

SCHULTE & ASSOCIATES

Building Code Consultants
880D Forest Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202
fpeschulte@aol.com
847/866-7479

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 54: 1907 (ELEVENTH ANNUAL NFPA MEETING/ SECRETARY'S REPORT)

By Richard Schulte

The 11th annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in New York in late May, 1907. The Secretary's report followed the President's address and the Executive Committee's report. The following is the text of the Secretary's report:

“REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

Mr. Merrill submitted the following report as secretary:

1. PUBLICATIONS:

During the year approximately 1,200,000 copies of the following pamphlets, rules, lists, sheets and cards have been distributed to members:

- (a) Proceedings Tenth Annual Meeting held in Chicago May 22nd-24th, 1906. 292-page pamphlet, mailed June 18, 1906.*
- (b) Directory of members, officers and committees, September, 1906, 57-page pamphlet, mailed October 2, 1906.*
- (c) Quarterly Bulletins, Committee on Special Hazards and Fire Record, Henry A. Fiske, Chairman, July, 1906, 64 pages; October, 1906, 84 pages; January, 1907, 80 pages; April, 1907, 54 pages.*
- (d) Rules and Requirements for: Fire Doors and Shutters, Window Frames for Wired Glass, Gasolene Vapor Gas Lighting Machines, Lamps and Systems, Acetylene Gas Machines, Storage of Calcium Carbide, Construction of Skylights, Slowburning Construction, Inferior Construction, General Hazards, Oil Rooms, **General Protection Stairway and Elevator Closures**, Watchmen, Thermostats, and miscellaneous matters.*

(e) *List of Automatic Sprinklers, Carbonic Acid Gas Hand Fire Extinguishers, Watchmen's Time Recording Apparatus, Gasolene Gas Machines using outside carbureters, Acetylene Gas Machines, Electrical Fittings, Gasolene Vapor Lamps, Suction Gas Producers, Gasolene Lighting Systems having outside tanks and inside flame heated generators, Stationary Gasolene Engines.*

(f) *Quarterly Electrical Fire Reports.*

(g) *Sheets illustrating Electrical Fittings.*

(h) *Secretary's bulletins and lists of members elected.*

2. **MEMBERSHIP:**

The gain in members each year since the inauguration of the Association is shown in the following table:

	<i>Active.</i>	<i>Associate.</i>	<i>Subscribing.</i>	<i>Honorary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1897.	20	20
1898.	22	6	0	0	28
1899.	22	17	0	0	39
1900.	27	24	0	0	51
1901.	31	60	0	1	92
1902.	33	117	0	1	151
1903.	36	199	0	1	236
1904.	38	417	0	1	456
1905.	50	592	136	1	779
1906.	50	713	238	1	1,002
1907.	58	782	325	2	1,168

W. H. MERRILL, JR.,

Secretary.

On motion duly seconded, the report was accepted and ordered to be printed in the proceedings.”

Source: *Proceedings of the National Fire Protection Association, 1907-1908*

The Secretary’s report documents the growth of the Association. In a period of only 10 years, the number of active members of the organization nearly tripled and the number of associate members grew exponentially.

Not only did the membership of the Association grow exponentially, but the number of technical issues addressed by the Association also grew at a phenomenal rate.

Of course, the impetus for such phenomenal growth were three disastrous events, the fire at the Iroquois Theater (Chicago, 1903), the Great Baltimore fire (1904) and the San Francisco earthquake and fire (1906).

* * * * *

Copyright © 2011
Richard C. Schulte