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Lackawanna Home Builders Association
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Scranton, PA 18503

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Lackawanna Home Builders Association

Foundations



BUILDERS BENEFITS
Builders Benefits Inc. - 888-221-2550
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Small Business Insurance Services - 842-3557
Camille Holmes OR Tony DeFolio,
Swift Kennedy Associates - 825-2288
Don Osommer,
Osommer-Clarke Insurance Group - 689-6900

LHBA
www.lackawannahba.com
email: lhbagentle@aol.com
(p) 570-341-7496 (f) 717-341-7596
Pennsylvania Builders Association
www.pabuilders.org
(p) 1-800-692-7339 (f) 717-730-4396
National Association of Home Builders
www.nahb.com
(p) 1-800-368-5242



Building Code News - PBA updates 2009 UCC guidance -----

PBA is urging members to prepare now for the implementation of the 2009 construction code, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 2010. The association has updated a memo sent to members last week to clear up potential confusion on the code implementation details. Specially, parts B and F of the memo have been updated. Despite PBA's work to delay implementation of the 2009 code, the House and Senate have not agreed to proposed legislation that would delay the code. PBA has filed an injunction through Commonwealth Court to block implementation of the 2009 building codes. LHBA members should be aware of this action. PBA has also offered advice on how design/construction contracts can extend the 2006 code. A spokesman for the state's Department of Labor and Industry explained that a design or construction contract executed and signed prior to Dec. 31 (or the adoption of the 2009 codes) will only need to comply with the 2006 codes; this would apply indefinitely until the permit is pulled, as long as the permit is pulled and construction begins within 180 days. If any member would like clarification on this issue, please contact Jerry Leach at PBA at 717-730-4380.

Discounts available for EPA lead rule training, certification

Access Training Services of Pennsauken, N.J., has announced it is available to provide training for the Certified Renovator Program under the Environmental Protection Agency's Renovation, Repair & Painting rule for lead-based paint. Access can provide training at its facility or at an association's location and can offer discounts to association members. Access offers a certified renovator initial course and a certified renovator refresher course for anyone who disturbs lead-based paint during renovation, repair or painting in child-occupied facilities. Enforcement of the EPA lead rule begins on April 22, 2010. To discuss group discounts and/or register for training, call 877-668-3449.

Members Encouraged to get Certified for State Westernization Plan

Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Labor and Industry have established the certification process for contractors to participate in the state's weatherization program. At this time contractors experienced in weatherization can apply to be certified. Contractors should use the "Certification of Incumbent (current) Weatherization Workforce" application, which is accessible at the Web link below. When completing the application, provide extensive details regarding work experience. By doing so, the contractor may be able to avoid the testing process by demonstrating his or her qualifications. If a member is told by the state that he/she needs to be tested, contact PBA for testing information. For the application and more information, please visit the DCED website. Please note that the testing program is not complete at this time.

Nuts & Bolts

■ **Early bird registration available for PHRC housing conference**
Save \$10 by taking advantage of PHRC's early bird registration for its annual conference set for Feb. 10-11, 2010, in Cranberry. Day one of the conference will detail the latest information on emerging technologies and share tips on how to resolve problems facing the industry. Day two, which in the past has been set aside for land development topics, will now offer multiple training events. The cost to attend for PBA members is \$115 with the early bird discount. This annual PHRC conference always provides a special discount only for PBA members, which is another valuable association member benefit. For more information call the LHBA offices.

Put PBA benefits to work for your bottom line

PBA has a myriad of benefits that are designed specifically to help keep your business growing and profitable. These benefits, ranging from discounts on products to on-staff experts here to assist with your building code questions, are available to all members free of charge. PBA has created a Benefits Guide listing 30 of our most popular member benefits. The guide gives a short description of each benefit and provides a staff name and contact information so you can easily learn more. You can access the guide at www.PaBuilders.org.

Model contracts are now available to members.

Call the LHBA office to request the contracts. They are available preferably by but also U.S. postal service and on a CD. Members must sign a form submitting your state home improvement contractor registration number and commitment to not share the contractors with any non-member. If you are not registered just visit www.attorneygeneral.gov and register on line. The registration fee of \$50 is for a two-year registration period.

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President's Corner



First let me extend to you, your families and your employees best wishes for the New Year – Hard to believe is it

2010! Remember when we were all concerned about Y2K. Everything did roll over successfully from 1999 to 2000 and we are hopeful that this “new” economy we are all getting accustomed to will soon roll over

into a “new” home building & remodeling industry. Tax credits for first time home buyers, and step-up buyers tax credits and tax credits for energy efficient remodeling all bode well for our industry this year.

PA One Call ups rate, but members still get fee waived.

Good news for PBA members: Despite PA One Call raising its annual charge from \$50 to \$100 in 2010, the service is still free through the association's member benefits program. By law, any member planning to dig must contact PA One Call at least three business days prior to excavation. Members should give their PA One Call invoice to their local builders association's executive officer, who will, in turn, fax it to PBA for processing. Last year alone, 825 members used this benefit for a total savings of \$41,250. In 2010, the savings will be even greater. For more information, contact Jerry Leach at PBA at 717-730-4380, ext. 3012, or e-mail jleach@PaBuilders.org.

Please be aware that PBA has filed an injunction through Commonwealth Court to block implementation of the 2009 building codes which include residential sprinklers. PBA expects there will be considerable press interest in his injunction. Anyone wishing to access additional information on this action can call Dottie Gentile at the LHBA offices.

Finally, I encourage all of our members to attend the 2010 Super Home Showcase scheduled for February 5, 6, & 7 at the Ice Box in Scranton. The Home Showcase committee has been hard at work to bring to the community and the membership the largest home show in NEPA. However, the committee alone can not implement this massive event without the support of many volunteers. So, please consider volunteering a few hours to the association during the showcase. Just give Dottie a call if you can help and thanks for considering this request.

- Roy

Executive Officer's Notebook



**Booth Sales
Brisk following
Christmas
and
New Years**

The HSC committee is happy to have added a new feature to our registration process, Instant Phone Registration. Please see the insert in this edition of *Foundations* – Review the exhibitor list and if you have not reserved booth space, just call the LHBA at 341-7496. It is that simple. Also, please review the cost-effective marketing opportunities associated with the showcase and call us if you wish to take advantage of these inexpensive ways to get you name out in front of thousands of consumers.

The 3rd Annual Log On! Contest has over 30 children registered as we go to press. If you have children or know of relatives or friends who wish to enter the contest just call me at the office to register for a nominal fee of only \$10. Children will receive a RoyToy 250+ Deluxe set of Earth-Friendly logs to build their toy log home. Entries will be on display during the home showcase and winners will be announced on Sunday, February 7 at approximately 3:30 PM.

If you have high school-age children who are looking to complete volunteer community service hours for school requirements, please give me a call. The association is in need of several volunteers to represent the LHBA as Bob the Builder. Bob will also need an assistant. Ideally, we need 2 or 4 volunteer to share a total of 20 hours each to fill this volunteer role. PS – Other volunteers who have done this at previous home showcases report that it was a very rewarding experience and a lot of fun.

Super Home Showcase will also feature a Super Contest. Visitors to the home showcase will have an opportunity to try their luck at winning a \$50,000 home make over. Visitors will enter their final combined score for Super Bowl XLIV. Two lucky tickets will be drawn at the close of the Home Showcase and if one of the two tickets has the combined final score of the Super Bowl the winner will receive a \$50,000 American Express Gift card to use toward a home makeover.

See you at the Home Showcase!

- Dottie

Upcoming Events

January 14	LHBA BOD Meeting - LHBA Board Room
February 4	PBA Regional Meeting - Marvelous Mugs 5:00 PM
February 5,6,7	Super Home Showcase - The Ice Box
February 11	LHBA Board Meeting - LHBA Board Room
February 18-20	PBA BOD Meeting - The Hilton Hotel - Scranton
February 25	LHBA Installation Dinner - The Taurus Club
March 11	LHBA Board Meeting - LHBA board room
March 18	Legislative Affairs 101 with PBA Director of Governmental Affairs, Lou Biacchi - LHBA offices

NEWS for your Business

Legislature Adjourns for Holidays

The Pennsylvania legislature has adjourned for the holiday without taking action on many critical issues PBA has on the table. When the legislature reconvenes in January, PBA will continue pushing many items that are critical to the homebuilding industry, such as issues surrounding the 2009 building codes, changes to the home improvement contractor law, and permit extensions.

Tax Extenders Act Resolution Passes U.S. House

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 241-181 last week to approve a resolution that, among other things, extends through 2010 the ability for states to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants in lieu of low-income housing tax credits. HR 4213 also extends the new markets tax credit program for another year, along with extending various accelerated depreciation provisions and bond financing programs. The bill pays for these extensions by essentially taxing earnings of hedge fund and other financial partnership managers as ordinary income instead of carried interest previously taxed at capital gains rates.

**Quality LHBA Logo Wear
Now Available.**

To order just call 341-7496.

– Golf Shirts \$20.00 –

available in beige or lite green,

– Sweat Shirts –

available in beige or gray \$25.00

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mike Troianiello - Troianiello Masonry

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS:

Arley Wholesale
Arlington Industries
C & S Wood Products
Carriage Barn Custom Building
Chapman Supply
Community Bank & Trust Co.
Double-O-Development Co.
Eastern Penn Supply Company
Hughes Construction
Michael Orlovski General Contractor
Midlantic Home Improvement Inc.
Perma Glaze
Pettinato & Mercanti Construction Co.
Signature Building Systems Co.
R. Taylor Construction
Tidy House Central Vacuum System
Unique Building Systems Inc.
J.D. Williams & Associates Inc.

PENDING NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

(Members wishing to offer comment on the following applications, please email lhbagentile@aol.com)

Artco Logistics - Jim Art
Direct Depot Kitchens of PA - Bill Hannick
Giguere Insurance Agency, Inc. - John Giguere
Metro Windows & More Inc. - Dean Ross
Northeast Gutter Pro / Gutter Protech of NEPA - Rich Fassett
Trees to Keys, LLC - William Powell

'Consumer' section at PaBuilders.org can help you land new customers

Members are encouraged to link potential customers to the “Consumer” section of PBA's website at www.Pa-Builders.org. The consumer section is full of information consumers can use in their decision to build or remodel a home, such as how to hire a reputable contractor, what to focus on in a remodeling job, where to find loans for construction jobs and much more.