

ASTC 2024 Annual Business Meeting - Minutes

Meeting Date: 23 March 2024, 9:00AM – 11:00 AM PT

Location: Issaquah room - 3rd floor of the Seattle Grand Sheraton, 1400 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85754974722?pwd=IF6aA5wco51AGfK1xMPu9qmMiCbJXe.1>

Meeting ID: 857 5497 4722

Passcode: 833995

1. Call to order and Welcome (Heather McAvoy, President)
2. Secretary's Report (Peter Scheu - Attached)
3. Treasurer's Financial Report (R Duane Wilson)
 - a. Checking account and CDs balances reported
 - b. Accountant brought on board to assist with bookkeeping and reports
 - c. All members have paid 2024 dues
 - d. ASTC in excellent financial condition
4. Committee Reports (attached at the end)
 - a. Membership (Todd Hensley)
 - i. Three (3) membership applications received, and all were recommended for approval
 1. Keith Friedlander (Schuler Shook)
 2. Kascey Haslanger (Charcoalblue)
 3. Paul Whitaker (Schuler Shook)
 - ii. Fellows (Scott Crossfield) – No nominations this cycle
 - iii. Honorary Membership Criteria being worked on by committee
 - b. Outreach & Education (Howard Glickman, Emily Brainerd)
 - i. Mentorship Program – Jared Schomer described the program in detail and solicited member's participation. Several members expressed interest and will be contacted by Jared.
 - ii. ASTC/USITT Renovation Challenge (March 2025) – Howard Glickman reported on updating of current documents and push for program as the March 2025 Challenge is fast approaching.
 - c. Conference (Don Hirsch)
 - i. NATEAC '24 – In Brooklyn, NY. ASTC leading a couple of tours. Jerad Schomer and Peter Rosenbaum to make arrangements at sites unverified at the moment.

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- ii. Forum 2024 – Committee recommendation of Lubbock, TX, October 25-27, 2024, with “educational” theme TBD. Met with acceptance from members.
 - iii. Annual 2025 – To be held in conjunction with USITT in Columbus, OH, March 5 – 8, 2024. Meeting date and time TBD
5. *(Break – Board of Directors Executive Meeting)*
- d. Publications (Paul Sanow)
 - e. Codes (Robert Smulling)
 - f. Info/Coms (Jody Kovalick) – Not much to report. Looking to move forward on Google member information input project
6. Other Business
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment - 10:25 AM

Next general membership business meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2024, during the ASTC Forum in Lubbock, TX.

Meeting attendees – In Person:

Emily Brainerd	Jody Kovalick	Robert Smulling
Rusty Cadaret	Maura LaRiviere	Rose Steele
Joe Chapman	Paul Luntsford	Peter Rosenbaum
Kent Conrad	Kevin Macpherson	R Duane Wilson
Scott Crossfield	Heather McAvoy	
Jedd DeLucia	Jeff Miller	
Andrew Gibbs	Chris Ochocki	
Howard Glickman	Paul Sanow	
Kevin Greene	Peter Scheu	
Todd Hensley	Jared Schomer	
Collin Huse	Fritz Schwenker	

Meeting attendees – Online/Zoom:

Bill Conner	Van Phillips
Jack Hagler	Grace Gavin Rhodes
Michael Nishball	Alex Robinson
Michael Parella	

Total Member Participation with Proxies – 62 (41 needed for quorum)

ASTC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

13 March 2024

1. Three individuals have applied for Membership:
 - a. Keith Friedlander of Schuler Shook, sponsored by Joshua Grossman and Christopher Sprague
 - b. Kascey Haslanger of Charcoalblue, sponsored by Jon Sivell and Patrick Barrett
 - c. Paul Whitaker of Schuler Shook, sponsored by Heather McAvoy and Tony Foreman.

The Membership Committee is unanimous in recommending Full Membership for these applicants.

2. I have fielded a number of inquiries from people who express their interest in applying. If they are unfamiliar with the details of membership, I refer them first to the “Prospective Members” and “Membership and Application FAQs” resources on our website. Those guides have been extremely helpful for those who choose to apply, and it helps some people realize that they don’t qualify. Thanks to the Board and to Stephen Placido for developing those resources.
3. The Board of Directors has asked the Committee to consider the category of Honorary Membership and make recommendations for application and evaluation. The Committee is working on that task at present.
4. Scott Crossfield, chair of the Fellows subcommittee, reports that there are no nominations this cycle.
5. The Membership Committee consists of:
 - Todd Hensley, Chair
 - Scott Crossfield, Chair of Fellows Sub-Committee
 - Patrick Barrett
 - Emily Brainerd
 - Michael DiBlasi
 - Robert Long
 - Grace Gavin Rhodes
 - R Duane Wilson

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Hensley
Chair

ASTC Outreach and Education Committee Report March 2024

The purpose of the ASTC Outreach and Education Committee is to serve as a valuable resource to students and early-career professionals who may be interested in pursuing a career in theatre consulting, and to create an environment in our industry for equity, diversity, and inclusion. We firmly believe that achieving these goals requires the participation of a wide spectrum of individuals, inclusive of a diverse combination of gender, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and life experiences.

We feel it is important to note that increasing the diversity of our profession is a generational effort, one that may not see results immediately as it takes time to expand awareness of Theatre Consulting as a career, and then guide and mentor potential future Theatre Consultants through their education and early careers.

Since our last report in October 2023, the committee has focused on the following objectives:

1. Updating the documents under the committee's purview with the new logos, dates, etc.
2. Updating the Mentorship program documents and considering how to expand the program beyond New York City.
 - a. We have agreed that because we can be flexible in the timeline to match the schedules and needs of mentees and mentors.
 - b. Currently, we do not plan to expand beyond one mentee a semester, but this may be reconsidered based upon the level of interest of the membership.
3. The materials for the 2025 Student Renovation Challenge have been updated. And they have been posted to the ASTC website. Our goals for the 2025 Challenge are:
 - a. Take advantage of the 2-year cycle and increase the time for teams to work on their projects.
 - b. Better align the Challenge schedule with academic calendars.
 - c. Create clearer announcements and instructions.
 - d. Create understandable and transparent judging criteria.
4. The Committee continues to look at ways to raise awareness of, increase interest in and improve access to ASTC programs for potential members who may help meet our goal of increasing diversity in the short term. The

membership is encouraged to identify potential new members within their firms who may otherwise not feel ready or see a value in joining. In addition, the Committee will be exploring other options to expand ASTC membership by exploring scholarships or invitations to attend ASTC events as guests to encourage participation and reduce the burden on younger Consultants who may be ready for ASTC but do not yet have the inclination or resources to join.

Respectfully Submitted on March 18, 2024:

Outreach and Education Committee

Howard Glickman – Chairperson

Emily Brainerd – Vice Chairperson

Ted Ohl – Secretary

Clemeth Abercrombie

Kent Conrad

Andrew Gibbs

Heather McAvoy

Chris Ochocki

Grace Gavin Rhodes

Alex Robertson

Peter Rosenbaum

Jerad Schomer

ASTC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Conference Committee met virtually Friday, March 7, 2024, with Don Hirsch, Michael DiBlasi, Heather McAvoy, Peter Scheu, Chris Sprague, and Duane Wilson in attendance.

ANNUAL '24

There was a brief discussion of the arrangements for the ASTC dinner Friday night and the Saturday morning breakfast and business meeting.

In addition to the regular Saturday morning business meeting, ASTC will have a booth in the USITT exhibition hall to raise awareness of our craft.

- FORUM '24

At the ASTC Annual '23 meeting in St. Louis, MO a FORUM '24 Committee was formed to research meeting locations in the southern U.S. states. The committee is helmed by Jack Hagler and members include R. Long, P. Luntsford, C. Ochocki, F. Schwentker, and D. Hirsch. The committee researched several locales and discussed the pros & cons of each and presented their selection to the ASTC Conference Committee.

The Conference Committee is recommending the following:

- Location: Lubbock, TX
- Dates: Friday, October 25 - Sunday, October 27, 2024
- Forum '24 Chair: Jack Hagler & Forum '24 Committee
- Program: *Tentatively* – Theatres & Downtown Development/Revitalization; Theatres in Higher Education – Needs, Operations; etc. & Members – on - Members
- Schedule:
 - Arrival Thursday evening - informal gatherings
 - Venue tours [Buddy Holly Hall, Maedgen Theatre @Texas Tech] & Presentations and Friday and Saturday
 - ASTC Dinner Friday or Saturday evening
 - Business meeting with catered breakfast & lunch Sunday morning

- ANNUAL '25

Annual '25 will be held in Columbus, Ohio March 5 – 8, 2025. Note this is a bit earlier than is typical.

This is a Renovation Challenge year.

The Renovation Challenge is chaired by Howard Glickman.

- We actively seek input on topics and sites from members and invite interested members to join our Conference Committee

Conference Committee Members: Don Hirsch, Chair, Michael DiBlasi, Heather McAvoy, Chris Purpura, Peter Scheu, Chris Sprague, and Duane Wilson

Submitted – Don Hirsch, Chair

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Theatre Consultants Collaborative

13 March 2024

Peter Scheu
Secretary ASTC
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La Luz, NM 88337

RE ASTC PR CONTENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

To the Membership:

The last issue of *ASTC:Notes* was sent out on 19 December 2024. The next issue is expected to be published in June 2024 with an intent to push out most articles in advance so there is a stream of fresh content on our site and via Facebook and LinkedIn. So far, we have already published 4 pieces that will be included in the spring email blast.

The committee welcomes Alex Robertson back to the fold. We are also pleased that Joe Chapman has joined the group.

Current Publications Committee Members:

Joe Chapman
Kent Conrad – vice chair
Andrew Gibbs
Raymond Kent
Robert Long
Kim Corbett Oates
Michael Parrella
Ales Robertson
Paul Sanow - chair
Robert Shook

The Editorial Board remains: Peter Scheu, Kyle Smith, and Don Hirsch.

The committee held a meeting on 1 February online. Topics included:

1. Did You Know – no news, but the program will continue. This is an easy way for any ASTC member to write a short piece of information our readers need to know.
2. Spring articles:
 - a. Updates on ASTC activities:
 - i. New Members
 - ii. Board changes.
 - b. ASTC Remembers Tony Diemont (24 Jan)
 - c. ASTC Remembers Richard Pilbrow (24 Jan)
 - d. DYK – Top Ten Reasons a Dealer is not a Theatre Consultant (21 Feb)
 - e. Universal Design in the Performing Arts (13 Mar)
 - f. Potential Articles in the hopper, in various stages of progress (i.e. ideas to drafts):
 - i. Access for motorized rigging / catwalks
 - ii. 2025 Renovation Challenge
 - iii. Mentor Program
 - iv. Adjustable Acoustics
 - v. Rubrics for a successful project
 - vi. Coordination of floors and lifts
 - vii. Organizing the stage side of the proscenium



- viii. Dealing with aisle lighting
- ix. Stage Accessibility from the house
- x. Exit Signs in Orchestra Shells (lead?)

STATS FROM 2023 (PROVIDED BY SUSAN LUSTIG):

ASTC: Notes, Fall 2023, Dec. 19, 2023 at 5:05am EST
Sent: 1,910
Bounces: 502
Opens: 561 – 39.8% Open Rate
Clicks: 82
Unsubscribed: 7
(interesting fact: Desktop Opens=93.3%, Mobile Opens: 6.7%)

Unique clicks

Happy 40th Birthday: 31
New ASTC Members: 20
What Happens in the Lobby: 18
Checking in on the Coat Room: 18
Membership Roster: 16
Main page of ASTC website: 21
ASTC 40th Anniversary Forum: 14
Gil-Pujols Completes internship program: 11
ASTC Presents at IAVM Pittsburg: 9
ASTC USITT Challenge main page: 8
ASTC News (main blog page): 7
Company page for ASTSC: 5
Facebook: 4
Legal notice for Customers: 4

Susan further notes:

But let's go to the website stats, and I think you will find greater satisfaction with those stats and how many are coming to the website to read the articles that they search for on the web:

(Please note: Around May, Google made us convert the way we look at the Analytics. It was a nightmare. The first number is from approximately June 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023. The second number is earlier, from Jan. 1, 2023 to May 30, 2023. So this has a bit of a fudge factor as it is not clear when one stopped and the other began, but I got as close as I could.)

Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023

Main Page: 28,000 + 8400=36,400
Stage Floors that Work: 1,043+648=1,691
Doing Right by the Dressing Room: 1,008+732=1,740
100 Things a Theatre Architect Should Experience: 899=1,740
ASTC Membership Roster: 876+571=1,447
Origins of the 50' Stage Rule for Fire Safety Curtain: 788+249=1,037
Catwalk Considerations: 712+233=945
Platform or Stage: 589+395=984
Protecting the Best Seats in the House: 563+375=938
Did You Know-Stage Dimensions: 516+319=835

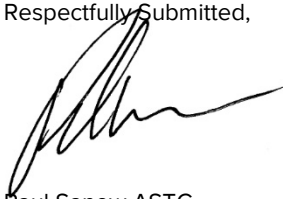


Why an ASTC Member: 507+234=741
How Far is Too Far?: 452+273=725
What is a Theatre Consultant: 441+315=756
DYK-Loading Docks: 416+111=527
USITT Venue Reno Challenge: 413+446=859
The Case for Rational Balcony Design: 404+336=740
Fellow of ASTC, FASTC: 364+98=462
How Much? The Grossly Larger Space: 362+255=617
DYK-Dressing Room Power & Light: 345+232=577
DYK-Sound and Light Locks: 298+243=541
Members: 288+203=491
DYK-Classic Fourth Wall: 238+110=348

The bottom line is that while we might like more people to open and read the newsletter as sent, we are actually getting quite a bit of traffic on the website throughout the year. This seems meaningful.

As always, we are eager for article submissions from the general membership of ASTC. You do not need to be a member of the committee. If you want to write something and just need a prompt – let us know. Articles may be brief (under 500 words) for the Did You Know series or longer form. The range of topics can include general interest, technical, codes, planning, estimating – all things we do each day. Help us show architects that ASTC theatre consultants add value to projects.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul Sanow ASTC
Principal Consultant



ASTC CODE COMMITTEE REPORT

March 15, 2024

Code Committee Members:

Names in **bold** only represent ASTC.

(M)=Member (P)=Principal (A)=Alternate (X)=Participant (C)=Chair (O)=Observer

Bill Conner

SAF-AXE (P), FDW-AAA (P), ICC (X), ANSI A117.1 (A), ADA-AG (X), NFPA (P)

R. Duane Wilson

ESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery WG (A), Rigging WG (P), Followspot WG (O), ANSI A117.1 (P), TSC-Technical Standards Council (A)

Andrew Gibbs

ESTA/TSC-Technical Standards Council (P)

Peter Scheu

ESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery Working Group (P), Rigging Working Group (O)

Jody Kovalick

NFPA (A)

Robert Smulling

Chair of ASTC Code Committee

Jedd de Lucia

Kevin Macpherson

Patrick Barrett

David Vieira

Chris Ochocki

Chris Holland

Maura LaRiviere

New member

Report:

Old Business (Previously discussed at the ASTC Forum Meeting held in NYC):

Stage Machinery Working Group (SMWG)

1. Most recent meeting on 06 October 2023.
2. BSR E1.42-201x, Stage and Orchestra Lifts
 - a. The public review period for reaffirmation of this standard has ended. Only one comment was received, as a “Yes, with comments.” The working group will vote by letter ballot to have it sent to the TSC and ANSI for adoption/reaffirmation as a standard.
 - b. Peter Scheu (ASTC’s principal representative to the SMWG) raised an issue that came to light only last week from difficulties an ASTC member was having with a manufacturer/installer on a project. The consultant’s spec called for a static load test. The manufacturer/installer is balking at the requirement as unnecessary and onerous. A static load test is not specifically required by the current standard, whereas dynamic load testing is. However, a provision of the standard (Section 7.2.1 – Compliance Testing) would seem to imply that a static load test needs to be done to “...verify conformance with the manufacturer’s engineered drawings, engineering data, and operational criteria.” Peter Scheu expressed that while the specific situation the ASTC member is experiencing is ultimately a contract issue (“It’s in the spec”), this was a possible “grey area” in the standard that needed to be addressed. Consultants and few others in the meeting felt that static load tests were necessary, but one engineer and a manufacturer argued that the requirement would be difficult to achieve and unnecessary, as when in a static condition, the lift should be considered as “part of the building” and not subject to such a test. No action was taken by the SMWG. Peter Scheu requested that this issue be

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taken up by the E1.42 Task Group later and plans to make a comment to this effect on the Letter Ballot.

- 3. ANSI E1.44 – 2014, Common Show File Exchange Format for Entertainment Industry Automation Control Systems -- Stage Machinery - No action taken. To be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn by 07 May 2024. Task group is reviewing.*
- 4. BSR E1.64, Stage Machinery Motion Control - Public review comment period has ended. The task group will be meeting to address comments received.*
- 5. BSR E1.71 Curtain Machines - Public review comment period has ended. The task group will be meeting to address comments received.*
- 6. ANSI E1.72 – 2023, Powered Floor Machines - Standard has been published by ANSI. To be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn by 18 September 2028*

Rigging Working Group (RWG)

- 1. Most recent meeting on 07 October 2023. There are too many standards assigned to the RWG to list them all here. The following were ones where any specific action was taken.*
- 2. Peter Scheu (ASTC), Pete Svitavsky (Wenger), and Christine Kaiser (Syracuse Scenery and Stage Lighting) have made a “New Project Request” for rigging system specific signage. This would be a “recommended practice” standard. A copy of this request is with the ASTC Code Committee. The request was approved by the RWG.*
- 3. BSR E1.1 – 202x, Wire Rope Ladders – Public review has ended. Task group to address comments.*
- 4. ANSI E1.6-1 - 2021, Entertainment Technology--Powered Hoist Systems (Reaffirm, revise, or withdraw before 10 May 2024). The task group has two additional meetings (including this one) to decide which action to take.*
- 5. ANSI E1.8 – 2018 (R2023), Entertainment Technology—Loudspeaker Enclosures Intended for Overhead Suspension—Classification, Manufacture and Structural Testing. It’s published.*
- 6. ANSI E1.21 - 2023, Entertainment Technology — Temporary Structures Used for Technical Production of Outdoor Entertainment Events. It’s published. A motion was made and agreed to open the latest version for a limited revision, to address three items noted in the distribution document.*
- 7. BSR E1.43 - 202x, Live performer flying effect standard - The first public review ended on 26 September. Comments were received, and a comment summary has been distributed.*
- 8. BSR E1.50-1 – 202x, Requirements for the Structural Support of Temporary LED, Video & Display Systems - The first public review ended on 26 September. Comments were received, and a comment summary has been distributed.*

New Business:

NEC (Reported by Duane Wilson)

- 1. Continuing their work on the next cycle (2026 code) and they just finished the first draft meetings in January. There will soon be a public comment period on the first draft followed by the second draft meetings.*

ANSI 117.1 (Reported by Duane Wilson)

- 1. Duane reports the committee is in the second round of proposal review that is expected to run through the summer. He and Bill Connor attend meetings every two weeks.*

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ESTA/TSP Standards Updates (Reported by Peter Scheu)

Rigging Working Group

1. BSR E1.2 - 202x, Entertainment Technology - Design, Manufacture and Use of Aluminum Trusses and Towers, has been opened for revisions, but the extent of the revisions is unknown at this time.
2. BSR E1.6-1 - 202x, Entertainment Technology--Powered Hoist Systems, but the extent of the revisions is unknown currently. Update by Task Group in July.
3. ANSI E1.6-3 - 2019, Selection and Use of Serially Manufactured Chain Hoists in the Entertainment Industry, has been opened for revisions, but the extent of the revisions is unknown at this time.
4. BSR E1.43 - 202x, Live performer flying effect standard – Revisions made, and public comments received and addressed. Being sent out for another public review.
5. BSR E1.50-1 – 202x, Requirements for the Structural Support of Temporary LED, Video & Display Systems – Revisions being sent out for public review.
6. BSR E1.81, Rigging systems signage requirements – This is a new project, just starting, headed up by Chris Kaiser at Syracuse Scenery. Peter Scheu is also on the Task Group. Two preliminary meetings so far.

Stage Machinery Working Group

1. BSR E1.64, Stage Machinery Motion Control – Some revisions made, public review comments made and addressed, sending out for another public review.
2. New Project Request – Unidirectional Control. Task group appointed.

Code Committee Meeting

1. On March 5th, 2024, the Code Committee held a meeting to discuss and accept Bill Conner's proposed changes for the following changes:
 - a. IBC 1109.2.8 – Performance Areas (Clarify the requirement to “directly connect” in relation to the circulation path.
 - b. IBC 1011.11 Handrails (from audience to stage).
 - c. IBC 410.2.4 Proscenium wall (The time required for 300 or fewer occupants to egress does not justify this extra compartmentalization and fire safety curtain.
 - d. IBC 410.2.7 Stage Ventilation (The time required for 300 or fewer occupants to egress does not justify the requirement for this.
2. The committee agreed with the proposed changes and Bill will submit these as written.
3. Additional comments made by committee members (Notes from Chris Ochocki):
 - a. There will be an E125-24 hearing in April. Full membership meeting intended to be approval of committee's work.
 - b. The proposed handrail language exception already exists as an exception in NFPA but not in yet in IBC.
 - c. No exceptions or comments from the ASTC Code Committee regarding the proposed modifications to direct connects language.
 - d. There is a disconnect regarding the description of 'Platforms' in Section 410.
 - e. Need to differentiate between 'platform' and 'stage'; need to better define the difference between differing types of spaces.

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- f. The question was asked do we define space by use vs. square footage?
 - g. Should it be called 'platform' vs. 'platform stage'?
 - h. Proposals for changes to 410 due in January 2025.
 - i. It was discussed and agreed to create a place for ASTC membership to comment on code changes. Chris Ochocki to look at creating such a place.
 - j. The question was asked if there is a possibility to delete the need for a fire curtain in stages over 50 feet?
 - k. Codes using 'proscenium opening' as the definition of a typical stage should no longer apply as a typical stage.
 - l. 410 discussions: Sprinklers at 50 feet below the grid are not effective.
 - m. A great animation to watch regarding smoke protection is the animation shown to members at a previous ASTC Forum a few years ago by Jim Niesel.
 - n. Bill suggested that any proposal changes made should also be made to the Life Safety Code.
4. The discussion was held with the committee to make substantial changes to Section 410 based on the opportunity to suggest revisions to the Code Commentary (Items 1C and 1D) for the current 2024 IBC.
 5. The committee agreed that IBC Section 410 needs to be rewritten. Since the deadline for IBC changes is due in early January 2025, there would be time for the committee to rewrite 410 as a group with a deadline for the rough draft due in Fall of 2024. This rough draft would be released to the entire membership for review/comments.
 6. Brief discussion about proposed changes submitted for A117. Bill suggested that a smaller committee made up of non-code committee people review and comment on any submitted proposed changes.
 7. Jody Kovalick will be the Alternate for NFPA with Bill Conner acting as Principal. Jedd de Lucia will be the back-up to the Alternate.
 8. Next Code Committee meeting will be held on March 23rd immediately following the ASTC Annual Business Meeting. (11:00 AM). This will be an onsite meeting for those attending USITT.
 9. The next online meeting will be held on April 23rd, 8:30 AM PST/11:30 AM EST.

Code Changes Proposed by ASTC

1. IBC 1030.9.5 Dead-end aisles: In the early fall of 2023, Bill Conner submitted on behalf of ASTC a change to 1030.9.5. This was accepted as submitted and should appear in the 2024 IBC.
2. Bill Conner submitted four code change proposals for the 2027 IBC on January 8th, 2024. These were reviewed and commented on by the Code Committee prior to the deadline. All code change proposals are scheduled to be posted on February 26th, 2024. The Code Committee will meet on March 5th to review/discuss the proposed changes. After the review, Bill can email errata by March 13th, 2024, to have included in the published errata to the monograph. The four codes being addressed are:
 - a. Exception to Proscenium Wall for 300 or less.
 - b. Handrails to Stage.
 - c. Stage Ventilation exception for 300 or less.
 - d. Direct Accessible Route.
3. Also in early January of 2024, Bill asked for committee comments/suggestions to the soon to be submitted IBC code 1109.2.8 – Performance Areas.
4. Bill was asked to review and contribute to the IBC commentary. This is to revise the 2021 commentary for the 2024 code. Bill reached out to the ASTC membership for comments.

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5. Bill submitted to the committee for review his commentary for the 2024 IBC code revision to Section 10 and 11. Commentaries for both were submitted by Bill in mid-February.
6. In early February 2024, Bill submitted to the Code Committee for review/comments of his edits to the Section 410 commentary. His latest draft will be submitted in late February.

Code Assistance:

There has been one request for code assistance addressed to all ASTC Members so far this year. Just in case you did not see the request or the response, I am adding this to the code committee report. If I omitted a request/response, please let me know and I will add this to the next report. I will continue to add these to future code committee reports to serve as a reminder for all members:

- **Question from Rose Steele on 11/15/2023:**

Members, may I get the wisdom of the great hive mind?

I have a concert hall project with a permanent enclosure, per the snip below. As you can see, there are 4 double doors to the backstage, then the required exits on each side of the platform. The big downstage curves swing open too, but I don't think that's relevant. What kind of exit signs we will be required to have? The maestro and I couldn't think of other spaces with such enclosure that had signs, but we don't trust that as definitive. I can think of a couple of Landry & Bogan projects with fixed shells and no signs, even got through the California DSA review, but I can't put my figure on a code exception or other reasoning should an official question it.

Response from Van Phillips on 11/15/2023:

You saw that same permanent acoustical shaping with operable door access to the stage in the Jenison Arts Center drawings I sent you! (The one the Architect and I have a copyright on!)

And we did have that same discussion with the Michigan State Fire Marshall (who are by the way Michigan State Police)! We pointed out the back stage areas are only dimly lighted and that musicians fill them with instruments they need later in the performance and often instrument cases (like for violins, and extra music stands, etc.) so it would be a hazardous option as an escape exit path. We pointed out that would also be true in a Proscenium theatre when all the multi-setting stage equipment was there for that show! They agreed after thinking about it!

We did have an extension in each corner of the side access platforms directly over to the front edge of the stage at each side with steps up from the front seat row area! Those also allowed for performers to escape directly off stage and up the side access ramps. And there was an EXIT Sign with an arrow pointing back to the rear doors just beyond your two side door swings! And they liked that!

For us that direct access path on each side allowed say a chorus to move from the stage to the side platforms (and back) to the stage without going out of sight backstage and then on stage again!

We used the Michigan review when we did the second one in Nebraska, and they accepted all of the Michigan logic.

I will say the Jenison design was not so pinched width wise. So we did have an exit door to the side hallways at about the 3rd row on each side. (You have that Stage Right but not the door swing distance! And I assume there is a lighted hallway beyond the Utility Room on Stage Left.

End of Code Committee Report