MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hello, my name is Serena Locke. I am a Certified Permit Technician from Jackson County, Oregon. I have been a Permit Technician for just over seven years. I became a member of PermitTechNation in 2017 and joined the education committee in 2019 because that is where my passion in the permitting world lies. I believe that an educated Permit Technician is one of the greatest assets to any department. I also believe that the more education we receive, the greater our confidence becomes.

I want to thank all of you for being a part of PermitTechNation. We are always looking to grow membership participation and are currently looking for new and returning participants for committees. To increase member participation in PTN leadership, we have decided to have members chair allowable committees with a board member as the liaison. If you are interested in becoming actively involved in PTN Leadership, please fill out the Call for Committee Form and return it to me at President@PermitTechNation.org. I encourage you to reach out to me with any concerns or ideas for PermitTechNation. Don’t forget to check out PTN’s new website once live and let us know how you like it.

FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
by Kota Wharton

My name is Kota Wharton, and like many of you, I found myself drawn to the world of building safety not just by the technical aspects, but by the profound impact it has on people’s lives; bringing permit applicant’s hopes, dreams, and investments to fruition by ensuring their projects are safe and resilient.

That’s why, I find myself now juggling two hats (really many more than just two...); one as a Permit Technician/Plans Examiner Trainee for the City of Grove City, in Ohio, and another, for the second term running, a proud member of PermitTechNation’s Board.

Why PermitTechNation? Because I see in this organization the very potential I witnessed in myself - that being a permit technician or PTN member isn’t just a job or title; that it’s the key to safer communities, professional promotion, education, networking, and fulfilling career(s).

PermitTechNation is building a community, brick by metaphorical brick, and I’m excited to be a part of it. Let’s raise the profile together, one permit and one Permit Technician at a time.
INSIGHTS FROM OUR MEMBERS.

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE FIRST TIME
By Anna Maria Cappelleri, New Jersey.

This October I had the opportunity to volunteer in my first Habitat for Humanity site; I volunteered at ReStore at Des Peres in St Louis, MO. The members of PermitTechNation and Women in Code Enforcement coordinated this event very well. The bags that PTN/WICED gave us prior to leaving for the event were full of useful items. When we arrived at the site, we split up and did as much as we could in our time at Des Peres ReStore. We swept the area where donations were dropped off. Then, we went through the latest donated items and added them to the shelves that had comparable items and lastly, we organized the shelves. We even had a nice lunch break. The Des Peres ReStore site is very well organized and the people that work there are very pleasant and appreciate our help.

Overall, my experience of the ABM, DOS and the ICC Conference 2023 was positive. I am very grateful for a warm welcome as Most of the PermitTechNation members attending welcomed me with open arms. I had the opportunity to be involved in bag prep for both the DOS and Expo gifts, helped to set up the Expo booth and volunteered for a shift. This gave me an opportunity to get to know others and learn more about PTN. My personality is to jump in and help wherever I see a need, which I did and felt good that I was able to freely share my opinions. I am especially grateful to Dawn and Cindy for all their guidance to this first timer.

MY JOURNEY AS A BUILDING PERMIT TECHNICIAN
By Benjamin Corrales, City of Half Moon Bay, CA

As I start my ninth year in this business, I can say that it has been one rewarding journey. Never in a million years, I saw myself working as a Building Permit Technician. My public service career in this country started back in the late 90s. I worked for about more than ten years as a Planner for the City of San Jose, the third largest in California, with a population of over a million people. Between current, long-term planning and a successful career at the customer service counter I thought that I was set until I retired. It wasn’t until, as most people in this field, get burnt out by customers and developers that want to just do what they want but they still come to our municipalities asking for permits.

At some point in time in my career, a dear friend suggested working as a “permit tech” in a small community, with small community mentality. I didn’t know what that was, and I am still suprised of the things I hear at the counter. The City of Half Moon Bay, the place I work for, is a coastal town south of San Francisco in California. My previous experience with customer service has made possible to learn this new trade, ask the right questions, figure out exactly what my customers need. My architectural background has made possible to be able to understand and read properly a set of plans, the planning background makes me aware of potential implications in that filed, a simple building permit sometimes has more depth than what just meets the eye. Is all that necessary to be a succesful permit technician? probably not, but it has helped me, and there is something very rewarding when you get to use your skills on a regular basis.

After all these years, I know that there is so much to learn. I am sure this career path has more surprises for me and I look forward to them.
Check out the PTN Podcasts with Host Christina Jackson. Always available on our [website](https://www.permittechnation.org/events) and shared to our Facebook & LinkedIn pages.

**PTN MONTHLY MEETING**

Please join us for PermitTechNation’s (PTN) monthly teleconference on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:00PM (EST), 11:00AM (CST), 10:00AM (MST) and 9:00AM (PST). (except December, no meeting and the month of the ICC Annual Conference.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

[www.permittechnation.org/events](https://www.permittechnation.org/events)

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**Building Safety Month** is an international campaign celebrated in May to raise awareness about building safety.

For more than 43 years, Building Safety Month has reinforced the need for the adoption of modern, regularly-updated building codes, and helps individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

The 2024 Building Safety Month theme is “Mission Possible”, and each week focuses on a specific topic:

- **Week 1 (May 1–5): Understanding the Mission**
- **Week 2 (May 6–12): Preparing a Building Safety Plan**
- **Week 3 (May 13–19): Learning from the Pros**
- **Week 4 (May 20–26): Engaging Your Community**
- **Week 5 (May 27–31): Celebrating Success in Building Safety**

Help spread the word about Building Safety Month on your social media profiles by sharing our premade posts that incorporate Building Safety Month text and images specific to each weekly theme.


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**Understanding Construction for the Permit Tech**

by Carey Frazier, Plans Examiner, TX.

- It is about the different types of plans and how to understand the plans.
- We are looking to have the 6 hour webinar class on Thursday, March 21st.
- The class will be for 0.6 CEUs, $75 for members and $100 for non-members.

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Now is the time to get involved in helping PTN become the BEST chapter of ICC! Volunteers are always needed for the committees as well as helping to plan future events. Please see the Website for a [“Call For Committees”](https://www.permittechnation.org/) form that list current committee descriptions.
Understanding Construction Drawings for the Permit Tech, presented by Carey Frazier.
An overview on how to interpret construction drawings by identifying the different types of diagrams, illustrations, sketches, and pictures. Including the review of various lines, shapes, symbols, and abbreviations commonly used and other key components that make up construction plans.

CEUs: 0.60 Preferred Provider  
COST: $100 non-member / $75 member  
DURATION: 6 hour class - 10am to 4:30pm (Central Time) with 30 minute lunch and two 15 minute breaks  
WHEN: Thursday, March 21

The Complete Permit Technician, presented by Steve Burger.  
Educational scope covers the reference guides (2021 IBC, IZC, Legal Aspects and Basic Code Enforcement) necessary to pass the ICC Permit Technician Certification. Registration will open at the end of February.

CEUs: 1.0 Preferred Provider  
COST: $250 non-member / $200 member  
WHEN: Tues-Thursday, April 9-10-11

Code Specialist, presented by Frank Morris.  
The webinar is designed to teach the codes and provide all the necessary tools to successfully pass the ICC Code Specialist module. By passing this exam, combined with your Permit Technician certification, you will become a Permit Specialist. Registration will open at the end of September.

CEUs: 1.2 Preferred Provider  
COST: $250 non-member / $200 member  
WHEN: Tues-Thursday, Nov 12-13-14

PermitTechNation Webinar Fees  
Approved May 2020, Amended January 18, 2023  
3-5 day $250 non-member / $200 member  
2 day $200 non-member / $150 member  
1 day $100 non-member / $75 member  
4 hr. $75 non-member / $50 Member  
2 hr. $50 non-member / $25 member

Registration for all webinars will be listed at PTNs Event page 30 days prior to the event date.

PTN Scholarships will be available for The Complete Permit Tech and Code Specialist to those who have been a PTN member for one year. Information and application will be available once registration opens.