

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association

FEBRUARY 2010

VOLUME 29 - ISSUE 2



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'05 IHI 28N, ROPS, 20" Bkt, bld, rtr trk, swg bm, aux. hyd. 6,200 lb.	\$13,900
'03 Bobcat 322D, Swing boom, aux. hyd., blade, Expandable rubber tracks, 957 hrs.	\$9,750
'03 JCB JS130LC, A.C., 34" Bkt, aux. hyd. 30,000 lb. 3136 hrs.	\$32,500
'04 IHI 30NX, 20" Bkt., Aux., swing boom, blade, 2 speed travel, 7,000 lb.	\$12,500
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'04 Gehl RS5, 4x4, JD Turbo Dsl, 6,000 lb. 34", Aux. Hyd. w/fork rotator. 2,197 Hrs	\$17,500
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'98 JCB 506C, 4x4, 6,000lb, 36", aux. hyd., leveler, Q.T. Carriage,	\$17,500
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'06 New Holland D75LT, 75 HP, Long Track, 18,500 lb. 170 Hrs.	\$49,000
'03 Cat D3G L6P, 6 way, Hi Stat, Good under Carriage	\$30,000
'86 Komatsu D21A-5, 40 HP, 6 Way, Power Shift, 3,476 Hrs. V/G Undercarriage	\$12,500

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(2) '05 Snorkel TB-37DZ, 4x4, 37', 8' Basket w/rotator, Low hrs.	\$15,900 ea
'99 JLG 450, Dsl, 4x4, 45', 6' basket w/rotator.	\$9,900

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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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 5-7** WABA Home Show
The Patriot Center
- Feb. 16** WABA Board Meeting
- Feb. 18** Membership Dinner
Meeting - TBA
- Feb. 12-14** WBA "Builderstock"
Convention
The Paper Valley, Appleton
- April 15** Silent Auction
- June 1-6** WABA Parade of Homes



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First of all, I would like to congratulate Larry Meyer and thank him for his 27 months of service as our President. His dedication has made our association stronger. I will put forth the time and continue to work on the venue changes that have been started. Meeting with the committees on present and future projects will ensure that our association operates smoothly with prosperity.

The annual party is now behind us. I hope everyone had a good time. Thank you to Andrea Reede and the Events Committee for their hard work. We look forward to the upcoming events that are being planned. I would also like to personally congratulate the 2009 Builder of the Year, Kolby Muscha as well as the 2009 Associate of the Year, Jerry Jarosz. Congratulations also

to all the new installed directors and board members.

The board and I welcome any new ideas that may help the association grow and prosper and we invite you to contact the committees and directors with any information you may have.

Lastly, I am sorry to say, I will be out of the state on business and therefore, will be unable to attend the board and dinner meetings on Feb. 16 & 18. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me on my cell phone at (715) 581-6225.

Sincerely,

— Garry Volm, Volm Builders LLC



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A NOTE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Hello Everyone –

As you're reading we are heading full steam into the Home Show Weekend. I hope to see you all over the weekend as we are very excited about our new venue and the very strong exhibitor participation. On a very last minute note, if you are able to help out for even just a little while please contact Russ Utech and he will fit you into a slot.

The International Builders Show in Las Vegas was quite an experience. Having never been to IBS, or Las Vegas for that matter, it was certainly overwhelming but a positive week. I could have used a clone of myself to attend all the functions and seminars, but I took in everything I was able. I also attended the Area 10 Caucus which was very interesting.

Kudos to Andrea Reede and the Events Committee as our Annual Party was a great time. The Wausau Jaycees did an excellent job with the Vegas Night. They brought a dizzying array of Blackjack, Bingo, Craps, Roulette and Poker tables. It was difficult to make it around the entire room before the end of the night. Jon Smith also brought a Wii system which wound up being the center of a bowling competition. Our Dinner Meeting Committee is talking about putting together some other themed meetings so that's something to look forward to.

Speaking of which, our Dinner Meetings are set to begin again Feb. 18th. The registration form is in this newsletter and I cannot stress enough the importance of sending your RSVP to the Office. Registrations at the door will not have a meal guaranteed for them so make your dinner selection and fax, call or email me your selections. The Dinner Meeting Committee is reviewing the latest survey and once the results are compiled, they will be shared with everyone. I thank everyone who completed it, your feedback is very valuable.

I hope to see you all at the Home Show and look forward to the February Dinner Meeting at Dale's Weston Lanes.

— Chris Briquette

PARADE OF HOMES June 1-6, 2010



The Parade of Homes is right around the corner .. keep watching the newsletter for further information.

Don't miss the Bus, Gus

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Join us for the February
DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, FEB. 18
WESTON LANES

Cocktails at 6:00 pm | Dinner at 7:00 pm

RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY

MEALS WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED FOR NON-REGISTERED WALK-INS

*Please pick from
one of these three
and put a number
of meals you'd
like to reserve*

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- _____ 2. **Baked Ham**
- _____ 3. **Broasted Chicken**

*All choices come with a potato,
vegetable, salad, roll, coffee & water*

Company Name: _____

Names of Attending: _____

Phone _____

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RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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One meal per membership is free, additional meals are \$15.00

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Passing of the Gavel



Annual Party Highlights





Committee members being sworn in by Jim Kubasta, incoming president for the WBA.



Jim Kubasta (L), the incoming president for the WBA installs Garry Volm as president.

BUILDER **OF THE YEAR**



Kolby Muscha (L) receives the 2009 Builder of the Year award from our 2008 Builder of the Year, Garry Volm

ASSOCIATE **OF THE YEAR**



Jerry Jarosz received the 2009 Associate of the Year award from our 2008 Associate of the Year, John Proulx

Congratulations Kolby & Jerry on honors well deserved!

THE "MONDAY MORNING" REVIEW



WBA looks to NAHB for funds to lobby on Global Warming Task Force matters

Recently WBA GA staff submitted an application to the NAHB State and Local Issues Fund asking for financial assistance to help our lobbying efforts on the recently announced provisions contained in the Global Warming Task Force's recommendations that have been now drafted into legislation.

WBA has committed the efforts of three staff members to lobby members of the Wisconsin Legislature on this matter. WBA is requesting matching funds to pay the retainer of an outside contract lobbyist to help fight these provisions in the Wisconsin Legislature. WBA is also requesting these funds to do additional research on energy code issues to help our lobbying effort. Finally, we are exploring the possibility of launching a paid media effort to educate the public on these topics and the damaging effect the passage of these policy items will have.

WBA respectfully requested matching funds of \$10,000 from the NAHB State and Local Issues Fund to retain an outside contract lobbyist to assist the full time WBA lobbying team, to help pay for more in-depth research on this topic and to assist in possible paid media efforts to defeat or radically change the provisions of the Task Force on Global Warming.

We are hopeful that we will be successful in our efforts to obtain a grant from NAHB to help in our efforts on global warming in 2010.

Global Warming bill officially released

In early January on the same day as a heavy snowfall hit Madison Governor Doyle, with members of the legislature announced a package of Global Warming initiatives to be considered before the end of session.

The plan, now being called the Clean Energy Jobs Act, is being touted as bill to create jobs. Supporters claim that passage of this initiative will help create 15,000 new jobs in Wisconsin.

Senator Republican leader Scott Fitzgerald offered a much different take on the proposed plan by saying: "After Wisconsin Democrats increased taxes and fees on families and businesses by nearly \$5 billion last year, they are layering on yet more cost increases through their global warming agenda. The mandates will increase gasoline, energy, and building costs, which will put further strain on families' budgets and result in even more job losses. This is the worst possible time to introduce such a proposal when our state has lost over 163,800 jobs during this recession, and Wisconsin workers are facing record unemployment."

Among other items, the bill establishes a goal for all newly constructed residential and commercial building to be "zero net energy buildings" by 2030. Another item of particular interest relates to the Energy Code for 1 and 2-family dwellings. The global warming bill would specify that the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) or a similar code be adopted in Wisconsin within a certain period of time. In addition, the Department of Commerce could only adopt less stringent standards than those in the code if the "code is unreasonably burdensome because of specific conditions in this state" and the less strict conditions provide the greatest conservation benefits consistent with those conditions. In addition, the bill would eliminate a requirement that Commerce consider costs if the IECC is adopted.

The coalition that WBA is a part of to advocate for major changes to the legislation is moving forward and talking with both legislators and agency staff on this important topic.

Legislature passes drunk driving reforms with only one dissenting vote

In December both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature met and passed a comprehensive package making several substantial changes to Wisconsin's drunk driving laws. Every member of the Wisconsin legislature voted in favor of these changes except the longest serving member of the Wisconsin Assembly, Representative Marlin Schneider (D-Stevens Point).

The most highly visible member of the State Assembly for many well documented issues concerning driving while intoxicated, Rep. Jeff Wood (I-Chippewa Falls) voted in the majority. Wood put out a statement after his vote saying, "I have learned firsthand how difficult it is to combat this disease."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted this summary of the legislation on 12.17.09:

- Require ignition interlocks for all repeat drunken drivers and for first-time offenders with blood-alcohol levels of 0.15 or greater. That's nearly twice the legal limit. Ignition interlocks prevent motorists from starting their vehicle until they blow into a tube to show they don't have alcohol in their systems.
- Make a fourth drunken driving offense a felony if it occurs within five years of a previous offense. Drunken driving isn't a felony until the fifth offense in Wisconsin.

- Make first-offense drunken driving a misdemeanor if a child younger than 16 is in the vehicle. All other first-time offenses would remain traffic offenses, rather than crimes. Wisconsin is the only state to treat first offenses that way.
- Expand to the rest of the state a Winnebago County program that gives judges the option of offering reduced jail time to offenders who complete alcohol or drug treatment. County boards would have to approve the program - which backers say would reduce recidivism - for it to be used in their areas.

WBA testifies in favor of Carbon Monoxide bill

Recently the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform and Housing held public hearings on a bill to require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in 1 and 2-family homes. The bills (AB 607 and SB 415) are authored by Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) and Senator Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay). WBA GA staff testified in favor of these bills in addition to those representing firefighters, safe kids' coalition and members of a Madison church who had two carbon monoxide leaks in just six months time last year.

You may remember that part of the 2009-2010 WBA GA Agenda which was approved by the WBA Board of Directors in October 2008 included a provision to support legislation that would require carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in Wisconsin homes. Existing homes would be required to install a plug-in or hard-wired alarm and any new home would be required to install a hard-wired carbon monoxide alarm in a newly constructed 1 or 2-family home.

These bills mirror the current smoke detector law which essentially means that to comply with this new requirement you

would simply need to replace a smoke alarm with a “combo alarm” that acts as both a smoke and carbon monoxide detector in new homes. If this bill is ultimately signed into law by the governor it would not take effect until at least 13 months after the date of signing.

If things go smoothly next week there is a chance both of these bills will be voted out of their respective committees soon and available for passage during the February floor period in both the Assembly and Senate.

Give to the Building a Better Wisconsin PAC online

WBA is testing a new way for members throughout the state to give to your state political action

committee, the Building a Better Wisconsin Political Committee (BBW-PAC).

Starting now, members can go to the WBA website www.wisbuild.org

and click the Donate icon to make a personal contribution to BBW-PAC. Any member giving to the BBW-PAC online will also be helping your local association achieve their 2010 fundraising goal!

The BBW-PAC is WBA's political action committee. It is WBA members from across the state combining their resources to support pro-housing, pro-business candidates running for office in Wisconsin.

The BBW Committee is governed by WBA members, called Trustees, from throughout the state. Each local association is allowed at least one Trustee on the BBW Committee. This group determines which candidates receive PAC contributions.

PAC contribution decisions are made with the input of local associations and by reviewing the candidates' positions and voting records on housing and WBA priority issues. Decisions made by the BBW Committee are bi-partisan.

All contributions to the BBW-PAC must come from a personal credit card. Corporate contributions to the BBW-PAC are forbidden

by Wisconsin election laws.

2010 is a critical election year for WBA that features a wide-open race for governor, a race for Attorney General, half of the state Senate up for re-election and all 99 seats in the state Assembly open for election in November 2010.

Log on to <http://www.wisbuild.org> today to give to the BBW-PAC and help your local association meet your local's 2010 fundraising goal!

For more information on the above legislative matters please contact WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs Brad Boycks (bboycks@wisbuild.org or 608-242-5155, ext. 16).

(This is a monthly report from the Wisconsin Builders Association, our “political arm” at the state Capitol in Madison. Each month, the Monday Morning Review will highlight the going's on under the Capitol Dome with an eye toward what matters to the housing industry.)

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SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Roger Hinke, NTC Student Advisor (r), presents scholarships to NTC students at the Annual Party on January 23.

Silent Auction for Build a Better Wisconsin

We will be holding our silent auction for Build A Better Wisconsin at our Membership Dinner Meeting on April 15, 2010. Andy Radant will be chairing this event and would like some volunteers to help him make some phone calls and get items for the auction. If you would like to help or have something you would like to donate, give Andy a call.



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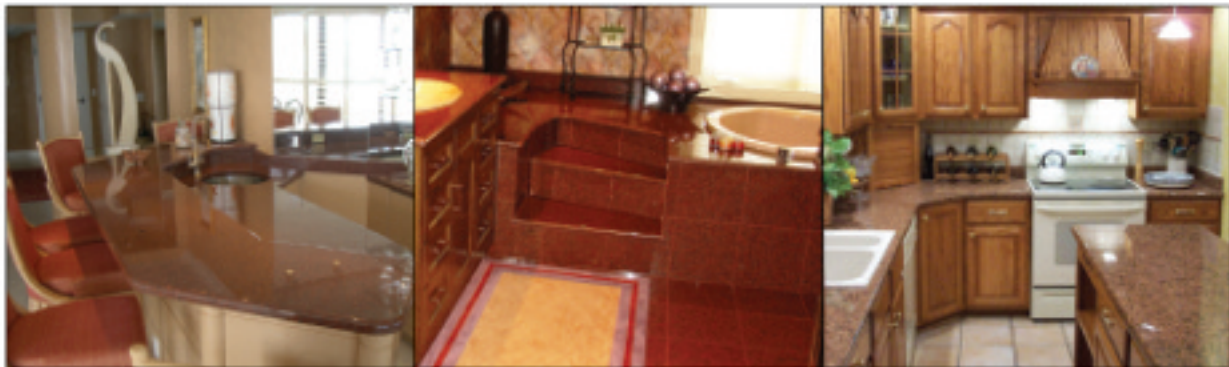
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WAUSAU AREA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

***Any student within the top 50% of their class is eligible
to receive the WABA Scholarship and is encouraged to apply.***

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

1. High School Attending _____

2. Name of Parents _____

3. Are they members of WABA? YES NO

4. If yes, name of the company _____

5. What school will you be attending? _____

6. What course of study are you planning to pursue? _____

7. How do you intend to finance your education? _____

8. What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in while in school?

Indicate any offices held, awards, or achievements. _____

9. What community activities have you been involved that are not school related?

(Work activities, volunteer work, church, etc) _____

10. What are the major courses you have been studying while in High School?

11. What is your grade point average? _____

12. What is your rank in your class? _____

Return Applications to:
Wausau Area Builders Association
141 W. Thomas Street
Wausau, WI 54401

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE NO LATER THAN
APRIL 1, 2010 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!***

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