

LET'S LEVEL

the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association

**SEPTEMBER 2014
VOLUME 33 - ISSUE 9**

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touched, they
must be felt with
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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



Holy cow it is September already. The leaves are starting to change colors, kids are back in school, the Packers are playing and much to our surprise and delight the Brewers are still in the thick of the pennant race. Life doesn't get any better than that in Wisconsin.

After the summer sabbatical from monthly dinner meetings we will back in the swing of things on September 18th. Sorry to say but I will not be there to join you. I will be on an elk getting pilgrimage which consists of a 31 mile

(one way) horse ride. I am not so sure my butt won't be wishin it would have stayed home. Russ Utech will handle the meeting and the Reverend Arden Emmerich will handle the prayer. I hope you will all show up to support their efforts.

We are entering the business part of our year which consists of elections. Sid has his Committee and will be looking for some new smiling faces to fill Board positions and he can very persuasive. He will also be looking for people to join Committees. These Committees are really the life blood of our Association so I ask that you give this a real consideration. The infusion of new people with new ideas is imperative to the success and long term health of our Association.

By now you are probably all aware that the charges have been filed against Chris Briquolet. On Friday September 5 we will be back in court to find out how he will plea. Once that is determined we should know how and when this will move forward. Not that you have to be reminded, but the wheels of Justice move slowly so don't expect this thing to come to a head in the near future. The good news is that we are moving forward.

Fall is my favorite time of year and probably is for some of you as well. Make sure you get out there and enjoy all the wonders it has to offer. It means a lot of different things to different people. Just make sure that you take the time to enjoy the part that is most special to you. If you miss it, you will be waiting another 12 months before it comes around again.

To celebrate Fall, there are 2 free drinks to the first person who sends me a picture of you playing in the leaves with your children or grandchildren. That means I need to be able to identify you the WABA member in the picture. Sid tried to snake two drinks from me last month by claiming it was him in a picture bare foot skiing. I received confirmation that indeed it was him in the picture but they couldn't tell me how long ago the picture was taken. I believe the quote was "he was considerably younger when that was taken" Nice try Sid.

See you at the October meeting.

Larry Meyer, WABA President

MEMBER INFORMATION

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JOKE OF THE MONTH

An old man is afraid that his wife is losing her hearing. So, he walks up right to her ear and asks, "Can you hear me?" She didn't answer. He walked up closer and asked again. But there was no answer. Finally he asked her one more time really loud and his wife said, "for the third time yes!!!"

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July 11, 2014

Jerry Jarosz
Wausau Area Builders Association
801 S 24th Avenue
Wausau WI 54401

Dear Jerry,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of ~~fragrance, gels, and lotions~~ ^{food} for the clients at The Women's Community.

Your donation is greatly appreciated and very gratifying. Your continued support is invaluable.

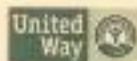
Your donation is tax deductible and this letter serves as your official receipt of your donation. No goods or services have been provided on behalf of The Women's Community, Inc. in consideration for this contribution.

The Women's Community is a vital part of our community, providing services to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Just a few of the things we do are providing lifesaving shelter for women and children escaping abusive relationships; legal advocacy through the court systems, 24 hour crisis intervention, community education in schools, businesses and churches, advocating for victims of domestic violence in later life, and our Healing Through Art Program.

Your gifts help us to continue to offer services to anyone in our community who needs them. On behalf of our Clients, The Board of Directors and The Women's Community staff, we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

Most Sincerely,


Jane E. Graham Jennings
Executive Director





July 31, 2014

Mr. Bob Marcell
Wausau Area Builders Association
801 S 24th Ave
Wausau, WI 54401

Dear Bob:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, we gratefully acknowledge your contribution of **\$1,000.00** to the **Wausau Area Builders Association Fund**.

We thank you for your generosity and for your contribution to making this a more vibrant and livable community!

Sincerely,

Jean Tehan
Executive Director

The Community Foundation has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for your gift and has exclusive legal control over the contributed assets. Please retain this letter for tax purposes.

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SEPTEMBER

2014

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

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OCTOBER

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 Membership Dinner Meeting	17	18
19	20 Oct. Membership Renewals Due	21	22	23	24 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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Sarah Verber
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THE MONDAY MORNING REVIEW



Advocacy Group discusses 2015-16 agenda

Recently the WBA Advocacy Group had a great discussion of the draft WBA Advocacy Agenda for the 2015-2016 legislative session that begins in January 2015. The Advocacy Group went through each point of the draft agenda that was put together in conjunction with WBA

Advocacy Chair Abe Degnan and Vice-Chair Jim Doering.

WBA is using the extended review period for the WBA Advocacy Agenda that has been used for the past two sessions which is to review the draft in July, take comments on additions and changes, then come back to both the Advocacy Group and finally the WBA Board of Directors for a final vote during our meeting on October 23.

One of the bigger pieces of public policy contained in the draft WBA Advocacy Agenda is changes to the current state law on contractor education. This portion of the draft agenda has been under consideration since January of this year when we first started to take input from members on possible changes to the law. That was followed up by an additional listening session on the topic during our April meeting.

Enclosed are the changes being considered to the current state statutes on contractor education which come from the comments and suggestions from members during the past three Advocacy Group meetings.

Contractor Education reform package:

- Require a minimum of 3 credits on safety issues including OSHA training
- Require a minimum of 3 credits on business management, contracts and lien law (financial planning, general business operations 101, change orders, contracts, do business in writing, and dispute resolution)
- Require a minimum of 3 credits on code changes and recent legal/legislative changes
- Require 3 elective credits
- Require that 6 credits must be in person credits and 6 credits can be online
- Require inspectors to document DSPS contractor numbers on final inspection documentation
- Require municipalities send a report each year showing

what contractors pulled a building permit and their current credential number and expiration date

- Withhold shared revenue/fire dues payments (or some other type of payment) to municipalities who do not supply the above mentioned report each year

\$20,000 raised for Governor Walker

Thank you again to all of the members who made a donation to the Builders Direct Fund Conduit to help support the re-election efforts of Governor Scott Walker in 2014. Our recent breakfast fundraiser raised \$20,000 for the Builders Direct Fund Conduit that members then directed to Governor Scott Walker for his re-election efforts.

Once again, thank you to our very generous host committee for your financial commitment to the Builders Direct Fund and Governor Walker's re-election efforts!

Platinum Hosts (\$2500)

Pam Jewell and Peter Blenker

Personal Contributions from Dittmar Realty, Inc.

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Silver Hosts (\$500)

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Gary Verhasselt

Bronze Hosts (\$250)

Craig Rakowski

Jim and Brenda Kubasta

Brandon Bartow

Jim Lenz

Robert Procter

Mark Etrheim

Don Miller

Don Esposito

Buck Sweeney

WBA BOD Endorses Walker/Kleefisch and Brad Schimel

The WBA Board of Directors meeting recently voted on the unanimous endorsement for the re-election efforts of Governor Scott Walker and Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. The WBA Board of Directors also voted to endorse the candidacy of current Waukesha County District Attorney Brad Schimel for the open seat for Wisconsin Attorney General.

We will be reaching out to members in the future on additional ways you can help volunteer your time to help each of these campaigns. In the meantime, if you have a few extra dollars we encourage you to go to [---

8 *Let's Level*](http://www.builder-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

sdirectfund.com to make a contribution to the Builders Direct Fund Conduit using a personal individual credit card and direct those funds to Governor Walker or to Brad Schimel for Attorney General in the "Special Instructions" section.

Each contribution using www.buildersdirectfund.com will give your local association credit towards your 2014 fundraising goal along with more exposure for WBA when making the contribution through the Builders Direct Fund Conduit.

John Stossel to appear at Business Day in Madison 2015

Just this week it was confirmed that Fox Business's John Stossel will be the featured speaker for Business Day in Madison 2015. The event that serves as WBA's main legislative day will be held again at the Monona Terrace on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

The schedule is not completely finalized but it is likely to start with our issue briefing in the morning, welcome, and back to back speakers for the morning session, lunch with featured speaker Governor Walker (pending the November election), time for state capitol office visits after lunch and John Stoessel addressing the group at 3 pm.

We also have been working with the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) Foundation that helps put the event together to keep the price of the event down. WMC is considering a discount for groups that sign up 100 or members to attend.

Save the date for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 for Business Day in Madison 2015!

Happ advances to take on Schimel in AG race

Two district attorneys will now face off in November to replace retiring Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. Jefferson County District Attorney Susan Happ, fresh off a convincing 52% win in a three person primary is now set to face Waukesha County District Attorney Brad Schimel in November. Finishing behind Happ were State Representative Jon Richards at 33% and Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne with 15%.

Happ is an interesting candidate. She comes from a GOP county and was the most moderate sounding candidate during the primary. Typically the most moderate candidate in either party has a hard time

advancing to the general election.

In November this will be the first time in Wisconsin history that either party has nominated a woman for both Governor and Attorney General in the same year.

Brad Boycks

WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs
Wisconsin Builders Association@bboycks@wisbuild.org
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WHAT'S A GOOD REASON TO BUILD A NEW HOME?

Article courtesy of Wisconsin Builders Association

Peace of Mind



Your new Wisconsin home will be built with some of the highest standards in the industry as well as with safety features that are now mandatory in new home construction.

Today's professionally built new homes have:

- Improved building materials & current quality standards,
- Mandatory life safety features to protect you and your family,
- Safer electrical components that handle the technology needs of today,
- New home warranties eliminating unexpected repairs or replacement costs

IMPROVED BUILDING MATERIALS & QUALITY STANDARDS

With technology advances, new materials and methods for constructing homes make them more durable and less expensive. Stronger framing and materials can better withstand extreme weather. And everything from insulation to siding to windows and roofing has dramatically improved in quality making your new home last longer.

New building techniques and helpful consumer protection rules also ensure homes of today are built with quality. All new homes must pass independent inspections and conform to uniform stringent building codes in order to be occupied.

In fact, the Wisconsin Code book that outlines the parameters a builder must conform to in order to build a single family home is almost 250 pages long, ensuring that all details have been covered for you.

EXPENSIVE REPAIRS & REPLACEMENTS

Most used homes will require an expensive replacement or repair of a major item during the time you own it. Nothing lasts forever, and unless the previous owner was regular with upkeep, chances are you will need to replace one of these major items at some time: roof, gutters, windows, driveway, water heater, furnace, doors, and central air conditioner.

And these replacements do not include updates you may want to make to a used home such as kitchen cabinets, countertops, bathroom vanities, sinks, paint, and carpeting.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that causes deaths in the United States every year.

Faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces are the main culprits of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Thanks to the Wisconsin Builders Association consumer advocacy efforts, as of 2011 hardwired carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms are now required in most homes built in Wisconsin. You can sleep soundly at night in your new home knowing that these safety features will alert you if a problem is detected.

OLD ELECTRICAL WIRING & OUTLETS

When you purchase a used home, unfortunately you can't see behind the walls. Old and frayed electrical wiring or improper electrical installation done by a non-professional could be a ticking time bomb to start a fire in your home.

New home electrical wiring systems are up to current code and can better accommodate modern appliances



and components such as security systems, high-definition televisions, lighting, and sophisticated audio systems. They also have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets in locations near a water source such as the kitchen and bathrooms in order to prevent accidental electrocution.

Most old homes have fewer electrical outlets which often require the use of extension

cords. Extension cords and overloaded circuits are a fire hazard. Hardwired smoke detectors, new circuit breakers, and ground fault interrupters outlets make new homes a safer choice.

NEW HOME WARRANTIES

New homes come with comprehensive home warranties offering peace of mind from defects, faulty building materials, improper construction, unexpected repairs, or faulty appliances. Even your new outdoor shrubs and plantings can be covered under warranty! All of this makes the cost of maintenance for a new home much less than a used home.

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOUS

Dear Wausau Area Builders Association:
It is with immense gratitude that I thank you for allowing me to receive a scholarship from your association. I'm extremely excited to be furthering my education by attending Drake University this fall majoring in International Relations. Receiving this scholarship will help me to attend college and be successful in the future.
Thank you for this honor!
-Hannah Mezei



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COMMITTEES UPDATES

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

In summary the WABA financials are on sound footings again. For a couple of years our Executive Secretary Chris Briquet misappropriated our funds and we did not have enough money to pay all the bills. The last two years we have had very frugal management of the Association and we have paid all bills and have built some surplus funds. Financial Committee is reviewing options for investing as well as beneficial way to use surplus moneys. The Board of directors would be open to members suggestions.

- Arden Emmerich member of Finance Committee.

SPORTING CLAY

Our annual Sporting Clay Shoot was recently completed and I am happy to announce that once again this year it was a success. We had 37 shooters including two ladies (who vowed to return because they had so much fun). A great time was had by all and I want to start by thanking the Wausau Skeet and Trap Club for once again hosting our event.

In addition I want to thank the following corporate sponsors who donated either product or money to support our event. Lang Well Drilling, Peoples State Bank, Macco's, Hurtis Heating, The Bar, Olson Tire, and WPS.

I also want to thank Alex Forer and Randy Forer for their donations as well as my Committee consisting of Alex Forer, Brent Kriewaldt and Carolyn for their help in pulling this all together.

We have already started working on ways to improve next year's shoot so I am hoping you will consider joining us. I mean where else can you go and have a blast blowing holes in the sky while you partake in the Flurry, Fur and Feather, 5 Stand and a host of other things?

For a lot of you this event is about the opportunity to try something you may have never done before. Give it a whirl, you might like it. Just like our two ladies did this year.

EVENTS

Our membership dinner meetings will kick off for September!! Being it will be 8 months since we have been there...it's time for a GREAT ITALIAN MEAL!! That's right..."Iozzo's Italian Food," will be the first kick off dinner for membership...on September 18th, 2014! Cocktail hour starts off @ 6 PM and I will be starting the "50/50" during that time! Then their all you can eat Italian Salad & Garlic Bread (Iozzo's own recipe/ and baked right there!) will start @ 7 PM...and then following that, will be a wonderful "Lasagna Dinner!" Iozzo's will be shutting down the restaurant to the public as usual...just for US...YOUR association...The WABA!! I will also have a guest speaker presentation from Tom Bychinski...who you will enjoy! So mark your calendars everyone...you don't wanna miss it...cause Iozzo's Italian Food, NEVER disappoints!! Mrs. Gloria Fenhaus / Director & Chair of Events

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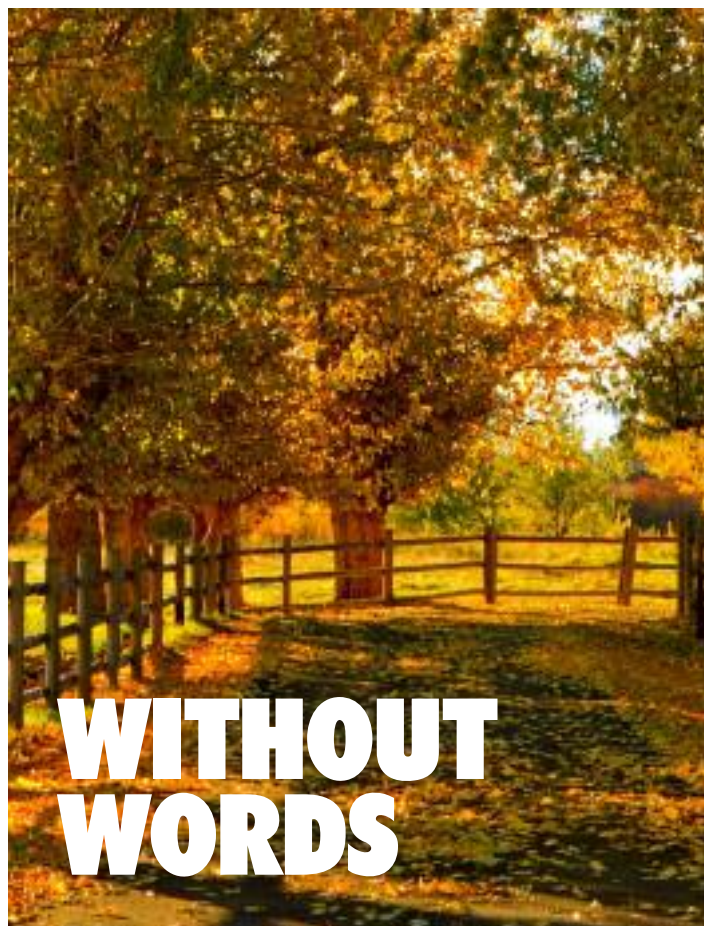


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SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOUS

Dear Ms. Nelson,

Thank you for awarding me with the Wausau Area Builders Association Scholarship. I will be attending Villanova University in the fall and plan to major in business. This scholarship money will help me with tuition costs. I truly appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely, Emmenzner

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WABA DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE 2014-2015 SIGN-UP FORM

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

Indicate your interests below and return the sign-up sheet today!

President-Elect	_____	Home Show	_____
Secretary-Treasurer	_____	Membership	_____
Local Director	_____	Parade of Homes	_____
Golf Outing	_____	Clay Shoot	_____
Events	_____	Marketing	_____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name _____

Company _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Business Phone _____ Email _____

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.

Mail to the office at: 801 South 24th Ave., Wausau, WI 54401

DINNER MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT IOZZO'S

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

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Call 715-842-9510 or watch for an email.

ONE MEAL INCLUDED WITH MEMBERSHIP • \$15.00 FOR GUESTS (NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED)

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Excellent benefits for the Wausau Area Builders Association Members

In addition, the Wausau Area Builders Association Members will receive discounts* on the Business Share Plan where you can enjoy unlimited nationwide calling, unlimited international and domestic text messages, and shareable data.

When given the opportunity to provide a comparison of rate plans, customer service, and coverage, we have been able to demonstrate why Cellcom is the right choice for many companies. Call today to receive **your** complimentary rate plan analysis.

Justin Kressel

Cellcom Wireless Business Consultant

1700 Stewart Ave, Suite 300, Wausau, WI 54401

Cell: 715.573.1000

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*Available on select data buckets



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