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OPEN

President's Piece

February 2026

Dear SBOC Members, Friends and Colleagues:

First, I would like to thank Lisa Henning and the Chicago Roofing Contractors Association for their hospitality. It was a great venue with so many interesting expo booths and discussions. Now on to our regularly scheduled events. Our next monthly meeting will be February 19th at Boughton Ridge Golf Course and the topic will be "A Deep Dive into the 2026 Illinois Stretch Code and Existing Building Policies". Please check the SBOC website for more details including our speakers.

Steve Martin has sent emails to the primary contacts from each organization for the SBOC membership updates. Please respond to this so we can keep up to date on our membership. Also, this would be a good time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. We are looking to expand our membership so talk us up among your colleagues. There is strength through numbers and we need as many members as possible in our industry to effectively deal with upcoming changes in Illinois that will affect everyone.

The SBOC Board will have a workshop on February 4th to discuss delegating Steve Martin's duties for the website and administration. If you are interested in helping out with the website or something else, contact us. You can also provide feedback or suggestions. There is still an opening on the Board so please volunteer if you can. If not, get involved in any way you can by participating in our forums, surveys, and meetings.

Looking ahead, we have our annual Spring School on March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge. We have a great lineup that we will be posting to the website. There is a new cancellation policy for this and all of our events so be sure to read. Steve has spent too much time chasing members for registrations, payments, and responses and that is going to stop. We are all volunteers who need to devote our time for pertinent matters so be more considerate if you have not been in the past.

Looking further ahead, we have two field trips planned for Underwriters Laboratory in Northbrook on April 16 and May 21. We will tour their three labs from 9-12 with lunch to follow. Group size is limited to 28 so be sure to sign up when it becomes available. All of the details will be posted to our website. A follow up field trip to UL later in the year can be arranged if demand warrants it. We also are looking into another field trip as well as something special to commemorate the 80th anniversary of SBOC. There was a dinner cruise in the past but we are open to suggestions from the membership.

Back to the current month of February, we look forward to Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, and the Super Bowl. We celebrate Black History Month and President's Day. If there are any events that are worth mentioning for our membership, pass them along to possibly be posted to our website. We are always interested in our members' milestones along with any announcements that other members may be interested in. We are working to connect more members to our Socials (LinkedIn and Facebook) so be on the lookout for more information to follow.

With that, I hope that we all have a productive and prosperous 2026. I look forward to working with the Board and others as needed. Let us work together to make this year one of the best for the SBOC and the United States of America who is celebrating its 250th anniversary. Visit our website at <http://www.sbo-7.com/> to contact us for questions, comments, or concerns. Stay safe out there.

Best Regards,

John O'Donnell

John O'Donnell, MCP, CBO
SBOC President 2026