

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association



Celebrating 50 years

FEBRUARY 2017, VOLUME 36

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 16 Membership Dinner Meeting at The Hoffman House
- Feb. 24-26 Home Show
- Mar. 23 Membership Dinner Meeting at The Great Dane
- Apr. 27 Silent Auction at Weston Lanes
- May 18 Membership Dinner Meeting at The Elk's Lodge
- June 6-11 Parade of Homes
- June 23 Golf Outing
- July 20 Woodchucks Game
- Aug. 17 WABA Picnic at Marathon Park
- Aug. 18 Sporting Clay Shoot
- Sept. 16 Grand Celebration Banquet at The Hoffman House
- Oct. 19 Parade of Homes Kick-off & Table Top at the Great Dane
- Nov. 16 Election of Officers/Directors at Ferguson's

Membership DINNER MEETING

Thursday, February 16

at the Hoffman House Restaurant

Cocktails start at 6:00 pm - Dinner at 7:00 pm

The Wausau Area Builder's Association hits 50 YEARS, EVERY MONTH we will have special gifts for all our members attending our dinner meetings!! Along with 2 free drink tickets per member & free beer set-up!! Chef will be preparing a wonderful dinner buffet featuring Roasted Herb Chicken & Virginia Smoked Ham...along with Assorted Salads, Fresh Tossed Four Leaf Salad with Accompaniments, Chef's Choice of Starch & Vegetable, and Rolls & Butter. Your Event planner Gloria, has also arranged for a "Special Anniversary Cake" served with Freshly Brewed Coffee, Iced Tea or Lemonade! YUM! You don't want to miss this one! Especially when it's INCLUDED in your membership for The WABA! Watch for your email & get your reservation in! You're gonna love it! Gloria / Director & Chairman of Events

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.



801 South 24th Ave.
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone (715) 842-9510
www.WausauAreaBuilders.com

OFFICERS

President Cory Sillars
Vice-President Cindy Zuleger
Secretary Shelly Talley-Nelson
Treasurer Julie Rajek
Past President Russ Utech
Business Manager Carolyn Wilde

WABA DIRECTORS

Through 2017: Gloria Fenhaus, Kyle VanOrder, Amber Gober; Through 2018: Roger Lang, Keith Koenig, Travis Hoffman; Through 2019: Alex Forer, Travis Hoerman & Sid Sorensen

WABA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Matt Keeney, Alex Forer, Cory Sillars

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Cory Sillars

WBA PAST PRESIDENT

Arden Emmerich

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Anniversary Dan Sillars
Bylaws Sid Sorensen
BLDR-PAC Trustee Howard Freeman
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Events Gloria Fenhaus
Finance Julie Rajek
Governmental Affairs Howard Freeman
Home Show Russ Utech
Legislative Cory Sillars
Marketing Clay Lana Mohs
Membership Alex Forer
Nominations Arden Emmerich
Parade of Homes Travis Hoerman/Sam McLellan
Personnel James Wanserski
Scholarship Jerry Jarosz
Silent Auction Amber Gober
Golf Outing Phil Pesanka
Sporting Clay Larry Meyer
Website Warren Pope
Facebook Kyle VanOrder & Sara Gast



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy February everyone! One month closer to warmer weather and no more shoveling of snow.

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend the Awards/Installation Banquet at the Elks on January 28. It was a fun and enjoyable evening. The 2017 WBA President, David Bellman, and State Senator Jerry Petrowski were in attendance to help with the installation of

the Directors and Officers. Great updates from both of our guests and great conversation during the evening was had by all. Please remember to mark your calendars to join us for one of the upcoming dinner meetings. We will be having extra Anniversary Committee items, some additional give a ways, and extra fun during the dinner meetings to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of WABA.

On February 24-26th is the WABA Home Show. We are at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Cedar Creek again this year. We are doing well with booth sales and have about 16 spaces available yet. So if you are planning on being an exhibitor, please go on Booth Boss and register or call Carolyn or Russ Utech for help reserving a booth space. It would be spectacular to sell out this year!

WBA and NAHB Advocacy for the Building Industry is one of the ongoing challenges, goals, and at many times a great success for our Members. On Thursday, March 16th, WBA will be hosting a "Meet your Legislator" Event in Madison. There will be a morning briefing with WBA Executive Director, Brad Boycks, in addition to a TBD speaker and a luncheon, members will have 2 hours to go up to the Capital and visit with their area Representatives and Senators to discuss our issues for this Session. I am hoping that WABA will be able to cover the event fee for any members willing to take the day and go to Madison for the benefit of all our members. If we could get at least 6 people to attend, we could make our Capital visits really positive and not feel rushed in between appointments. Please let me know directly if you are able to attend this event.

As many of you are probably aware, I had some family issues and a loss around Christmas time this last year and there were others in the WABA family that have been having a tough time recently. Let us not forget to keep each other in our prayers and be to be thankful for the time God gives us with our loved ones.

Cory Sillars, 2017 WABA President

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

AA Seamless LLC
Accent Window Fashions LLC
Advance Disposal Services
Earth Sense Energy Systems
Greenheck Fan
Verlo Mattress of NC WI

RENEWING MEMBERS

Amerhart Building Material Distributor
Associated Bank
Automated Products Inc.
Inner Piece LLC
Intercity State Bank
Landart Inc.
Modern Builders & Suppliers Inc.
Mike Trembath - Affiliated w/Kolbe and Kolbe
Olde Iron Shoppe LLC.
Showcase Carpets
Wisconsin Building Supply

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Goodbye Pete

Mrs. Pete Monaghan came into the newsroom to pay for her husband's obituary. She was told by the kindly newsman that it was a dollar a word and he remembered Pete and wasn't it too bad about him passing away.

She thanked him for his kind words and bemoaned the fact that she only had two dollars. But she wrote out the obituary, "Pete died."

The newsman said he thought old Pete deserved more and he'd give her three more words at no charge.

Mrs. Pete Monaghan thanked him and rewrote the obituary, "Pete died. Boat for sale."

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FEBRUARY

2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 POH Contracts Due	4
5	6	7 POH Committee Meeting - 12:00 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	15	16 Dinner Meeting	17 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	18
19	20	21	22 Membership Committe Meeting at 4:30 pm	23	24 HOME SHOW	25 HOME SHOW
26 HOME SHOW	27	28				

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MARCH

2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 POH Committee Meeting - 12:00 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22 Membership Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28				

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PICTURES FROM THE IBS

taken by Cory Sillars



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOLIDAY/AWARDS BANQUET

taken by Carolyn Wilde



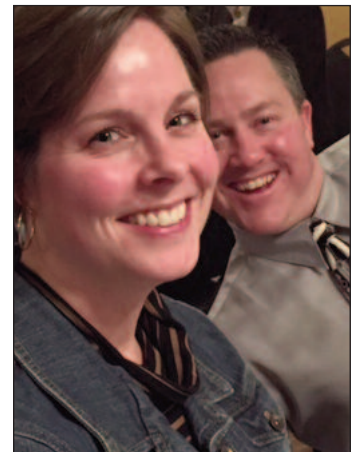
WBA President, David Bellman



State Senator, Jerry Petrowski swearing in Cory Sillars for his 2017 president term.



State Senator, Jerry Petrowski



ADVOCACY DIGEST



WBA Advocacy Day at the Capitol

One of the items that the WBA Strategic Plan addressed was reaching out to the membership to review our annual lobby day and decide what course of action we would move forward with in 2017.

For the past thirteen years, WBA has partnered with other business groups to attend "Business Day in Madison," which featured speakers and an opportunity to meet with legislators at the Capitol. This arrangement worked well for many years, but, in the past few, our attendance has decreased for a number of reasons.

After surveying the membership on the issue, as well as taking into consideration several discussions on the topic during advocacy group meetings and the last Board of Directors Meeting, the Executive Committee recently decided that the WBA would do its own lobbying day in 2017 and 2018.

The WBA Advocacy Day at the Capitol will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at the Madison Club. More details will be forthcoming, but we wanted to get this save the date alert out as soon as possible so you can plan accordingly for the event.

We will likely get started around 8 am that morning with a continental breakfast. The day will feature speakers, an issue briefing, lunch, ample time for lobbying visits to the capitol, and likely a cocktail reception to conclude the day. The cost of the event will be around \$75 per person, almost half the cost of the day in recent years when pairing with other groups.

Please save the date for Thursday, March 16, 2017 for the WBA Advocacy Day at the Capitol!

Schimmel to Seek Reelection

Recently, multiple news outlets have reported that Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimmel will be seeking reelection in 2018. Schimmel was first elected in 2014 replacing former Attorney General J.B. VanHollen.

In the 2014 election Schimmel bested democrat Susan Happ by a 51.5% to 45.4% margin.

A more formal election announcement is expected sometime in early 2017.

There has been relatively little speculation on a democratic challenger for Schimmel in 2018. It is likely that democrats

who are kicking the tires on a run for attorney general will likely start to send out signals to gauge interest in a run during the first six months of 2017.

No Opponent for Justice Ziegler this Spring

Over the past ten years, races for seats on the Wisconsin Supreme Court have become highly political, very expensive elections. Millions of dollars have been spent by candidates running for these seats, and even more money has been spent by independent third party groups both on the left and right to influence these races.

Terms for seats on the Wisconsin Supreme Court are for ten years, so the importance of these elections are substantial. The recent announcement that Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler will be running unopposed for reelection this spring is surprising, given how competitive and contested these races have become in Wisconsin.

Ziegler is running to serve her second term on the court in 2017. The 2007 race for this seat came to fill the vacancy that was created from former Justice Jon Wilcox. In the 2007 race, Ziegler bested attorney Linda Clifford with 58.1% of the vote.

The 2007 election was also unique with then-candidate Ziegler donating over \$800,000 of her own money to win the seat. According to campaign finance records from 2007, WBA supported Ziegler with a maximum contribution from the Building A Better Wisconsin PAC along with the Wisconsin Realtors Association and Koch Industries PACs.

Ziegler is considered a conservative member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Some groups on the left are not pleased that she will get a pass this spring and recently expressed those views in The Capital Times newspaper.

Governor Walker Delivers State of the State Address

One week after members of the Wisconsin Legislature were sworn in to serve new terms, Governor Walker joined a joint session of the legislature to deliver his seventh state of the state address. Traditionally, the state of the state address is used as way to promote the positive policies of a governor over the past year or dating back to when they first took office. During the state of the state address in odd numbered years, governors typically tease some of the major budget provisions that they will be rolling out in the next month or so.

Some of the highlights of Governor Walker's address included:

- Cutting taxes since taking office by \$4.7 billion dollars

which equates to a cumulative income tax reduction of \$1159 for a typical family

- Property taxes, as a percentage of personal income in our state, are the lowest they have been since World War II
- More people were employed in Wisconsin last year than at any point in the history of our state. Unemployment levels are the lowest in more than 15 years. And, the percentage of people working in Wisconsin is one of the highest of any state in the country.
- Wisconsin has more than recovered the jobs that departed during the recession, wages are up, more than 50,000 new businesses have been created, and the unemployment rate is down to 4.1%

The two items that were echoed in the Walker's speech as priorities for his yet to be released state budget included a cut to tuition to students attending schools in the University of Wisconsin system, and the pledge not to raise the gasoline tax or registration fees of motorists in Wisconsin to pay for additional road aids.

The next joint address of the legislature will likely come in mid-February when the governor releases and goes into greater details about the provisions of his 2017-2019 State Budget.

DNR Split Offered, Opposed by Former Secretaries

Recently, the idea of splitting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) into two separate agencies has been floated by State Representative Adam Jarchow. This proposal would basically make one state agency charged with hunting issues and another that would be responsible for environmental regulation in the state.

This concept has received encouraging words of support from Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Governor Scott Walker.

This concept is not new and has been offered a number of times in the past by former members of the legislature, past Assembly Speaker John Gard and former State Senator Bob Welch.

In late December Jarchow was quoted as saying, "I have heard from many hunters, anglers, farmers, and business owners that the DNR is just not working in its current form. Many sportsmen and women are very concerned that their license fees are not being used solely for fishing and hunting purposes. While I applaud Secretary Stepp and her hard work to move this agency in a more positive direction, now is the time to think bigger. Nearly every other state in the country has a split agency like we are proposing. Once split, the agencies can focus on their mission - one on growing and promoting our sporting heritage and one on effectively

and efficiently protecting the environment. I look forward to working with stakeholders to make this proposal a reality."

Pushing back against the proposal recently were five former DNR secretaries who all signed a joint letter.

A detailed summary of the proposal can be found by clicking here.

This topic will be discussed as part of the WBA Advocacy Group when they meet on Friday, January 27.

Secretary Ross to Move from DSPS to DOT in 2017

In a somewhat surprising announcement on December 27th, Governor Walker announced that Secretary Dave Ross would be moving from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to lead up the Department of Transportation starting on January 7, 2017.

Ross will replace Secretary Mark Gottlieb who submitted his resignation to Walker as the DOT secretary effective January 6, 2017.

"Dave Ross has been an outstanding leader for our administration at the DSPS since 2011," Governor Walker said. "Dave has always looked to improve the way government operates, and I am confident he will bring the same innovative, taxpayer-first approach to the DOT."

Ross has served as Secretary at DSPS since the agency was created with the passage of the state budget in the summer of 2011.

WBA has worked closely with Ross since he was named DSPS secretary and he took the time to join our advocacy group and travel to a number of local HBAs since 2011.

No word yet on who will replace Ross at DSPS but that decision will likely be made quickly.

Brad Boycks

WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs
Wisconsin Builders Association@bboycks@wisbuild.org
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			1 col. x 8" (1.5" x 8")	4.8" x 5.25"	6 col. x 5.25" (9.75" x 5.25")	(9.75" x 11")	no bleed
			1/8 Pg.	1/4 Pg.	Half Pg.	Full Pg.	Back Page
* WABA Home Show	Thursday Feb. 16 2017	Tuesday Feb. 22 2017	\$199	\$275	\$399	\$755	\$875
**Spring Home and Garden Tab Size	Thursday Apr. 20 2017	Tues./Wed. Apr. 25/26 2017	\$199	\$275	\$399	\$755	\$875
* WABA Parade Of Homes	Thursday June 1 2017	Tuesday June 6 2017	\$199	\$275	\$399	\$755	\$875
**Fall Home Improvement	Thursday Sept. 7 2017	Tues./Wed. Sept. 12/13 2017	\$199	\$275	\$399	\$755	\$875
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*Early Summer Fix Up	Friday, July 21, 2017	Tuesday July 25, 2017
**Fall Home Imp	Thursday Sept. 7, 2017	Tues./Wed. Sept. 12/13, 2017

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- Transportation

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TO GET STARTED, CONTACT:

Dina Kilinski, Regional Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 715.803.1190 or kilinskid@ntc.edu.

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the support to the family*

*Don & Arge
Sillars*

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His love never ends.

The Family of Arlene Sillars



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SCHOLARSHIPS

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Go to the website: www.cfoncw.org. Once there click on apply now in the top right corner. That brings you to the Grants & Scholarships page .. click on the Scholarships button on the left side. That brings you to all scholarships. Look for the Wausau Area Builders Scholarship and hit apply online. We recently extended our Scholarships to include the NTC Residential Building Program and have awarded 4 Scholarships at our Awards Banquet this past Month.

DEADLINE FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS MARCH 1, 2017!!



THE NAHB HAS SOME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS!!

If you know someone that is interested in the building industry please have them check out this website for a possibly scholarship they can apply for:

<http://www.nationalhousingendowment.org/page.aspx/generic/sectionID=2569/channelID=17352>

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Madison, Wisconsin 53713-1469

December 7, 2016

Sean Kelly
Automated Products, Inc.
1812 Karau Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449

Congratulations, Sean!

On behalf of the Wisconsin Builders Association, it is my pleasure to announce that you are the recipient of the 2016 Associate of the Year Award. This award is the highest honor an associate member can attain. Only one award is given each year. Nominees are judged by their peers on professionalism as well as level of activity within the WBA, NAHB, your local association and community. Your dedication and service to the building industry has been recognized by your fellow builders and associates. We are honored to present the 2016 Associate of the Year Award to you.

The awards presentation is on January 27, 2017 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Milwaukee in conjunction with the President's Installation dinner. We encourage you to invite friends and family to celebrate this award with you and fellow members of the Wisconsin Builders Association.

Once again, congratulations to you for receiving this well-deserved award.

Sincerely,

Brian McKee
2016 WBA President

Cc:

Kathy Raab, Executive Officer, Lakeland BA
Tena Hartwig, Executive Officer, Mid-Shores HBA
Carolyn Wilde, Executive Officer, Wausau Area BA



THE SALVATION ARMY

January 19, 2017

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Thank you so much for thinking of The Salvation Army with your generous contribution of \$1,000.00, made through the Share Your Holidays project. With donations like yours we are able to help provide food, shelter, and counseling, to many needy people in our community.

All of the funding that we raise throughout the year is used locally, to help cover expenses, and provide the many programs and services of The Salvation Army. Some of the services we have provided this past year include: The Feeding Program, which consists of our noon meal, three meals per day at our Transitional Living Center, along with our Emergency Disaster and Youth meals. We have also housed 10,711 people this past year, and assisted 2,387 people with Food Pantry orders, which consisted of 32,742 pounds of food. These are just a few of the many services we provide, and all of these are made possible by contributions such as yours.

Please feel free to stop by any time, or call for more information. Once again, thank you, and may God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Jacob Tripp
Corps Officer/Pastor
The Salvation Army
Wausau, WI Corps

wp

The Salvation Army did not provide any good or service to you in consideration for your contributions.

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