

Building Contractors Association of Otero County

BCAOC



406 Fairgrounds Road • www.bcaoc.com
575-437-2066 • 575-551-2942

**OUR NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
LUNCHEON MEETING
WILL BE ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH
AT 11:30 AT
19TH HOLE
RESTAURANT...
COME JOIN US!**

**See Page 5 For
Information on
This Month's
Cover Home!**

Quote of the Month
"Change is the law of life.
And those who look only
to the past or present are
certain to miss the future."

John F. Kennedy

A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Tami Sauerman

Hello BCAOC members,

New Year, New Goals, New Effort, New Results!

Many of us tend to make the same resolutions, and all too often don't stick to them or only for a short period of time. But if we take a moment and think about what we REALLY want to see change, while diet, exercise and questionable habits may be important, I think for most of us it would be our bottom line.

By now you may have done all the obvious things like expand your scope of work, add services, products, or specialties, maybe even taken a second job. You are probably doing more for less, just to get the job or the customer. You may be looking much more closely at the checks you write and the dollars you spend. It all may have helped- some. It's a stop-gap for sure, keeping heads above water while we all wait for the economy to get back on track. But how's that really working for you?

You may have read previous columns I've written and think I'm preaching to renew your membership and get more involved, once again. And you're right, and this is why-The Association is an organization comprised of individuals- just like yourself. Many of them business owners and managers facing the same issues, problems and obstacles. They understand what you are dealing with and ultimately want the same thing- A strong construction industry that is prosperous and supports us all.

So you're already in a group that understands you and wants what you want! This group as a whole will also stand up for you and with you when our livelihood is threatened by negative or unnecessary legislation, codes, or requirements that impact our industry.

It's said that God helps those that help themselves, so what can you do to help yourself? None of us can seriously sit back and think anything of value will be handed to us without working for it. So my advice is, get involved. We are all busy, yet we all have some time to give as well.

Why are you a member of the BCAOC?

- Is it to get new business and promote your company?
- Is it to support the industry that feeds you?
- Is it for the credibility the BCAOC Offers?

- Is it to build relationships, both business & personal?
- Is it to stay current on the issues that affect your industry?

Whatever your reason is for being a member of the BCAOC, the REAL question to ask is...

- Are you doing EVERYTHING in your power to make your membership successful?

Here's how to answer those questions and how to take action:

- **If your reason** is to get new business and promote your company
 - **GET INVOLVED!!** You will only get out of the Association what you put into it. The best way to promote yourself is to be **VISIBLE!** Come to a General Membership Meeting, sponsor a team at the golf tournament, volunteer at the Shrimp Boil, and participate in nominations and election of officers.
- **If your reason** is to support the industry that feeds you:
 - **GET INVOLVED!!** Did you know that we have a Building Issues Committee that meets when there are issues facing our industry that we need to take a stand on? You can be a part of that process. Also, a big way to support our fights is financially, by sponsoring and attending our events, they are all fundraisers for the BCAOC because we are a not for profit organization we have to raise funds to operate and support you and our industry; and also by recruiting new members. Not only are new members a help financially, they also add to our numbers and there is **STRENGTH** in numbers!
- **If your reason** is for the credibility the BCAOC Offers:
 - **GET INVOLVED!!** How will others know that you are a member if you aren't involved? Advertise your business in our newsletter, come to events. Be seen!
- **If your reason** is to build relationships, both business & personal:

Continued on page 3

A Message from the President



Jessica Beach

Hello,

First I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know me. I was born and raised in Alamogordo and now call Cloudcroft home. I grew up around the building industry and have had my contractor's license for six years. I mostly draw floor plans for other builders and build about one spec home a year.

We have planned many events for this coming year, but if you have any ideas on something new that we can do to help the Association raise money please

don't hesitate to give me or Tami a call. We did have our annual Christmas Party this past December and had a nice turn out. I think everyone who was in attendance had a good time. Your input is always welcomed to help build and grow our organization. I look forward to serving you this coming year!

Sincerely,

Jessica Beach, BCAOC President, 2011

jessicabeach730@hotmail.com • 575-491-2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO from Page 2

- **GET INVOLVED!!** Participate on one of our MANY committees; come to our GMM's and events. How can you build relationships if you don't try to meet new people?
- **If your reason** is to stay current on the issues that affect your industry:
- **GET INVOLVED!!** Read your Newsletter, check out your website, read your BCAOC emails, participate in surveys sent to you.

The theme here is **GET INVOLVED!!** Our association is only as good as our volunteers. If we don't have help, how will everything get done? If you have questions on how you can get involved, call me at the office 575-437-2066, the Association cell 575-551-2942 or email me at bcaoc@qwestoffice.net.

I am willing to help you any way I can and work each day to help better the Association and its membership. If there's anything I can do to help promote your business, service, company or ideas, contact me. If you have an idea or solution to a problem that may help others, share! If you have an article you want to submit, send it to me!

I will close this column with an appropriate quote from Winston Churchill, "Attitude is a little thing that makes abig difference."

Most Sincerely,
Tami Sauerman
Executive Officer, BCAOC

BCAOC 2011 Board Members and Officers

Executive Board of Directors:

President – Jessica Beach • President Elect – Dan Hughes
Associate VP – Rick McCracken • Secretary/Treasurer – Lee Ann Bain
Past President – Josh Rardin • Life Member – Mike Drunzer
Executive Officer – Tami Sauerman

Builder Members

Jim French, Gerald Matherly, Tommy Messer, Harris Blankenship,
Mark Bolin, Allen Gorby, Randy Rabon, Doug Nelson

Associate Members:

Jeri Melton, Phil Stevens, Beth Crabbe-Smith
Rudy Chanez, Mike Espiritu, Miles Ledgerwood

The Building Contractors Association of Otero County is a nonprofit voluntary trade association affiliated with the New Mexico Home Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders. The association seeks to represent and serve the diversified needs of its members who consist of large, small volume and custom home builders, developers, and remodelers, as well as industry-related suppliers, subcontractors, & professionals.

As the voice of the housing industry in Otero County, the association's primary mission is to represent those involved in and served by the building industry in our region, and all those in pursuit of the American Dream.

This will be the accomplished by spearheading a combined effort of all industry-related groups in addressing the quality of life in the community.

The Building Contractors Association of Otero County will work to achieve the following goals:

- ◆ Educate our membership, our industry and the public;
- ◆ Actively participate in legislative & regulatory affairs;
- ◆ Provide the forums that encourage quality construction and innovative products.

We responsibly serve our community by being the positive influence on the building industry.

IF YOU MISSED OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING...

President Jessica Beach of Jessica Beach Construction called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m. with 31 members in attendance. Jessica led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mary Pieper of Casa y Tierra Title Company offered the prayer.

The first order of business was an amendment to the BCAOC Bylaws, Article V, Section 6 MEETINGS, regarding the frequency of Board of Directors Meetings required by the Bylaws. A motion was made to amend, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote.

Past President, Josh Rardin of Rardin's Construction informed the members on Senate Bill 61 relating to local government, amending, repealing and enacting sections of the NMSA 1978 to provide for powers and duties of local government chief building officials; changing the construction industries commission authority over local government inspectors; providing for municipalities and counties to contract for construction code compliance inspectors; and providing a penalty. Josh wanted to provide information on SB 61 and stated that copies are available at the BCAOC office for anyone interested.

The speaker for this meeting was Sam Trujillo, Director of the Department of Public Safety assisted by Kelly Wallis, also of DPS. Sam delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the new ATAC Network which stands for Alamogordo Theft And Crime Network.

In an effort to take advantage of existing technology in order to better combat property crimes, the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety has developed ATAC as a method of communication between the Department and merchants. It is their hope that this system will aid the rapid deployment of law enforcement resources to prevent or stop crimes in progress and to alert merchants to the threat posed by specific individuals' intent on committing crimes in our community.

The professional and informational presentation was well received by the members and there was much positive feedback.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Steve Muell of First National Bank!

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

SUCCEED IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE RIGHT GOALS

Submitted by Mike Drunzer

Is this the year you're going to lose that weight, finish that novel, or get that promotion? It can be. January is the perfect time to re-examine and renew your goals. Here's how to get on track and stay there:

Explore your motivation. How will achieving your goal make you happy, or satisfy your needs? A promotion may mean more money, but what does that do for you? Other related rewards may provide greater motivation to succeed.

Know what you really want. Don't assume that losing that weight will change your personality or make you magnetically attractive to the opposite sex. Be realistic about the pros and cons of getting what you think you want so you won't be disappointed.

Focus on just one factor. Instead of a complete makeover, try to improve in one area at a time. Give yourself enough time to make real, sustainable progress. You may not be able to change your personality overnight, for example, but you can become a better listener over time. Then move on to something else.

Hang out with the right people. Make connections with people who support your goals, but challenge you to do more. Or who

offer new insights and perspectives. you need to have inspiring people around you.

Take risks. Don't stay in your comfort zone. If your goals are really worthwhile, you'll need to push yourself to try new things. Accept that you're going to feel uncomfortable, at least in the beginning, but get into the habit of challenging yourself.

Take charge of your life. You don't have to do what you've always done, or what everyone else expects. Think about what you really want to achieve, and why. Question your assumptions. You don't have to necessarily reject everything in your life, but start with what's really important to you and go from there.



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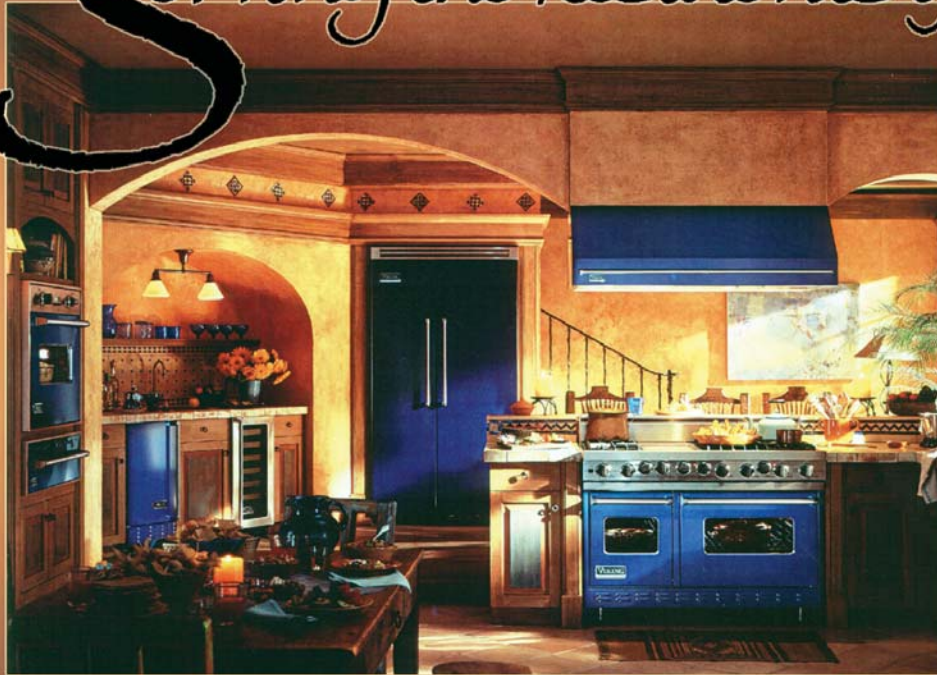
On The Cover ~

*3515 Red Arroyo Drive
Bar M Construction
Ernest and Debbie Martinez*

Old world charm is evident in this 2626 sq ft model home at Mesa Village that has a separate guest casita, outdoor kitchen, two courtyards designed for entertaining with two water features, two fireplaces and an outdoor fire ring. This home has Diamond Finish walls, and marble floors, inside and out. There are three marble tile showers, granite countertops and 4 sinks - each carved from a single piece of stone. Conterra stone columns, exquisite details throughout and elegant landscaping add to the luxury of this home, with twelve floor plans available.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BAR M CONSTRUCTION

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BUILDERS TRUST – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COVERAGE THAT IS UNIQUELY NEW MEXICO



By: Doug Johnston –
Service Center Manager

As a home grown New Mexico self insured workers’ compensation provider, Builders Trust offers only workers’ compensation coverage to the construction industry and only in New Mexico. It is through your membership with your local HBA that you are able to request a quote for coverage.

Be it our level of involvement on the local level, to our generous ability to split class codes, our Field Safety Services department that is second to none and the professional handling of claims, it all comes down to treating each of our Participants as the owners they are. Because of this, we feel that we do it better than anyone else.

Community Involvement – Builders Trust is actively involved with legislation on the state level that impacts our Participants and we have experienced individuals that sit on key committees that review and write bills that are favorable to the construction industry for legislative consideration. This is something that you rarely see from a national carrier. Builders Trust also sponsors up to four scholarships per year for post secondary education for the children of injured or deceased workers.

Splitting of Class Codes – As most of you are aware, on any given day, you may have an employee pouring concrete in the morning and framing in the afternoon. One of the many benefits of being a Participant in Builders Trust is the ability to, with proper documentation, split the labor between the two class codes and take advantage of lower premium rates by doing so.

Field Safety Staff – Because our Field Safety Staff is industry specific (construction), they are not inspecting a hospital in the morning, a restaurant mid-day and a construction site in the afternoon. They specialize in safety as it applies only to the construction industry and they know it inti-

mately. They work in partnership with our Participant/owners to insure safe working conditions and good hiring practices, which reduce accidents and save Participants premium dollars.

Builders Trust’s in-house claims department helps control costs by insuring they are only paying valid claims and by negotiating lower fees with preferred care providers and prescription drug companies. In addition, they encourage early return to work programs that are designed to get the employee back to work which statistics show also helps to decrease the overall cost of a claim. Taking care of injured workers, your employees, is one of Builders Trust’s core values.

Since 1987 Builders Trust has returned in excess of \$23.6 million dollars to our Participants. This is not money that goes to stock holders of a national carrier in New York or Chicago, but is money that stays in your local community and can be reinvested in your business.

*Not with Builders Trust yet . . .
Maybe it’s time to ask your agent for a quote!*



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Heather Jones

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Member **FDIC** **A. Javier Lerma**
Vice President 

Real Estate Update ~ December, 2010
Karen Krupovage, Owner/Qualifying Broker Affinity Real Estate LLC

Statistics for December, 2010

SOLD – Residential.....	57
SOLD – Commercial.....	3
SOLD – Land.....	7
Active – Residential.....	695
Active – Commercial.....	73
Active – Land.....	674
Under Contract – Residential.....	55
Under Contract – Commercial.....	0
Under Contract – Land.....	9



Karen Krupovage
OWNER/QUALIFYING BROKER  
Cell 575-430-0323
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MONTHLY COMPARISON	Properties SOLD	Total Value
December, 2010	67 Units	\$10,027,574
December, 2009	85 Units	\$12,789,912

(based on information from the Otero County Assoc of REALTORS®, Inc. Multiple Listing Service)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - BUILDER RARDIN'S CONSTRUCTION BCAOC MEMBER - 5 YEARS

Josh Rardin, Past President of the Association, was born in Alamogordo and has been here his whole life. He has been in construction since he was 15, and took Building Trades in his senior year of High School. Josh worked for Myers Construction for many years until starting his own business in 2003.

Rardin enjoys the process of the jobs he does and seeing the progression from start through completion. "I like working with my hands. I'm not a 'sitting at a desk' kind of guy" says Josh.

Rardin's Construction does mostly remodel work and light commercial and has kept busy despite the economy. Hiring extra help is mostly job driven when projects require it. Ongoing work includes house additions, bath and kitchen remodels, repair from damage, pouring slabs and some projects in Las Cruces.

He feels that regulations and the new EPA rules are too restrictive. "Let us do what we need to do and get people a place to live" says Josh, "They're nickel and diming us to death."

FAST FIVE

- 1. What was your first job?**
A paper route at 8 years old.
- 2. What was your worst job?**
Remodeling public restrooms that were still in use during the remodel.
- 3. What is your favorite vacation spot?**
Las Vegas.
- 4. What is your favorite quote?**
"Always do what you know to be the right thing to do despite what others may think."
- 5. What is one thing you know for sure?**
"Death and taxes."

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - ASSOCIATE MORRISON SUPPLY BCAOC MEMBER - 7 YEARS

Nationally, Morrison Supply has been in business since 1917 as a plumbing materials supply company. Locally, in August 2000, Morrison Supply bought Alamo Pipe and opened the business on Fairgrounds Road. Store Manager Rick McCracken has been in the business for 30 years and now runs the store which has 12 employees. He has expanded the scope his store offers to include lighting, HVAC, utilities and will soon add name brand large appliances including high-end Viking and Jenn Air.

The versatility of products offered at Morrison Supply spearheaded by McCracken is an exciting change and great opportunity for customers and contractors to have access to many items needed for the home. Some of the appliances will soon to grace the showroom and others will be available for order.

Rick was born here in Alamogordo and has lived here all his life. He proudly talks of his children Kyle, who just graduated from college and daughter Kayla who is currently in college, and doing very well.

McCracken likes the daily interaction with the constant stream of people coming through the busy store, though he is witness to how the economy has affected people's purchasing ability.

Rick has many longtime friendships he values greatly, is well liked among his peers and volunteers his time and resources to various civic groups. He feels his employees are outstanding and add to the value his customers enjoy.

FAST FIVE

- 1. What was your first job?**
Youth Conservation Corps Forest Service Program when he was 15.
- 2. What was your worst job?**
"I haven't disliked any job I've had."
- 3. What is your favorite vacation spot?**
Nassau.
- 4. What is your favorite quote?**
"The whole body suffers on account of a poor mind" - quote credited to his Grandfather
- 5. What is one thing you know for sure?**
"There is a reason for everything."

Membership Renewals

Builders:

- ◆ **LANCON, INC.**
Lance Giest
- ◆ **SUNDANCE CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT, LLC**
Tommy Messer
- ◆ **DREIKOSEN & SONS CONSTRUCTION**
Hilarian Dreikosen
- ◆ **BOLIN HOMES, INC.**
Mark Bolin
- ◆ **J B ENTERPRISES**
Jake Boles
- ◆ **JERRY MILLER CONSTRUCTION**
Jerry Miller
- ◆ **CORN-STRUCTION**
Jacob Corn

Thanks for
Renewing Your BCAOC
Membership!

Associates:

- ◆ **THE CABINET SHOP**
Nell Torrey
- ◆ **ALAMOGORDO REALTY**
Ginna Sanders
- ◆ **CASA Y TIERRA**
Mary Pieper
- ◆ **MORRISON**
Rick McCracken
- ◆ **COMMERCIAL SIGN ART**
Russ & Lisa Feldbusch

GML

General Membership Luncheon

March Meeting

Our Next Membership Luncheon Meeting
will be on Tuesday, March 15th
at 11:30 AM at

**THE 19TH HOLE at the
DESERT LAKES GOLF COURSE...**

Come join us!

MENU:

Choice of Entrees, Iced Tea,
Water, and Gratuity
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February 2011


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 City Commission Meeting	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 County Commission Meeting 1 pm	18	19	20
21	22 City Commission Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28						


NMHBA 2010 Annual Activity Report

The main priorities of New Mexico Home Builders Association (NMHBA) are legislative and regulatory in nature. NMHBA staff and lobbyists work to improve the home building industry statewide by working with legislators to influence laws pertaining to housing and by participating with state officials in monitoring and creating regulations that impact New Mexico builders.

 **Building Code Adoption Process** – The process for modification and adoption of the 2009 Building Codes for New Mexico was an arduous process. Governor Richardson instructed his agency heads to be sure the new codes mandated highly energy efficient construction which the governor felt are needed to meet his commitment to the “2030 Challenge”. NMHBA volunteers and staff worked many hours evaluating and drafting code changes to be sure the final residential construction code was achievable and cost effective. The target date for full adoption of the new code is July 1, 2011, although push-back from industry and the new administration may delay that.

 **Mandates for Residential Sprinklers** – During the process of review for adoption of the building codes NMHBA volunteers and staff were successful in getting any discussion of requirements for residential fire sprinklers pushed off until July 2013. NMHBA waged a publicity campaign during the summer to pressure the Public Regulatory Commission (PRC), fire services, and Construction Industry Commission (CIC) into understanding the public does not want residential sprinklers. The PRC had stated they believed they had authority over the issue because it was related to the insurance rating of local fire departments. In the end, the PRC backed away from taking any action, and the CIC did not change the July 2013 review date in the residential code. Several bills are being promoted by NMHBA for the 2011 Legislative Session to permanently prohibit any mandate for residential sprinklers.


 **CID Inspection Efficiency** – NMHBA Executive Vice President Jack Milarch and lobbyist Randy Traynor continue to work with the Construction Industries Division (CID) to promote improvements in CID’s processes to increase efficiency of code compliance processes statewide. Additional progress has come through work on the state’s adoption of the 2009 International building codes. It has become obvious to all involved in the code adoption process that CID is unable to perform the extra code inspections required by the new codes due to taking repeated budget “hits”.


 **Municipal Inspections** – Inspector shortages have ceased to plague municipalities around the state, largely because of the building slowdown. Now the focus has shifted to efficiency of the processes and facilitating better coordination and communication. NMHBA has come to the conclusion the greatest efficiencies in the delivery of inspection services can best be achieved at the local level. A package of bills are drafted for the 2011 Legislative Session to increase the number of “tools in the toolbox” for municipalities that choose to establish their own building department. Hopefully these “tools” – having a local Chief Building Official, utilizing combination inspectors, establishing Joint Powers Agreements with other political subdivisions, having the ability to engage third-party inspection services when necessary, and the power to collect fees and inspect public buildings – will enable local programs to be cost effective and sustainable.


 **Building Relationships with Municipal Inspectors** – Through the past years’ efforts of dealing with the


Continued on page 13

problems of the dysfunctional relationship between CID and municipal inspectors, NMHBA staff has built a relationship with many chief building officials and inspectors across the state. Over the years several of these inspectors have become leaders in the newly-formed ICC Building Officials Chapters. These officials believe in the efficiency initiatives being promoted with NMHBA. Because the inspectors and building officials are now organized, they are helping NMHBA with proposed legislation.

 **Industry Specific News** – Our publication, the Housing Journal, keeps members up-to-date on CIC meetings by printing all CIC meeting agendas, plus NMHBA notes on items of interest. Through the President’s and the EVP/CEO’s columns, members were informed of issues such as building code changes, owner-builder permits, fire sprinkler issues, and CID issues.

 **Political Action Fund Activity During Election Cycle Creates Opportunities** – During the 2010 election cycle contributions to the NMHB Political Action Fund (PAF) from NMHBA members were distributed to 33 candidates for the state House of Representatives. A total of \$42,000 was distributed between the primary and general elections. An amazing 82% of those candidates won their elections, as did both PRC candidates and the gubernatorial candidate supported by PAF. Support of these candidates has already resulted in greater opportunities for NMHBA members to work with the incoming administration to help the regulatory environment for our membership.

 **Builders Trust/NMHBA Contest** – Once again several NMHBA members were awarded a trip to the International Builders’ Show (IBS) in Las Vegas, courtesy of a funding program by Builder’s Trust of New Mexico® for participant/members who’ve never attended the event. The Builders’ Show is arguably the National Association of Home Builders’ premiere activity. The recipients’ impressions were published in the Housing Journal, helping to promote IBS as a significant benefit of association membership.

 **Congressional Delegation Relationship-Building** – This year NMHBA leadership again made a concerted effort to build and/or strengthen relationships with our state’s U.S. congressional delegation. Rather than just meet with them in Washington, DC during NAHB’s Spring Board meeting, we set up multiple in-state appointments to discuss pertinent issues. Though we weren’t able to meet with all of the delegation, we feel it was worth the effort and have formed a better relationship with several.



**5931 Office Blvd., NE – Suite #1
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OSHA MAKES CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL FALL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

On Dec. 22, 2010, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) withdrew the Plain Language Revision of OSHA Instruction STD 3.1, Interim Fall Protection Compliance Guidelines for Residential Construction. First issued in 1994, the directive was a source of confusion among home builders over what fall protection methods and systems should be used to comply with OSHA's fall protection standards.

Concerned that the interim guidelines were making the work environment less safe for employees on the home building site, NAHB asked OSHA in April 2008 to withdraw them and instead follow the fall protection regulations in OSHA standard 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M, which allows residential construction employers some flexibility in providing fall protection systems.

This important enforcement policy change will require employers to take additional steps to ensure worker safety when working six feet or more above a lower level. The new Compliance Guid-

ance for Residential Construction will go into effect on June 16, 2011.

Among the significant changes resulting from the withdrawal of OSHA STD 03-00-001:

- Roofing contractors must use guardrails, personal fall arrest systems (harnesses and lanyards) or safety nets on all roofs with slopes exceeding 4-in-12 when working six feet or more above a lower level.
- All other trade contractors must use guardrails or personal fall arrest systems (harnesses and lanyards) or safety nets when the height from one elevation to another is greater than six feet. However, employers who can demonstrate that these fall-protection systems are not feasible or create a greater hazard can use a plan outlining alternative fall protection measures that must be followed.
- The fall protection plan must be in writing and site-specific. However, a

written plan developed for repeated use for a particular model or style of home will be considered site-specific.

- The use of fall protection plans is limited to "residential construction" in which the structure will be used as a home and constructed with traditional wood frame materials and methods (although the limited use of structural steel in a predominantly wood-framed home — such as a steel I-beam to help support wood framing — does not disqualify a structure from being considered residential construction).

NAHB expects the OSHA policy change to ultimately make it easier for home builders to understand what's necessary to achieve compliance, to ensure safer worksites and to reduce the occurrence of costly accidents.

For more information about the residential fall protection requirements, visit <http://www.nahb.org/fallprotection>; or e-mail Rob Matuga at NAHB, or call 800-368-5242 x8507.



MOISTURE MANAGEMENT IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SERIES

The Building Products Issues Committee working with the NAHB Research Center has developed a series of Best Practices Videos that demonstrate best practices for designing and constructing an air and water tight home. Access to the series is free and as easy as clicking on the video to view its contents. You may select any of interest to you.

TITLES OF THE VIDEOS ARE –

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moisture Management In Residential Construction Series Overview | <input type="checkbox"/> Window Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Heat Flow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Overview | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Door Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Air Flow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Wall Overview | <input type="checkbox"/> Brick Installation Drainage Cavity Wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing Water Vapor Flow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roof Overview | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Veneer Internal Drainage Plane | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Management System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior House Wrap Installation | | <input type="checkbox"/> "Hot Spot" Quality HVAC Ductwork |

The videos are brief with the shortest being about three minutes and the longest running about nine minutes. They are all available to you at the following link: <http://www.toolbase.org/Best-Practices/Construction-Videos/residential-moisture-management>

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Small Homes, Small Details Among New Home Design Trends

Open floor plans, energy-efficient features, and lots of closet space are among the elements that today's home buyers are seeking in newly-constructed homes, according to industry experts at the 2011 International Builders' Show. The research and trends presented at the show offer valuable insights and information to home builders so that they can build homes that appeal to the modern consumer's preferences.

Once-popular features such as large living rooms, soaking tubs and second-floor laundry rooms are now out of favor. Home buyers found that the convenience of not having to carry laundry to another floor was outweighed by the noise that interrupted their sleep.

Home buyers are looking for small details in their new homes, such as a built-in desk under a stairway, or a courtyard tucked between two downstairs bedrooms. Successful home builders "create memory points," said design trends seminar speaker Kate Brennan of the Chicago design firm Mary Cook and Associates.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average size of a new single family home decreased from 2,438 square feet to 2,377 in 2010, this made designing to maximize space a popular theme at the show. One session focused exclusively on new ideas in home design for floor plans measuring 2,500 square feet or less.

Open floor plans are now in high demand because they are not only more practical for entertaining – the hosts can interact with their dinner guests in a spacious kitchen while they are preparing food – but the lack of walls and closed-off spaces make the home seem much larger.

The kitchen is now the hub of the home more than ever.

Even if busy families are bringing home takeout, they want the kitchen island to be large enough to serve a multi-tasking purpose as a place to do homework, crafts, and pay bills – as well as to enjoy coffee on a Sunday morning.

Natural finishes are also more popular. Recycled flooring, using a mix of wood grains on the cabinets and architectural details that reflect the indigenous building of the region – such as using stucco in the Southwest – are more important to buyers.

Session panelists also shared that home builders should pay attention to a growing group of home buyers: WINKs – Women with No Kids. These women have distinct preferences that don't quite fit into the usual categories that home designers talk about: first-time buyers who tend to be singles and young professionals, move-up buyers who usually have children, and empty-nesters.

WINKs have more buying power than a generation ago and are seeking smaller homes that have multi-purpose rooms for entertaining along with intimate "retreat" spaces for themselves.

A survey of 20,000 home buyers in the United States and Canada points out that there are a number of features in new homes that are considered non-negotiable across almost all demographic groups, said Paul Cardis of AVID Ratings Co., who spoke at a seminar on new design preferences.

The top five features include walk-in closets – mentioned by 66 percent of first-time buyers as a "must have" – energy-efficient appliances, linen closets, a large kitchen and the overall efficiency of the home, Cardis said.

"I'm not getting anything from my membership..." Really? Just click and see...



Interesting Facts for January

New Year's Day - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

January 1, 1892 - Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened. Over 20 million new arrivals to America were processed until its closing in 1954.

January 3, 1959 - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

January 5, 1972 - President Richard Nixon signed a bill approving \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle.

January 7, 1714 - A patent was issued for the first typewriter designed by British inventor Henry Mill "for the impressing or transcribing of letters singly or progressively one after another, as in writing."

January 10, 1878 - An Amendment granting women the right to vote was introduced in Congress by Senator A.A. Sargent of California. The amendment didn't pass until 1920, forty-two years later.

January 11, 1964 - The U.S. Surgeon General declared cigarettes may be hazardous to health, the first such official government report.

January 13, 1990 - Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the first African American governor in the U.S. as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

January 15, 1870 - The first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democratic Party in America appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly, criticizing former secretary of war Edwin Stanton with the caption, "A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion."

January 17, 1966 - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its H-bomb into the Atlantic.

January 20, 1981 - Ronald Reagan became president of the United States at the age of 69, the oldest president to take office. During his inauguration celebrations, he announced that 52 American hostages that had been seized in the U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran, were being released after 444 days in captivity.

January 23, 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, thus becoming America's first woman doctor.

January 24, 1848 - The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of "Forty-niners" seeking wealth.

January 24, 1972 - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

January 25, 1947 - Gangster Al Capone, who once controlled organized crime in Chicago, died in Miami at age 48 from syphilis.

January 27, 1967 - Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

January 27, 1973 - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

January 28, 1915 - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

January 28, 1986 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

January 29, 1919 - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition Amendment) was ratified. For nearly 14 years, until December 5, 1933, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages were illegal in the United States.

January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg.

January 30, 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, India, by a religious fanatic.

January 31, 1945 - Eddie Slovik, a 24-year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.

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