

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association

**DECEMBER 2014
VOLUME 33 - ISSUE 12**

2015 HOME SHOW



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Remember last years "WABA Christmas Party"...where we brought back the "good ol' prices" from the 90's??

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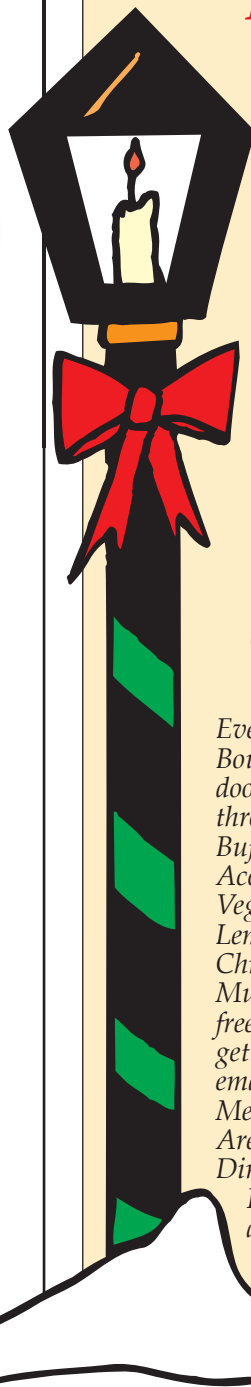
Cost: \$25.00 per person

Everything you remember... for a Wonderful Evening!! Bountiful food...Free drink tickets, handed to you @ the door...Free Beer...Music, dancing & door prize drawings throughout the evening. There will be a Two Entree' Dinner Buffet with Assorted Salads, Tossed Four Leaf Salad with Accompaniments, Chef's Choice of Appropriate Starch and Vegetable, Rolls and Butter, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Lemonade and an array of Desserts!! All in a "Festive Christmas Decor" private room & Set-up Bar and Music-Music-Music! A Half Barrel of Free Beer will be set-up...along with 2 free drink tickets per person. What's not to love??!! So let's all get dressed up, and get your dancing shoes on!! Look for your email for this special event...cause this is YOUR party...YOU the Member...of the BEST Association in the area!! The Wausau Area Builder's Association!!

Director/ Chair of Events Mrs. Gloria Fenhaus

P.S. Don't forget...I would like each member please ... to bring a door prize! You know you love winning! :)

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MISSION STATEMENT:

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 consumer, building trades, industry suppliers and all facets of the building industry.

The primary goal of our association is to provide quality, affordable housing through community and government involvement, while promoting high standards of professionalism.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we try to get rid of the few pounds that miraculously attached themselves to our waistlines as a result of Thanksgiving, we now can look forward to Christmas and the few additional pounds that seem to be on a mission to join their Thanksgiving buddies. It is the Holidays so we just need to learn to accept it. At least that is what I am telling myself.

I hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful and for all our deer hunters I hope you were

successful. At the present time I have yet to receive a picture of anyone's deer so my offer still stands for 2 free drinks for the first picture and 2 for the biggest buck picture. It goes without saying that they need to have been harvested this year. Arden sending me a picture of his buck while looking like a spry 50 year old is not a winner.

With our elections recently completed and our new Board members and Officers ready to take the reins, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members for your support this past year. I will be the first to say that I did not accomplish all that I had hoped but I did have a lot of fun trying. For me that is what counts. I am asking all of you to show the same support for our new Leadership that you showed me. I know they would be very appreciative if you did, and it will make theirs jobs much easier.

We have 2 real important dates coming up, both of which are going to be fun evenings meant to acknowledge everyone's efforts on behalf of the WABA. The first is December 18 and the second is January 10. The details are in the newsletter but please set those dates aside and join us.

As I reflect on the past year I know that I have an awful lot to be thankful for. I am assuming that you are the same. Our improved business climate is a much needed breath of fresh air. Conversations with business associates are now upbeat and hopeful. Work schedules now include a backlog. Customer conversations now include the words "I don't know when I can get there" which is a far cry from the previous three or four years. All of this comes with its own new set of issues and problems I know. But we are business people and that means that solving problems and finding solutions is what we do. Accept the challenge. You were getting sick of the same old, same old anyway.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all of you and your families. Enjoy your time together. (even if Uncle Louie does drive you nuts.) Time is your greatest gift. Share it and reap the rewards.

Larry Meyer, WABA President



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Our newsletter is distributed to over 400 different individuals which means this is an opportunity for your company advertisement to be viewed!

Don't miss out on this tremendous opportunity to maximize your Company's exposure in the Wausau Area Builders Association, contact Cindy today!

Pricing for 12 Issues is as follows:

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2014

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**NOW THROUGH
DECEMBER 31ST, 2014**

Each member will receive \$20.00 for each member they recruit.

*Must be a new member who has been expired from
the national database for at least 90 days*

*Application, proof of insurance and dues check
must be at the WABA office by the last day of the drive*

*Applications available at the WABA Office, in this newsletter and Online at
www.wausauareabuilders.com*

DECEMBER

2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	3	4 Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Dec. Membership Renewals Due	16 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	17	18 Christmas Party	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	27
28	29	30	31			

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JANUARY

2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	7	8 Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	9	10 Awards Dinner
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Jan. Membership Renewals Due	20 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	21	22	23 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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THE MONDAY MORNING REVIEW



52.3 to 46.6

52.3 to 46.6 is the final percentage received by Governor Walker and Mary Burke. The 5.7% win by Walker is higher than most people predicted it would be but is very close to the last Marquette Law School Poll that had Governor Walker up by 7%.

Throughout the fall, those that tracked the Marquette Law School Poll and those that had access to private polling often said that Mary Burke was “stuck at 46%” and never really moved that much up or down from that number. That seems to be the case as her final percentage on election night was 46.6%.

19 like 2011

The Wisconsin State Senate will once again return with 19 Republican members, the same number that they had in January 2011. Between January 2011 and November 2014, you had two rounds of recalls and the 2012 general election where millions of dollars were spent to end up again at 19 seats for the GOP.

One of the new members of the state senate is WBA member Roger Roth, who takes over for longtime State Senator Mike Ellis in the 19th State Senate. Roth's election to the state senate means a return to a builder serving in the state senate which has not happened since Cathy Stepp served in the body from 2003-2007.

1957

Speaker Robin Vos and the assembly republican caucus will come back on January 5, 2015 with 63 members, up from their pre-election number of 60 members. There have not been this many GOP members of the state assembly since 1957. The assembly republican held a very competitive seat in southwestern Wisconsin and beat incumbents Amy Sue Vruwink of Milladore, Steve Smith of Rice Lake and Mandy Wright of Wausau.

51.6 to 45.4

Waukesha County District Attorney Brad Schimel will succeed JB Van Hollen as Wisconsin's new Attorney General after his win over Jefferson County District Attorney Susan Happ (51.6% to 45.4%). Schimel's percentage was slightly lower than Walker's but his percentage win margin was slightly higher (5.7% versus 5.2%).

WBA endorsed Brad Schimel in July and got behind his election effort with several contributions from both the PAC and conduit. The most significant thing Schimel's win means is we will not have to worry about an attorney general who will be pushing for a return of the public intervenor who would be actively looking for Wisconsin businesses to file lawsuits against.

What do the election results mean for WBA?

The results of Election 2014 means for the third straight session we again go on offense and try to pass as many items in our just approved 2015-2016 advocacy agenda as we can over the next fifteen months of session.

We will be working hard to meet the new members of the legislature once they are seated on January 5, 2015 and also reaching out to legislators to support public policy items to better the building industry. From property tax reductions, changes to contractor education in Wisconsin, working to reduce workers comp premiums, expanded consumer access to WHEDA remodeling loans, and promoting fairness in the civil justice system, we still have work to do in 2015-2016.

It was a team effort, thank you!

Any election cycle, win or lose, is a team effort. Without the time that WBA members put in on elections and the donations that you make to support candidates of both parties who support positive public policies that are positive for housing, our voice will not be heard.

A big thank you to all of those WBA members who donated to the Builders Direct Fund, Building a Better Wisconsin PAC and the Building Industry Council over the past two years. Donations to these various entities allow the voice of the building industry to be heard and allow us to advocate for public policy items advance housing.

Legislators pick their leaders for 2015-2016 session

Now that the dust has settled from the 2014 elections each legislative caucus has now met and voted on their leadership teams for the upcoming session that will kick off on January 5, 2015.

Senate Republican were the first group to meet after the election and the choose to unanimously support the reelection of Senator Scott Fitzgerald as Senate Majority Leader after the group gained an additional seat in the upper house. Joining Fitzgerald on the leadership team is Assistant Majority Leader Paul Farrow, Senate President Mary Lazich, Senate President Pro Tempore Rick Gudex, Senate Caucus Chair Shelia Harsdorf, and Senate

Assistant Caucus Chair Van Wanggaard.

State Senate Democrats also choose a leader with a unanimous ballot but they went in a different direction than last session. Last session Senator Chris Larson lead the democrats in the state senate but after losing a seat in 2014 it became clear that he did not have the votes to be reelected as leader for the upcoming session. Senator Jennifer Shilling is now the Senate Minority Leader and will join Senator Dave Hansen as Assistant Minority Leader, Democrat Caucus Chair Julie Lassa, and Democrat Vice-Chair Kathleen Vinehout.

That Assembly Republicans, up three seats to 63, voted unanimously for Representative Robin Vos to again be the nominee for Speaker of the Assembly in 2015-2016. The Speaker of the Assembly is formally voted on by the entire Assembly when they begin their session in January. Representative Steineke will be the new Assembly Majority Leader, Representative Tyler August remains the Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore, the new Assistant Majority Leader is Representative Dan Knodl, Representative John Murtha is Assembly Majority Caucus Chair, Assistant Majority Caucus Chair is Representative Lee Nerison, Assembly Caucus Secretary is Representative Jesse Rodriquez and Assembly Republican Sergeant at Arms is Representative Sam Kerkman.

Finally the Assembly Democrats decided to stick with Representative Peter Barca as their minority leader and not go with Representative Evan Goyke who ran unsuccessfully for the post. Joining Barca on the leadership team for the Assembly Democrats are Assistant Minority Leader Katrina Shankland, Democrat Caucus Chair Andy Jorgensen, Assistant Democrat Caucus Chair JoCasta Zamarripa, Democrat Caucus Secretary Beth Meyers and Democrat Caucus Sergeant at Arms Josh Zepnick.

What does the new leadership mean for WBA?

We are looking forward to working with the leadership teams in all four legislative caucuses during this upcoming session. WBA has had a longtime relationship with the returning caucus leaders with Speaker Vos, Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Assembly Minority Leader Barca.

With new Senate Minority Leader Jen Shilling we are very much looking forward to working with her in an increased capacity from previous sessions with different minority leaders. Senator Shilling has been a

longtime winner of the WBA Friend of Housing award along with her Chief of Staff also being awarded the WBA Friend of Housing award as well.

Next session will be a great opportunity to work with leaders and rank and file members of both parties to pass public policy items to help housing in Wisconsin.

Brad Boycks

WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs



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WBA CONTRACT UPDATES NOW POSTED

The Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) has been working with members and staff to update some of the contracts that we have available on our website and available free of charge to all active members.

Recently the following contracts have been updated and reposted to the member's only section of the WBA website www.wisbuild.org:

Right To Cure Brochure, which should be provided to all customers. It was recently updated by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

Home Improvement Disclosure Form, which is a checklist of the disclosures that are necessary for most home improvement projects.

Notice of Consumer's Right to Receive Lien Waivers. This form is required for all home improvement projects under the revised Home Improvement Practices Act.

Residential Contractors Consumer Statement. This is another new disclosure required as a result of the recently adopted "Storm Chaser" law.

COMMITTEES UPDATES

EVENTS

"Save the Date" for "The January Award's Dinner" which will be held on Saturday, January 10th, 2015 @ "The Hills" (formerly The Greenwood Hills) 6:00 PM Cocktails-7:00 PM Dinner. This award's dinner (which was voted in, BRAND NEW by your board this year) is to be INCLUDED with your membership!! Woo Hoo! "The Builder of the Year" and "The Associate of the Year" will be announced...along with NEW officer's & awards to the WABA board & committee members that evening. More info. later on this wonderful event!

HOME SHOW

2015 Home Show to be held at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center on February 6-8, 2015.

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JOKE OF THE MONTH

Two buddies are fishing, but they haven't caught anything all day. Then, another fisherman walks by with a huge load of fish. They ask him "excuse me, but where did you get all those fish?"

The other fisherman replies, "If you just go down the stream until the water isn't salty, there are a ton of hungry fish."

They thank him and go on their way. 15 minutes later, one fisherman says to the other "fill the bucket up with water and see if the water is salty."

He dips the bucket in the stream and drinks some. "Nope. Still salty." 30 minutes later, he asks him to check again.

"Nope, still salty." One hour later they check again. "Nope. Still salty."

"This isn't good," the fisherman finally says. "We have been walking for almost two hours and the water is still salty!"

"I know," says the other. "And the bucket is almost empty!"

MERRY Christmas!



Central Wisconsin Construction Conference

On January 14, 2015, Northcentral Technical College (NTC) will be hosting an all-day conference at the Wausau campus for professionals in the building industry. This event will provide tracks for continuing education credits for several different fields including engineers, architects, electricians, plumbers and of course dwelling contractors.

All presentations will qualify for continuing education credits.

A list of all classes with descriptions will be made available in mid-December.



Cost for the conference is \$99
Breakfast and lunch will be provided



FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact Jeff Musson at 715.675.3331, Ext. 4241 or musson@ntc.edu or visit www.ntc.edu/ce/conferences



the scene

HELD AT FERGUSONS FOR THE DINNER MEETING

Pictures Courtesy of Kyle VanOrder





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October 17, 2014

Carolyn White
Wausau Area Builders Association
801 S 34th Ave
Wausau, WI 54401-5228

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for supporting this important community event and for your support of the Aspirus Health Foundation. Below is a confirmation of your recent gift.

Designation:	Festival Of Trees
Amount Received:	\$600.00
Description:	6-foot Tree Sponsor
Value of Benefits:	\$0.00
Eligible Amount for Tax Purposes:	\$600.00
Method of Payment:	Check
Check number:	5734
Check date:	10/14/2014

Your partnership is essential to advancing quality of life for people in our region, and we are grateful!

Sincerely,

Katelyn M. Pempick
Executive Director

*Thank you Carolyn and the Wausau Area Builders for supporting
Aspirus through the Festival of Trees!*

Please keep this receipt for 2014 tax purposes.



Tracking Data Use

Submitted by Cellcom

If you've ever received an alert that you are approaching your data limit for the month, you've probably wondered where that data is going. It is actually very easy to keep track of how much data you are using on your smartphone and which apps are using it. Most smartphones have a built-in tracking system to help you manage your monthly data package.

If you have a newer Android device, you can find usage under Settings > Data Usage or Usage. For some versions of Android you may need to tap "More" to view the usage option. From here you can see your data usage, set the dates for your usage cycle (to coincide with your billing cycle), and limit which applications can use cellular data. You can also set your own limit for your data use and receive alerts when you reach that limit. If you have an older Android device, it may not list how much data each application is using. However, a third party application, such as My Data Manager, can be downloaded to help you monitor your usage.

If you have an iOS device, usage information is located under Settings > Cellular. At the bottom of the page you will see each application and the cellular data used by that application is listed. The default shown is for the lifetime of the device. Below the list there is a button labeled "Reset Statistics", which is helpful to help track application data usage for a set period. You can set a reminder in your calendar to reset your statistics each month.

Cellcom users can also download the myCellcom app from the App Store or Google Play to track overall usage and manage alerts for data use.

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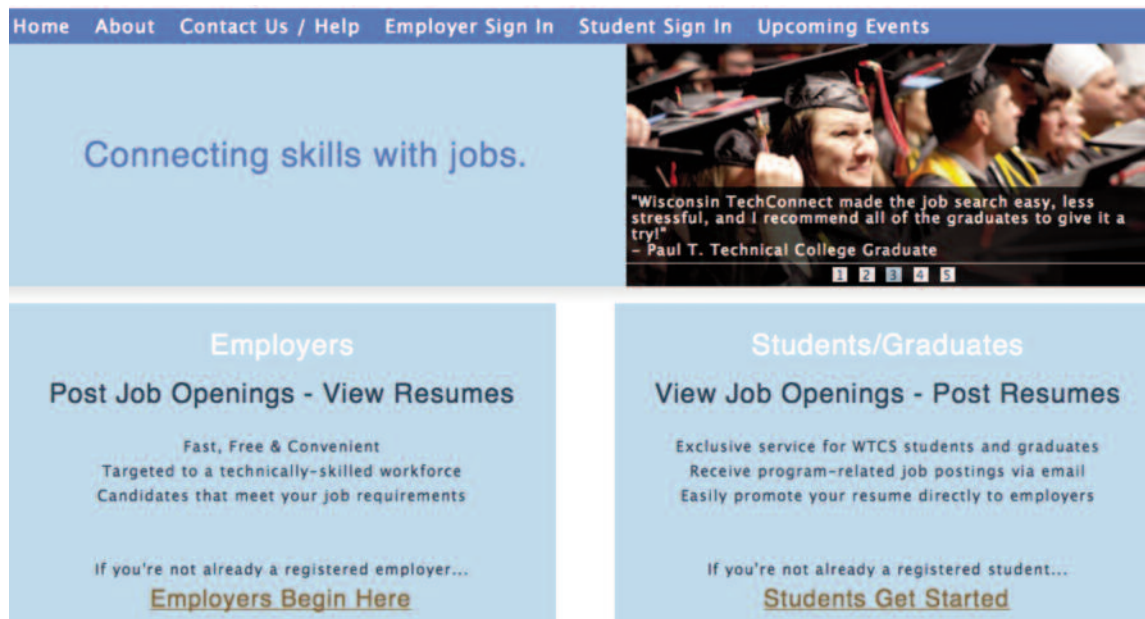


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IBS 2015. Be There.

As we enter the busy holiday season we'd like to remind you that the NAHB International Builders' Show® (IBS), the building industry's premier event, is only 60 days away!

You have just two weeks to purchase an IBS expo pass for \$50.* Expo pass prices increase to \$75 on December 6.

We offer several registration options, so pick one that suits you best and join us this January in Vegas.

WHY ATTEND IBS:

- 1 IBS Centrals:** THE place to get new ideas and information about your specific niche at IBS! Network with your peers in one of the six IBS Centrals. Open to IBS registrants.
- 2 New Products:** 95% of 2014 IBS attendees say they discovered new products at the show. What will you discover at IBS 2015?
- 3 High Performance Building Zone (HPBZ):** This area includes a live demo stage featuring interactive construction demos showcasing the latest methods, tips and tricks used in high performance building.



1201 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

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