

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association



WABA Picnic

Thursday August 16th - Marathon Park

5:30pm Cocktails

6:30pm Picnic

AUGUST 2018, VOLUME 37

OUR MISSION:

The Wausau Area Builders Association chartered in 1967 and affiliated with the Wisconsin Builders Association and National Association of Home Builders, is a professional non-profit trade association. Serving the community, we represent the interests and concerns of the customer, building trades, industry suppliers, and all facets of the building industry.

CALENDAR OF
— EVENTS —

*August 17th
Sporting
Clay shoot*



*Enjoy
the
end
of
Summer!*



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Phone (715) 842-9510
www.WausauAreaBuilders.com

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Parade of Homes Cory Sillars
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Scholarship Phil Pesanka
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Golf Outing Warren Pope
Sporting Clay Kyle VanOrder
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Summer is sure going by fast, I don't think I have mowed my lawn even once in the month of July!

We had our Woodchucks outing last week and even though the weather looked a bit ominous during the afternoon, we had a great turnout at the game. Thanks to all who came and to the Events Committee for putting together another fine event.

In August we will have our Sporting Clay Shoot in conjunction with the Never

Forgotten Honor Flight, and we usually book up fast on this.

Come out and join in the fun on August 17th. This is a morning event so it is usually cool as the day begins. Rumor has it that we will again have our old-fashioned annual "picnic in the park" on August 16th. Look for more information in the newsletter and your email in-box.

Speaking of the Newsletter, now is a great time to consider advertising in ours to promote your business among our members. Check out the great ad space available here and contact Cara at the office to get your spot lined up for next year.

Two quick reminders for you as summer flies by:

First, the 2019 Home Show reservations will be taken by Cara in our office, so if you have yet to confirm your booth for next year, please call her for more information and to reserve your booth. Second, as fall approaches keep in mind your organization needs you to participate to keep us healthy, vibrant and strong. Each year, there are spots available on our Officers and Directors Ballot. Election is normally held in November, but we try our best to have a slate of candidates ready for publication in October. Please consider taking a turn on the board, contact me or Cara to submit your name.

We are also looking for a person to assist with the oversight of our association marketing and advertising. This would not need to be one person, in fact preferably it would be two and the committees could operate independently. If you, or someone in your organization has an expertise in self-marketing, or buying advertising, these are two committees that could use some fresh faces, and also offer your business additional networking opportunities both inside and outside our organization. Contact me or Cory Sillars for more information.

Russ Utech, 2018 WABA President

Joke of the Month

What did the ocean say to the sailboat?
Nothing it just waved.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Hello- This summer I keep hearing how busy everyone is in with their work and that is such a wonderful thing. We are happy to hear our members businesses are thriving it is a great thing for our industry. With great opportunity also comes struggles and the current struggle is work force. I encourage each of our members to keep the Youth Apprenticeship program through the NTC in mind as a source for workers. If you are interested in this program please let me know. I also would like to encourage everyone to take a much deserved break on August 16th and/or the 17th and join us at Marathon Park for the picnic on Thursday and come to the Sporting Clay Shoot on Friday! This month I was able to attend the WBA Member Meeting Day in Wisconsin Dells. These meetings are always a great time to check in with WBA which is currently going strong. There is a complete review of this meeting later in this newsletter. One big reminder from that day is that the 2018 Partisan Primary is coming up on August 14th, don't forget to take a minute to vote! I hope to see you on August 16th and 17th for some fun events, September we will welcome back a more typical Membership Meeting at Willow Springs.

With Gratitude,
~ Cara Spatz, Business Manager



Do you have a topic you would like to learn more about at a future Monthly Membership Meeting? Contact Cara at the WABA office and let her know!

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Misprint:
Denfeld Concrete Construction
Incorporated was incorrectly listed as
Denfeld Construction.
Sorry for any confusion!

AUGUST

2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Membership Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	7 POH Committee Meeting - 12:00 pm	8 Home Show Committee Meeting - 3:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 Board Meeting	15	16 WABA Picnic	17 Clay Shoot	18
19	20	21 Board of Directors Meeting - 4:00 pm	22	23	24 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	25
26	27	28	29	30 Golf Committee Meeting - 11:00 am	31	

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NAHB, HBI Pledge to Train 50,000 Workers Over Next 5 Years

Reprinted from the NAHB website

Attending a White House event on workforce development, NAHB Chairman Randy Noel pledged that NAHB and the Home Builders Institute (HBI) will educate and train 50,000 new workers over the next five years for careers in the construction trades.

President Trump signed an executive order that establishes the National Council for the American Worker, which will develop a national strategy for training and retraining workers for high-demand industries.

As part of this initiative, the administration is asking companies and associations to sign a pledge committing them to expanding apprenticeships, increasing on-the-job training and providing students and workers the training and opportunities they need to succeed in the American workforce.

In a statement commending the White House plan to expand workforce development, Noel said:

"NAHB applauds President Trump's leadership for signing an executive order that will develop a national strategy to expand job-training and apprenticeship opportunities for students and workers and give them the proper tools to succeed in the American workforce.

"Given the chronic labor shortages in the home building industry, I am especially pleased to attend this important White House event. NAHB will help do its part to invest in the future workforce by pledging to train 50,000 new workers over the next five years for a career in the construction trades.

"The Home Builders Institute, our workforce development arm, is a national leader for career training in the home building industry. To honor the administration's important commitment to America's workers, we will expand our training, certification and job placement programs for underserved and at-risk youth, transitioning military, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers."

Attention

Please notify the Association Office if you have any information that could be shared in the newsletter regarding members of the Association. Such as births, deaths, surgeries and so on.

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Canadian Softwood Lumber

Reprinted from the NAHB website

American home builders need access to reasonably priced lumber to build homes that average working families can afford.

However, U.S. domestic production is not sufficient to meet demand. And the Trump administration's 20-percent tariffs on imported Canadian softwood lumber are needlessly increasing lumber prices.



Today's record high lumber prices are hurting home builders and home buyers. Since January 2017, rising lumber prices — made worse by the tariffs — have increased the price of an average single-family home by \$7,500. This additional cost has effectively priced out more than 1.1 million households nationwide from the housing market.

What's worse, large U.S. lumber companies are unfairly profiting at the expense of American families and small businesses.

Why It Matters

The tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber are acting as a tax on American home builders and home buyers, making housing less affordable for American families and forcing builders to look overseas to other markets, including Sweden, Germany and Russia, in order to meet demand.

That is why it is imperative that the Trump administration resumes talks with Canada to find a long-term solution to the trade dispute that will ensure American home builders and consumers have access to a reliable supply of softwood lumber at reasonable prices.

Solutions

America cannot meet the nation's demand for softwood lumber, therefore, NAHB believes the following steps should be taken:

Rescind the lumber duties and negotiate a settlement to address American home builder concerns regarding price and availability of lumber. NAHB is meeting with representatives of the Trump administration and Congress, as well as Canadian federal and provincial officials, to achieve this goal.

Boost domestic production by seeking higher targets for timber sales from publicly-owned lands and opening up additional federal forest lands for logging in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Reduce U.S. lumber exports. Domestic producers are selling abroad to China and other international clients in order to increase profits. Exporting timber should be discouraged when there is a gaping need at home.

Seek out new markets to reduce our nation's reliance on Canadian lumber imports and make up for our domestic shortfall. NAHB met with Chilean government, trade and industry officials that focused on increasing exports of softwood lumber to America. Other potential markets include Brazil.



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IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT JOINING A COMMITTEE THIS FALL

Now is the time to participate in the activities of your Association. The key to making the most of your membership is not what the association gives to you, but what you invest in the Association through participation. Play an active role in making it happen! Don't burn out the people that are always there for the Association. They are volunteers because they believe in the Association and have experienced first-hand what the Local, State and National Associations can do with team work.

Meet your fellow members - they're nice people

Vice-President
Treasurer
Local Director

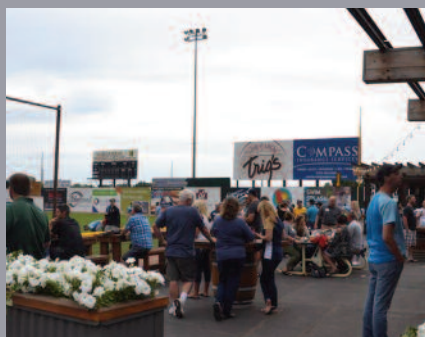
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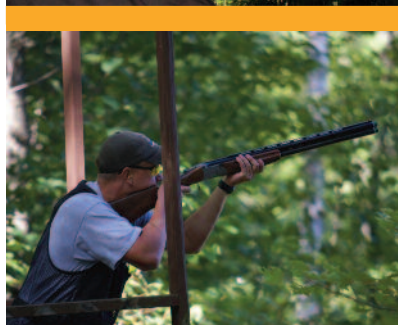
If you have any questions about a committee, please feel free to call the office at 715-842-9510. Not all committees have monthly meetings, rather meet when needed or when the chair schedules one. It's imperative to the growth of the Association that everyone does their part to help **their** industry grow.

Game Night!



WABA attended the Wisconsin Woodchucks game on July 17th. Gloria Fenhaus did a great job of setting up the event and booked us in the Bullpen off of the first base line. The rain held back a few of our members but we still ended up with having over 100 people attend. Woody the Woodchuck even joined us for a while to watch the game, sign autographs, and take pictures. Although there was intermittent light rain and the Woodchucks lost to the Kalamazoo Growlers, WABA managed to have a great time at our night out at the ballgame!





SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

FRIDAY AUG. 17, 2018

WAUSAU SKEET & TRAP CLUB, BROKAW

Registration 8:00 am

Shotgun Start 9:00 am (Rain or Shine)

\$75 per shooter* - \$350/5 person - \$425/6 person
Single entries accepted - teams will be assembled

**If this event is cancelled due to weather, \$50 of the entry fee is refundable*

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

16 Sporting Clay Shooting Stations • Lunch and Refreshments

Raffles will be available for an additional cost.

Five or Six Shooters per Team / 100 Rounds per Shooter

Side Events Available: Fur & Feather, Flurry - \$5 each

Bring your own shells – 5 or 6 boxes of shot size 7-1/2, 8 or 9 only

Personal Four-wheeler transportation is allowed.

EYE AND EAR PROTECTION REQUIRED - NO EXCEPTIONS!

Business Name: _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #1 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #2 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #3 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #4 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #5 _____ Phone: _____

Shooter #6 _____ Phone: _____

NO RESERVATION IS SECURE WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT

96 SHOOTERS MAXIMUM

Mail Registration with payment to:

3901 Business Park Drive, Wausau, WI 54403

Call Larry Meyer with questions at 715-848-0518

or email larry@larrymeyerconstruction.com



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT!

Sorry for the inconvenience but there will be no on-line registration.

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ADVOCACY DIGEST



DNR Holds Webinar to Provide Guidance on Recently Passed Wetland Law

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently held a webinar to provide additional guidance on 2017 Wisconsin Act 183 which makes significant changes to the way state wetlands are regulated in

Wisconsin. Provision related to 2017 Wisconsin Act 183 went into effect on July 1, 2018.

"Exemptions apply to certain types of nonfederal and artificial wetlands, but it can be challenging to determine the type of wetland you're dealing with," said Robert Rosenberger, Watershed Management Deputy Program director.

Before placing fill material in nonfederal or artificial wetlands, Act 183 requires stakeholders to notify the DNR to confirm eligibility. One exemption is for "artificial wetlands," which are those that have no wetland or stream history prior to August 1, 1991 and have been modified by human activity that changed the landscape. There are many qualified professionals that can assist stakeholders in determining if a wetland is potentially an artificial wetland. DNR also offers a wetland identification service that can also assist with this determination. More information about the artificial wetland exemption can be found by searching the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for "wetland identification."

The other exemption is for "nonfederal wetlands," which are those that are not subject to federal oversight. The Army Corps of Engineers is the only government entity that can determine if a wetland falls under federal jurisdiction. For this reason, the corps will be an integral partner to determining eligibility for nonfederal wetland exemptions.

Additional information on wetlands and for the link to the wetlands webinar (see box in upper right side with yellow header) click [here](#).

From DSPS: Update on Electrical Code Effective Dates

Attention Electricians, Building Officials and Contractors

The Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) - Division of Industry Services wishes to update you on the status of the SPS 316 Electrical Code Package (CR 16-093). The proposed code package has been adopted and published. The new SPS 316 can be viewed [here](#).

Here is a timeline of effective dates related to several parts of the code update:

- **August 1, 2018:** 2017 NEC adopted for commercial structures.
- August 1, 2018: DSPS can begin accepting applications for registration as an electrical inspection agency. More information can be found [here](#).
- March 1, 2019: Only registered inspection agencies may provide plan review, permit issuance, or inspections.
- **January 1, 2020:** 2017 NEC adopted for one- and two-family dwellings. "One- and two- family dwellings" means any buildings that contain one or two dwelling units the construction of which commenced on or after December 1, 1978 per SPS 316.006(7). Effective August 1, 2018 the 2017 NEC will apply to any building that does not meet the definition of "one and two- family dwellings".
- January 1, 2020: statewide requirements for permits and inspections go into effect.

Important Note for Municipalities: Municipalities may exercise jurisdiction over the inspection of electrical wiring installations at farms, public buildings, places of employment, campgrounds, manufactured home communities, public marinas, piers, docks, or wharves and recreational vehicle parks provided the municipality complies with all of the following listed in SPS 316.011(1). Any municipality that wishes to exercise jurisdiction over the inspection of electrical wiring installations as described in SPS 316.011(1)(a) must register with the Department as an electrical inspection agency even if they are currently exercising jurisdiction as allowed under Subchapter V of SPS 316. In municipalities not exercising jurisdiction under SPS 316.011(1), the department shall provide permit and inspection services for the installation of electrical wiring on farms and in public buildings, places of employment, campgrounds, manufactured home communities, public marinas, piers, docks, or wharves and recreational vehicle parks.

Questions regarding the code update can be sent to DSPSSBElectrictch@wi.gov

From NAHB: Major Victory for NAHB and Builder in Clean Water Act Court Case

On June 26, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit sided with an NAHB member engaged in a decade-long legal battle in a case supported by NAHB's Legal Action Fund – Orchard Hill Building Company v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The case concerned 13 acres of wetlands owned by Orchard Hill Building Company. Orchard Hill sought a jurisdictional determination as to whether it would need a Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop these acres. The Corps found that the acres fell under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

Orchard Hill disagreed with the Corps' determination and over a 10-year period fought through the Corps' internal appeals process. During this time, Orchard Hill's efforts were buoyed by several court cases.

Orchard Hill finally got its day in court when the U.S. Supreme Court found in *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes* that jurisdictional determinations are judicially reviewable.

Ultimately, the Seventh Circuit ruled in favor of Orchard Hill, holding that the Corps had failed to prove the wetlands at issue had a significant nexus to any truly navigable water.

NAHB aided Orchard Hill in two distinct ways: First, it provided Orchard Hill with a \$10,000 Legal Action Fund grant in 2016. Second, NAHB was involved in every court case that kept Orchard Hill's claims alive over their decade-long battle.

NAHB's proactive Litigation and Amicus Brief program allows NAHB to bring lawsuits and submit amicus briefs on significant issues that impact NAHB members. Through this program, NAHB aided Orchard Hill by litigating in cases that clarified the bounds of the Clean Water Act, vacated a rule that curtailed the use of the "prior converted croplands" exemption from the wetlands permitting program, and required jurisdictional determinations to be judicially reviewable.

The NAHB Legal Action Committee's Legal Action Fund is available to NAHB members and HBAs with litigation that implicates a national policy issue or a state or local problem that is common to the housing industry.

For more information about Orchard Hill's victory, please contact Tom Ward. For more information about the Legal Action Fund, contact Lavon Roxbury.

Brad Boycks
WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs
Wisconsin Builders Association@bboycks@wisbuild.org
(608) 242-5151 ext.16
Visit our web site: www.wisbuild.org

Call for Entries Now Open for NAHB's Sales and Marketing Awards--'The Nationals'

Reprinted from the NAHB website

The Nationals--the National Association of Home Builders' national sales and marketing awards program--is open for entries. Honoring the best in new-home sales, marketing and design, The Nationals competition acknowledges superior new-home sales and marketing achievements by individual sales and marketing professionals, home builders and associates, and local sales and marketing councils. The deadline for entering is Oct. 25, 2018.

The program recognizes builders and consultants for outstanding product design, interior merchandising, sales office design and landscaping. The competition continues to honor the most inspired new home marketing efforts, including logo design, graphics, brochures, signage, advertisements, overall advertising campaigns, special promotions and website design.

Silver Award winners (finalists) in each category will be announced online on Nov. 20. Gold Award winners will be announced during NAHB's International Builders' Show(r) at The Nationals gala on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019, at Caesars Palace Las Vegas.

The competition is presented by the National Sales and Marketing Council (NSMC), a council of the NAHB, along with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Preferred sponsors include major building product manufacturers, financial institutions, home builders and developers, architects and associates in real estate.

Join the best and the brightest in new home sales and marketing by entering The Nationals: <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com>

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

Make sure to mark your calendars for this year's WABA Picnic at **Marathon Park** on **Thursday, August 16th!** Join us at the big kitchen at the park starting at 5:30pm for a cocktail hour with beer, soda, and water. CJ's catering will be serving a delicious picnic at 6:30pm complete with: BBQ Chicken, 1/4# Hamburgers, Johnsonville Brats, Potato Salad, Baked Bean, Fresh fruit salad, and Relishes. Members and immediate family are no cost, employees/guests 12 and over are \$15, guests 4-12 are \$10, and guests under 4 are free. Watch your emails for the registration or contact the office to sign up. We look forward to enjoying a great picnic with everyone!

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Advocacy Group Meeting:

- Vice Chair Andy Voeltner was introduced to the group
- Political consultant and adviser to Governor Walker Keith Gilkes addressed the group to kick off the meeting, highlights included:
 - 200,000 swing voters in Wisconsin typically decide statewide elections
 - Some of the likely priorities if Gov. Walker is elected to a third term will include tax reform and reform of entitlement programs
 - The state assembly appears safe to remain in GOP control and the races for majority control in the state senate appear much closer
- The group decided that DSPS communications stating that repairs to a home are not required to be built to the Uniform Dwelling Code and that no contractor credential is needed for those seeking a building permit for repairs is consistent with past practices, with no legislative change necessary
- Some additional items were offered to be added to the final Advocacy Agenda that will be presented in October, including clarification to change TRANS 233, possible changes to state statutes dealing with the use of bonds, and possible changes to state statutes on conditional use permits
- The group approved moving forward with setting up an online system to collect contributions to the Building a Better Wisconsin PAC using a personal credit card
- The group decided to more frequently identify members who are involved in state councils or are local elected officials and have those leaders posted on the WBA website

Membership & Local Officers Group Meeting:

- Vice Chair Angie Kieta was introduced
- Greg Schaffer provided a brief NAHB membership update
- A quick communications update was given, highlights included:
 - Update on non-member emails using DSPS builder list
 - Update on prospective member leads through website - receiving more and more, but still issues with converting due to difficult, varied process of applying through each local
 - Coverage of WBA receiving Best Website award from NAHB Association Excellence Awards, positive feedback from recent member survey
 - Website login setup reminder – wisbuild.org/why-new-login
- Breakout session covered review of local association membership incentive programs, past, current, new (first year discounts, giveaways, prizes/awards for existing members, etc.) Looked at progress made, challenges, cost/benefit, and whether some programs worked better than others. Information gathered during this session will soon be available on the "Executive Officer Resources" section of the WBA website.
- Suggestions were fielded for the next breakout session in February

Board of Directors Meeting:

- BOD attendees heard from US Senate Candidates, State Senator Leah Vukmir and Kevin Nicholson
- Andy Voeltner of Omni Financial is the new investment advisor for both WBA and WBF investments
- Directors approved the WBA endorsement of Scott Walker for Governor and Brad Schimel for Attorney General in the upcoming 2018 election

Save the Date!

- Mark your calendars now! The 2019 President's Installation Dinner for incoming President Harvey Kessel and other senior officers will be held Friday, February 8th at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Madison. Registration will begin at 5 PM. You can view the full itinerary at wisbuild.org/wba-events (scroll down to 2/8/19)
- The first Member Meeting Day of 2019 will be held that afternoon, beginning at 1 PM and concluding at 4:30 PM. You can view the full itinerary at wisbuild.org/wba-events (scroll down to 2/8/19)

Upcoming 2018 WBA Meetings and Events

October 11th Virtual Meeting Day Madison
October 25th NAHB Leadership Training Stevens Point
Full calendar at wisbuild.org/wba-events



Leah Vukmir and Kevin Nicholson - US Senate Candidates