

# official newsletter



January 2020

## Highlights from 2019 conference

The NSSA held its annual meeting Nov. 13 in Birmingham, Alabama. All members were invited to attend the meeting and participate in committee discussions. Here are a few takeaways from the conference:

- Corey Schultz received the 2019 Kiesling award. Recipients are individuals who have significantly contributed to the improvement of the storm-shelter industry. Schultz worked with FEMA to design the first versions of a safe room for Wichita public schools. He then assisted in developing the original FEMA P361 guidelines for safe rooms.

As an architect registered in six Midwest states, he established Schultz<sup>2</sup> Architects with his wife, who is also an architect. Together they have been involved in the construction of 155 tornado shelters. Schultz is a voting member of ICC/NSSA Standard

for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters.

- New executive committee members were elected. Michelle Guymon Barbee is NSSA president with Benchmark Harris to act as VP of Technical and Daren Wheeler to serve as VP of Communications. Ann Ritchie will work as treasurer and Maria Hahn as secretary.

- Dr. Ernst Kiesling requested to change his title from executive director to executive director emeritus. Kiesling is well known for his Texas Tech Wind Science and Engineering leadership and lifelong career accomplishments that led to the development of storm shelters and safe rooms.

- Plan now to attend the 2020 Storm Shelter Conference in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Look for more information coming soon.



2019 Kiesling Award recipient Corey Schultz, left, with Dr. Ernst Kiesling.

## Labeling and listing update

NSSA has formed a taskforce to establish a relationship with a qualified agency to provide labeling and listing of storm shelters as required in the proposed 2020 ICC 500 Code. This taskforce will work to streamline the labeling and listing process for our members.

NSSA operations manager Mike Vaughn said, "Labeling and listing is a great thing for storm-shelter producers and consumers. This will provide an easy way for producers to demonstrate to their consumers that they have manufacturing and installation procedures in place to satisfy the code requirements. All a consumer will have to do is confirm the shelter they are considering is labeled and listed."

### INDUSTRY TRIVIA

- The Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to November 30. The Pacific hurricane season is May 15 to Nov. 30
- Hurricanes can affect areas more than 200 miles inland
- September is the most active hurricane month
- Water weighs about 1,700 pounds per cubic yard
- One inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to a home

Source: ready.gov

## A letter from our president

### The 'why' behind our work

Welcome to NSSA 2020!

Major changes are ahead this year as we approach the final adoption of the revised ICC 500 standards. There was concern, confusion, and trepidation in the sessions and conversations we had at our 2019 Fall Conference in Birmingham. Hopefully those who attended left feeling more confident in their understanding of what's to come and more prepared to take on the challenges. And while it's easy to get caught up in what the new requirements will mean to our businesses, I encourage you to remember why each of us are working in this industry.

All of us—design professionals, installers, component manufacturers, and shelter producers—are building structures that may be the only thing that stands between human lives and Mother Nature's worst storms. We design and build to defend against the havoc that can be unleashed by 250 mph winds and flying debris. We save lives. It's what we do, every day, by designing and building the strongest and safest structures in the marketplace.

Thank you for using your knowledge and expertise to protect folks around the U.S. We look forward to working with you in 2020 and encourage you to get more involved in the NSSA.

Michelle Guymon Barbee  
NSSA president  
Safe Sheds Sales, Inc. controller