:

1. How can TFAA as an association promote our relationship with AHJs. Is our WebSite Info Section a good way to do this?
2. How can our association further promote NICET in Texas?
3. What subjects and speakers are of most interest to you?
4. How can TFAA best solicit new members?

## LET'S OPEN OUR DOORS TO MORE NEW MEMBERS

Bring a competitor or two to our Houston meeting or our next Austin meeting. Let us improve our industry.



### New Dot.Com for TFAA

We have succeeded in obtaining [www.TFAA.com](http://www.TFAA.com) for our Association. This *common ending* will make our site more accessible and easy to find. Take a look at our site, we are working hard to make it something you will be proud of. We want to make it useful also. We want to include information from AHJs, changes in regulations, current information on our industry and much more.

See article on front page "We Want You Involved". This is our appeal to you for ideas and information that we can use to further our Association. We need you !!

#### *New Members Coming in Fast*

##### Last Meetings New Members approved included:

Rex Allen-American, Richardson; Todd Burghart-API, Dallas; Wayne Berry-AISD, Austin; Mary Cannedy & Seigler-Ray Cannedy Co, Wichita; Larry Dowden-KMC/TL, Austin; Jason Ferguson-Koetter FP, Austin; Kent McKern-Simplex, Waco; John Voss-Simplex, Lewisville.

##### New Applications for approval next meeting to date:

Henry Homerghaus, Texas System Supply, SA  
Roddy Bieber, Firetrol Protection, Dallas  
Ron Darley, Metroplex Controls, Dallas  
Bill Johnson, same  
Darrell Churchman, same  
Brian Griffen, Silent Knight, Dallas  
Janet Budlong, same  
Mark Gilmore, System Sensor, Dallas

## BY LAWS

Some changes have been proposed for our By Laws. You should have received a copy if you are a member. Please look them over and if you desire any changes, please submit them in writing to the President prior to Feb 12th. This will give the Board of Directors time to consider your changes. Send to: Bob Kaczmarek, 7604 Kempwood Drive, Houston, TX 77055.. Items to be deleted are in [italics] and items to be added are (underlined).



## Down to Austin In June

We hope the market has turned up by the time you come to our JUNE 11th Austin meeting.

Another great Joint Meeting with the SFPE Association. We are excited to have our joint meeting at the beautiful facilities of Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) in Austin. They are located reasonably close to the new Austin-Bergstrom Airport. Several Hotels and Motels are in the nearby area. We will detail all of this information in our June TFAA news.

AMD has great facilities you will want to see. You will also be invited to SFPE's day long Seminar on Tuesday June 10th, the day before our meeting. Conducting the Seminar will be the well known Mr. Bruce Fraser of Simplex. Be sure to come to this informative seminar before our TFAA meeting.

Golf Pros, we have some great GOLF courses in the area !!

## Government's Right to Oversee Nursing Homes is Upheld

In a strongly worded decision, a federal district court in Washington recently upheld the government's right to inspect, cite and sanction nursing homes that jeopardize their residents' health safety.

The decision affects the country's 1.6 million nursing home residents by reaffirming the power of the enforcement system set up to protect them, a system frequently attacked by nursing homes as wrong-headed and overreaching.

## Automatic Fire Alarm Association



50th Anniversary  
2003 Annual Meeting  
New Orleans  
April 9-12, 2003

*Recognition Committee is accepting nominations for the AFAA Service Award. Any member can nominate a local or national member. Bob Kaczmarek, our President, was the recipient in 1994 and Joe Durham in 1990. Do it again !!*

#### *Nominations for the Board of Directors includes:*

Bruce Fraser, Simplex—our June Speaker  
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm & Marty Smith, Alarm Tech