

# LET'S LEVEL

*the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association*

**JANUARY 2014  
VOLUME 33 - ISSUE 1**

## 2014 HOME SHOW



Join the 2014  
WABA Home Show  
**February 7-9**  
at the  
**Patriot Center**

The web address to reserve a booth is  
[https://boothboss.com/floorplan/  
index.php?showID=373](https://boothboss.com/floorplan/index.php?showID=373)

For more information contact:  
[russu@wausauareabuilders.com](mailto:russu@wausauareabuilders.com)  
or call him at 715-571-9332

**MARK YOUR CALENDER ...**

## Awards DINNER

**THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 2013  
AT IOZZO'S ITALIAN FOOD**

**6-7 pm ~ Cocktail Hour • 7 pm ~ Dinner**

Cost: \$15.00 per person

(Being this is a Special Award's Banquet...per by-laws, this  
dinner is not included with your membership)â

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A scrumptious dinner of "Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo" served  
over tender fettuccine pasta, and garnished with toasted  
almonds & tomatoes! Also included is Iozzo's wonderful  
salad & their homemade garlic bread!

Rumor also has it...that your Event Coordinator "Gloria" has  
arranged for dessert to be included! Yummy!

---

"The Builder of the Year" and "The Associate of the Year" will be  
announced that evening...along with the NEW Officer's & Director's  
announced & sworn in by The Wisconsin Builders Association's NEW  
President Brandon Bartow! Scholarships will also be awarded to  
students from Northcentral Technical College...along with awards to  
the WABA board & committee members. This will be a wonderful  
evening...so look for your email announcement, that will be sent out  
soon and make your reservation!! You don't want to miss it!



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

#### OFFICERS

President ..... Larry Meyer  
Vice-President ..... Russ Utech  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Becky Gering  
Past President ..... Bob Marcell  
Administrative Assistant ..... Carolyn Wilde

#### WABA DIRECTORS

Sid Sorensen, Larry Meyer, Bob Gaffney, Kolby  
Muscha, Russ Utech, Gloria Fenhaus, Howard  
Freeman, Lori Stevenson, Javier Patino

#### WABA STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Sid Sorensen, Larry Meyer, Bob Marcell

#### NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Bob Marcell

#### WBA PAST PRESIDENT

Arden Emmerich

#### ALTERNATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Larry Meyer

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Advertising/Marketing ..... Lori Stevenson  
BLDR-PAC Trustee ..... Jesse Maas  
Events ..... Gloria Fenhaus  
Governmental Affairs ..... Bob Kulp  
Home Show ..... Russ Utech  
Membership ..... Kristin Flamang  
Parade of Homes ..... Tony Sorensen  
Scholarship ..... Jerry Jarosz  
Golf Outing ..... Gary Zarda  
Sporting Clay ..... Larry Meyer  
Website ..... Warren Pope  
Facebook ..... Kyle VanOrder & Jesse Maas

#### 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 your new President I want to start by thanking Bob and acknowledging what a phenomenal job he has did for the Association over the last 2 years. Bob's time commitment on our behalf over the past 24 months was amazing and where he has been able to take us over that same period of time is astounding. Bob's leadership has righted a sinking ship and now has us on solid ground. Not only has he directed us to a position of financial stability he has also recruited new faces on the Board and some

of the Committees. I am asking each of you to personally thank Bob when you see him or by email to acknowledge his efforts. If we had a snapshot in time of what our Association looked like 2 years ago and what it looks like now there would be no way to recognize us today. That is how far we have come thanks to Bob's efforts.

Now that I have size 26 shoes to fill I promise to do my best to do just that. I hope to expand on what Bob has left me and with your help I know we can make that a reality. I look forward to the challenges ahead and I know that together we can add more members, increase member involvement, improve our events and have fun doing it.

I hope you will join us for the January meeting. It will be a time to meet the new Board Members, congratulate our scholarship recipients, share ideas, drink a few cocktails and have fun. I don't have a clue why you would miss it. See you on January 16th.

*Larry Meyer, WABA President*

# COMMITTEES UPDATES

## ADVERTISING / MARKETING

The Advertising/Marketing Committee is looking for someone to assist in PR for the association. Duties would include writing press releases and working with local media to gain additional exposure for the association. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Lori Stevenson at 715-581-6556.

## EVENTS

Award Dinner at Iozzo's. Look at cover for details.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

No updates this month.

## HOME SHOW

No updates this month.

## SILENT AUCTION

No updates this month.

## SCHOLARSHIP

No updates this month.

## FACEBOOK

I would like members to know that they can email me (kvanorder@woodstockflooring.com) events, specials, etc so they can be posted to the WABA Facebook Page. Also if anyone has any photos from recent WABA events feel free to forward them so they can be added as well. The more we post the more online exposure the WABA will receive.

## MEMBERSHIP

No updates this month.

## SPORTING CLAY

No updates this month.

## PARADE OF HOMES

No updates this month.

## GOLF

No updates this month.

## PERSONNEL

No updates this month.

# IBS & KBIS FEB. 4-6, 2014 LAS VEGAS

In case you haven't heard, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) are co-locating the International Builders' Show® (IBS) and the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS)! This first annual Design & Construction Week™ takes place February 4-6, 2014 in Las Vegas!

- Two floors, one badge! By co-locating the two events, you can see and talk with exhibitors from every aspect of the industry during the same week, all for one low price. Plus, you'll cut down on the cost of hotel and travel and you'll only be away from your business for a few days. As an added bonus, you will also have access to the show floor of a third show, the International Window Coverings Expo.
- 1,500+ Exhibitors with Innovative Products. Design & Construction Week is expected to draw more than 75,000 builders, remodelers, developers, architects and other industry professionals from over 100 countries. It will be the one place the entire building industry comes together in North America next year.
- Networking with Peers. Between IBS and KBIS, the anticipated number of exhibiting companies is expected to top 1,500. You'll see hundreds of new and improved products, and also have access to company representatives to ask questions and help you solve problems.

Go to [www.buildersshow.com](http://www.buildersshow.com) for more details!

MARATHON COUNTY

# BUYERS' *guide*



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## MEMBER INFO.

### BOARD APPROVAL

*Alchemy Concrete, Inc.*

### RENEWING

*Rock & Tait Exteriors, LLC*

*Intercity State Bank*

*Modern Builders*

*Wisconsin Building Supply*

*Obo Osimitz Construction, LLC*

*Kurszewski Excavating*

*Olde Iron Shoppe, LLC*

### SORRY TO SEE YOU GO

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*Mid State Supply*



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## JOKE OF THE MONTH

*A farm boy accidentally overturned his wagonload of corn. The farmer who lived nearby heard the noise and yelled over to the boy, "Hey Willis forget your troubles. Come in and visit with us. I'll help you get the wagon up later."*

*"That's mighty nice of you," Willis answered, "but I don't think Pa would like me to."*

*"Aw come on boy," the farmer insisted.*

*"Well okay," the boy finally agreed, and added, "but Pa won't like it."*

*After a hearty dinner, Willis thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I know Pa is going to be real upset."*

*"Don't be foolish!" the neighbor said with a smile. "By the way, where is he?"*

*"Under the wagon."*

# WISCONSIN BUILDERS CONFERENCE

January 30 - February 1, 2014  
Olympia Resort, 1350 Royale Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI



## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

If registering multiple attendees, please indicate a registration option for each on the bottom of this form.

MEMBER | NON  
\$210 | \$260

- ☐ FULL REGISTRATION - This registration includes all Conference events Thursday, Jan. 30- Saturday, Feb. 1: classes, Vendor Showcase & demonstration area, Welcome Reception, B.A.S.H. Party, Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Reception & Dinner and Saturday breakfast. \$195 | \$225
- ☐ CONFERENCE ONLY REGISTRATION - This registration is for Conference activities beginning at 8:00 AM on Thursday, Jan. 30 - Friday, Jan. 31 ending at 5:00 PM. *\*\*This registration does NOT include the Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Dinner or breakfast on Saturday.* \$95 | \$125
- ☐ THURSDAY ONLY - This registration includes all Conference activities on Thursday, Jan. 30: Classes, Vendor Showcase & Demonstration area, Welcome Reception & B.A.S.H. \$160 | \$205
- ☐ FRIDAY CONFERENCE - This registration includes all Conference activities on Friday, Jan. 31: classes, Vendor Showcase & Demonstration area, Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Reception & Dinner and Saturday morning breakfast. \$99 | \$125
- ☐ ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE - CONFERENCE ONLY - This registration is ONLY for additional employees of the same company and must accompany at minimum a full conference, conference only or single day registration. *\*This registration does NOT include the Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Reception and Dinner or Saturday breakfast.* \$30 | \$40
- ☐ B.A.S.H. ONLY - This registration includes Welcome Reception and B.A.S.H. party on Thursday, Jan. 30. \$75 | \$90
- ☐ CELEBRATION DINNER & SATURDAY BREAKFAST - This registration includes Friday, Jan. 31 Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Reception & Dinner and Saturday, Feb. 1 breakfast. *Conference Classes and Vendor Showcase are NOT included.*

## PAYMENT INFO

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Registrant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate registration option for this attendee by checking box above

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional registrants and registration options: *(Must be employed at the same business as primary registrant. If more space is needed for attendees, use additional sheet)*

_____	_____
<small>name, registration option, price</small>	<small>name, registration option, price</small>
_____	_____
<small>name, registration option, price</small>	<small>name, registration option, price</small>

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check (made out to WBA Foundation) ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CRV code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

If billing address is different than address listed above, please indicate billing address for this card on back of sheet.

Completed forms can be returned via **fax**: 920-731-7968; **email**: [mlindsey@wisbuild.org](mailto:mlindsey@wisbuild.org); **mail**: 920 W. Association Dr., Appleton 54914

Cancellation Policy - Cancellations received 2 weeks or more prior to the event will be refunded less a \$25 cancellation fee. Cancellations received more than 3 business days but less than 2 weeks prior to the event will be refunded at 50% of the original registration fee. Registration fees are non-refundable for cancellations received 3 or fewer business days prior to the event. If this program is not held for any reason, the Wisconsin Builders Association Foundation's liability is limited to the refund of the registration fee.





# 2014 WBA Conference

As the voice of the housing industry in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Builders Association – through its nonprofit arm, the Wisconsin Builders Foundation – presents an annual conference for industry professionals from across the state. This event brings together residential contractors, subcontractors, remodelers, land developers and allied professionals for two full days of educational sessions, networking opportunities, celebrations and fun.

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### Thursday, January 30

7:30 a.m.	On-site registration/check-in opens
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Light breakfast available
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Vendor Showcase open until 7:00 p.m. / lunch in exhibit hall
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Reception in exhibit hall
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	B.A.S.H. (Builders & Associates Supporting Housing) -- themed party

### Friday, January 31

8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Vendor Showcase open until 1:00 p.m. / breakfast in exhibit hall
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch served in exhibit hall
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	WBA Board of Directors & Annual Meeting
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions + WBA Group Meeting
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Multiple, concurrent educational sessions + WBA Group Meeting
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Reception
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Celebration of WI Housing Leaders Dinner (includes WBA cornerstone awards & officer installation)
8:30 - 11:30 p.m.	Hospitality Suites

### Saturday, February 1

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Send-off breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Conference concludes

## LODGING

Stay right at the conference hotel, Olympia Resort, during the 2014 Wisconsin Builders Conference. The following single night rates will be offered to attendees who reference "Wisconsin Builders Conference" when registering:

Standard Resort room	\$89
King Whirlpool	\$119
Suite	\$139

\*prices above do not include tax.

Olympia is extending 10% off all spa services and FREE access to spa facilities to all WI Builders Conference attendees who are staying on property.

Each room is equipped with coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, mid-sized refrigerator and complimentary Wi-Fi access. **To book a room, please call 1-800-558-9573.**



## Education

The **2014 Wisconsin Builders Conference** features more than 40 educational sessions, providing something for every housing-related professional. From marketing to building science, technology to green building, and so much more, this conference provides new information and techniques to build your business. Plus, pre-conference educational offerings include NAHB University of Housing courses, Business Management for Building Professionals, and pre-designation assessments, BAR and PREP. The WBA Foundation proudly serves as your trusted education source for all things housing in Wisconsin!

## Vendor Showcase

**NEW FOR 2014!**

**Vendor Showcase demonstration stage** – take your message outside your booth and highlight your new products and/or services in the middle of the exhibit hall.

**Incentives for meaningful conversation** – vendors will have the opportunity to share door prize tickets with attendees at their discretion for chances to win prizes.

**Welcome reception held in Vendor Showcase hall** – Thursday night offers additional time for attendees to mingle among booths while enjoying light food and refreshments through the exhibit hall.

## Special Events

In addition to fantastic education, quality vendors in the Showcase and casual networking throughout the event, the 2014 Wisconsin Builders Conference includes some special events that add even more to the value of attending...

### Thursday Night B.A.S.H. (Builders & Associates Supporting Housing), Jan. 30, 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

This themed party – **WISCONSIN PROUD!** – is attendees' opportunity to join in the fun, starting with a reception in the Vendor Showcase hall and moving into a separate room with a buffet dinner, music and more.

### Celebration of Wisconsin's Housing Leaders, Friday, Jan. 31

Reception: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

*Dinner program includes presentations of top awards to outstanding Wisconsin Builders Association members and the installation of 2014 Wisconsin Builders Association officers:*

- President – Brandon Bartow, Bartow Builders, *Manitowoc*
- President-Elect – Pam Jewell, Blenker Construction, Inc., *Amherst*
- Treasurer – Brian McKee, Midwest Homes, *Madison*
- Secretary – Brad TenPas, *Sheboygan*
- Immediate Past President – Craig Rakowski, James Craig Builders, *Wauwatosa*
- Associate Vice President – Michelle Beyreis, WESTconsin Credit Union, *Barron*
- Associate Vice President-Elect – Mark Brehmer, *Madison*

### Hospitality Suites, Friday, Jan. 31, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Industry partners host attendees in special suites for great food and beverages.

## Corporate Sponsor



# Registration Open for the 2014 WI Builders Conference

Get ready to start your new year off with outstanding educational and networking opportunities!

**S**ecure your spot at the 2014 Wisconsin Builders Conference (WBC) today! The conference will be held Jan. 30 – Feb. 1 at Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc.

If you've never been to the Conference (or haven't attended for a few years), we encourage you to give this premier event a try. Or, if you're a regular WBC-goer, we look forward to welcoming you back for another great experience. Either way, WBA members enjoy discounted registration rates, making this must-attend event a cost-effective opportunity to grow your knowledge and your network of professional contacts.

More than 40 educational sessions and a demonstration stage offer topics in categories such as building science, business management, energy efficiency/green building, legal, marketing/technology, sales, and trends. Many courses offer credit for the WI Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Credential, NARI continuing education, and NAHB designations.

The Vendor Showcase provides attendees time to speak directly with suppliers, manufacturers and other building-industry professionals about ways their products and services can help you and your business thrive. Plus, you'll have many opportunities throughout the event to exchange ideas and solutions with your peers from across the state.

Full registration includes relaxing and fun events each evening. On Thursday, enjoy the Vendor Showcase with refreshments and snacks in hand, then keep the night going with dinner, dancing and more during the Builders & Associates Supporting Housing (B.A.S.H.) party. This year's theme is "Wisconsin Proud" – get in the spirit by wearing your best Wisconsin-related gear.

On Friday, after classes conclude, the Celebration of Wisconsin's Housing Leaders reception offers a place to relax and unwind. The formal dinner celebrates WBA leaders, including the installation of WBA officers and presentations of the association's most prestigious awards.

**Register for the 2014 Wisconsin Builders Conference now** to be sure you're a part of all this outstanding event has to offer. Online registration, along with a complete list of educational opportunities to date, searchable by topic, day or credit offering, rates and lodging details, is available at

**[www.wba-foundation.org](http://www.wba-foundation.org)**



# JANUARY

# 2014

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

# RESERVE YOUR BOOTH

## FOR THE 2014 HOME SHOW

### February 7-9 at the Patriot Center

The web address to reserve a booth is <https://boothboss.com/floorplan/index.php?showID=373>  
For more information contact: [russu@wausauareabuilders.com](mailto:russu@wausauareabuilders.com) or call him at 715-571-9332





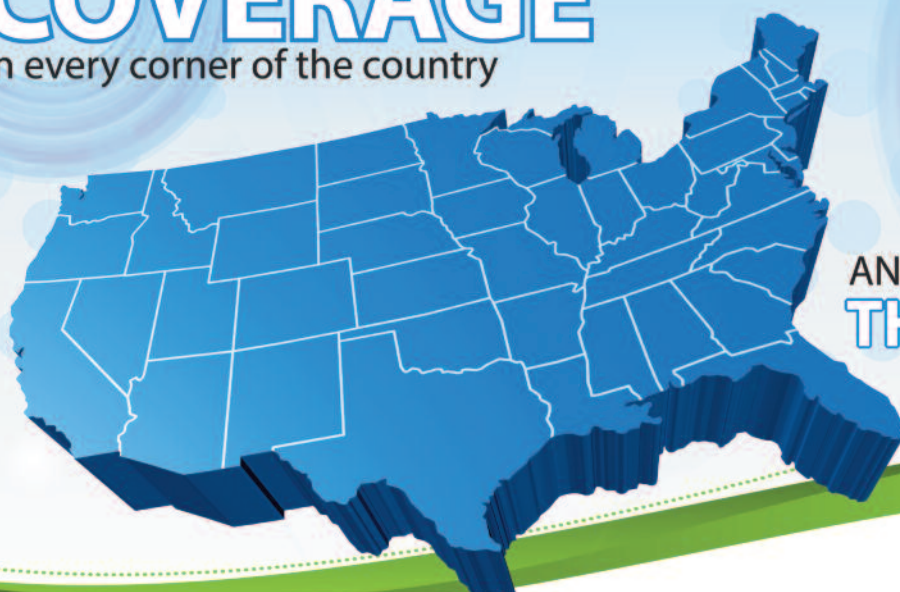
# FEBRUARY

# 2014


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





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# THE MONDAY MORNING REVIEW



## **UDC Council stops \$4500 code increase per home**

Recently the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) Council continued their yearlong review of the UDC when they discussed the important issue of revising the energy code.

After thoroughly studying this important issue, the

committee voted unanimously to reject efforts to move Wisconsin to the 2012 IRC energy code. WBA worked with UDC Council members leading up to the vote to educate them on the negative cost implications to this proposed change. Those in favor of the change also lobbied in favor of the 2012 IRC energy code.

This change would have increased the cost of a single family home in Wisconsin by between \$3600 and \$6200 per home.

Thank you to all of the members of the Uniform Dwelling Code Council for your commitment to keeping housing affordable in Wisconsin!

## **UDC looking to clarify Wisconsin's deck code**

The UDC Council is also looking at improvements to Wisconsin's deck code. The current Wisconsin deck code is fairly minimal and the council believes with more new homes being built with a deck that this issue deserves careful consideration.

The council discussed this topic for four hours at their last meeting and likely will be discussing it again during their January meeting as well.

Once they have worked further on this issue, we will be sharing with you a summary of the proposals they are considering to get further input before the council moves forward.

## **Shoreland zoning after annexation and vested right bills signed into law**

On December 12th Governor Walker made things

official when he signed two WBA supported bills into law.

Legislation to streamline Wisconsin's shoreland zoning regulations in annexed areas received Governor Walker's stamp of approval and became 2013 Wisconsin Act 80. You may remember from previous Friday Updates that this issue has been on the WBA Advocacy Agenda for the past decade. It is also worth noting that the signing of this bill means WBA went 3 for 3 on items that were lobbied on during Business Day in Madison 2013 (the other items were a 6 year review of the UDC and the elimination of the Building Contractor Registration (BCR)).

Finally a bill to provide "vested rights" when applying for a local permit was also signed into law this week becoming 2013 Wisconsin Act 74.

## **Sen. Lehman announces run for Lieutenant Governor**

Wisconsin Democrats now have at least one candidate who will be running for lieutenant governor in 2014, State Senator John Lehman (D-Racine). Lehman will be passing on running for reelection to the state senate seat he was first elected to in 2016, lost in 2010 and then regained in a recall election in the summer of 2012. Before redistricting this seat was a lean democrat seat on the numbers but after redistricting which took the City of Racine almost entirely out of the district and is now considered a safe seat for the GOP.

Lehman's announcement is the third retirement announced in the state senate joining Senators Tim Cullen (D-Janesville) and Bob Jauch (D-Poplar). There are two other state senators that may choose to not run again as well. State Senator Kathleen Vienhout (D-Alma) is mulling another run for governor and would have to give up her state senate seat to do so. State Senator Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) faces a GOP primary opponent in Representative Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) who is sitting on over \$100,000 in the bank while Schultz did little to no fundraising during the



last reporting period and may ultimately decide not to seek reelection as well.

### From NAHB: October Housing - Permits Strong, Starts Delayed

The Census Bureau reported on building permits, but the housing starts data has been delayed until December 18 due to the partial federal government shutdown in early October. The pace of building permit issuance rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 974 thousand in September and rose

again to 1,034 thousand annually in October. The pace of August permitting was revised up to 926 thousand annually.

Single family permitting continued its steady progress at a pace of 620 thousand annually in October, but the strength in today's report was concentrated in the multifamily sector where permitting surged to 414 thousand units annually.

That's according to the permits data (issued by local jurisdictions) but it's worth noting that the

composition of activity is likely to change when we see the actual starts data in December. The single family starts are likely to reflect stronger growth than seen in the permits data because building in non-permit issuing areas is included in the starts data, and some permits are reclassified from multifamily to single family when started.

The reclassifications occur when local jurisdictions define some configurations multifamily (e.g., townhouses) but the Census Bureau treats them as single family. These reclassifications boost single family starts relative to permits and depress multifamily starts relative to permits.

Overall, today's report is a positive signal that the government shutdown and the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing negotiations to keep the government running have not yet taken a toll on the housing market recovery, but we'll see how much of that strength is sustained in December's housing starts report and in the months ahead.

Brad Boycks

WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs

Wisconsin Builders

Association@bboycks@wisbuild.org

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# *Annual Party Highlights*







# Guess Who?

The first person to call the WABA office and tell us who this is will receive a free drink at the next dinner meeting.

You cannot be a member of the board or be included in the picture.







# COLLABORATE ON THE GO

In today's mobile working environment, it's uncommon that everyone working on a particular project is in the same building. Mobility does not have to mean extra challenges and working with your team does not have to stop when you leave your desk. There are a number of web-based collaboration apps that let you stay organized whether you're at your desk, on your smartphone or using your tablet.

- Trello (<http://trello.com>) is a free service that allows you create boards for specific projects. You can then add checklists, attach files, images or documents, insert deadlines, invite team members and assign tasks. Revisions made by others appear instantaneously on your screen and you can visit the activity log to see the latest changes. In addition to the free option, there is also a business class that provides additional features for an annual fee.
- Collaborate (<http://www.collaborate.com>) is a unified document sharing, task management and team communication site that is optimized for mobile use. One major highlight of the service is its integration with popular cloud services like DropBox™, Evernote™ and Google Drive™. Plans start at 1-5 users with different file size and storage options.
- Quip (<https://quip.com>) focuses specifically on document collaboration. You can share documents or entire folders so multiple people can edit and discuss in a single workspace. Messages and comments are combined into a chat-like thread with the document, helping to cut down on emails and make teamwork more efficient. Quip is free, but has some business functionality that can be purchased on a per user basis.

These are just a few examples of tools that let you collaborate on the go. If you already use a program to manage projects or documents with your team, do some research and see if there's a mobile app available to optimize productivity when you're working away from your desk.

## WBA Announces New Leader, Exciting New Direction

**T**he Wisconsin Builders Association has hired Kirsten Lee Villegas as their new State Executive Officer. Villegas was chosen to fill the position after a statewide search that attracted over 60 applicants. With Villegas' appointment, the WBA – for the first time in its 66-year history – will be led by a female executive.

Villegas is a Wisconsin native with over 20 years' experience in both the nonprofit and private sectors.

"Kirsten brings a unique set of skills to the WBA," said Craig A. Rakowski, WBA Board President. "Her strong executive experience and marketing savvy was exactly what we were looking for in the candidate to become our State Executive Officer."

"The hiring task force was impressed with her excellent communication skills as well as her proven ability to grow revenue, generate positive exposure, and creatively develop brand awareness," added Rakowski. "We are confident she will

take the WBA to the next level in the years ahead."

In the newly restructured management model, Villegas will work alongside Brad Boycks, WBA Vice-President of Advocacy, to advance the efforts of the home building and remodeling industry within the state.

"I am eager to work with and help promote the great home builders, remodelers, developers, and industry experts from around the great state of Wisconsin," said Kirsten Lee Villegas.

"Working with our 23 local Executive Officers throughout the state to support them and help advance their efforts will be a top priority in the years ahead." 🏠





# AWARD WINNING



Recently, Susan Murphy Jones, owner and senior designer at Landscape Solutions, along with Paul Ostrowski, of Ostrowski Landscape and Lawncare, were chosen and nominated nationally by Belgard for its' World Class award! Their 2013 parade home landscape installation projects' extensive and unique utilization of timeless patterns complimenting the outdoor colors and texture captured the judge's vote. "This best in class driveway design and installation award is intended to congratulate the creator of a driveway project that far exceeds the typical standard. The winner of this award not only pushed the envelope but tore it wide open to achieve something rare and special for their client."

This award was also nominated by the Belgard world class committee for its' People's choice award.

