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Association Communications



Endless Mountains Builders Association to Merge with the LHBA

The Lackawanna Home Builders Association board of directors has announced that plans have been finalized to have the Endless Mountains Builders Association merge with the LHBA as the Endless Mountain Chapter of the LHBA. Since February the EMBA and LHBA merger exploration committees have been meeting to explore merger opportunities. The two associations have met collectively with a representative of the National Home Builders Association and have also met independently to discuss the various aspects and benefits of a merger. After careful consideration and thoughtful exploration both associations have agreed to a merger and to include the EMBA as the Endless Mountains Chapter of the LHBA. Documents are being prepared to present to the NAHB board of directors at their September board of directors meeting in New York City. Members wishing to have more information on this merger can contact Roy Kitch or Dottie Gentile.

13th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Salvation Army

Pat Dietz, golf tournament chairperson and committee members have been meeting since late last winter to bring to the membership and supporters of the Salvation Army a new and exciting tournament. The tournament has returned to a convenient Lackawanna County location, the Pine Hills C.C. in Taylor. Pine Hills has undertaken significant improvements both to the course and club house and the committee is pleased to return to the Taylor location. Dietz is please with the initial support of Tournament Sponsors (\$1,000 level), Penn Security Bank & Trust Co. and Robert and Bridgette Burke. Major sponsors (\$500 level) include Olommer Clarke Insurance Group, Scranton Craftsmen Inc. and R. J. Walker Co. Prize sponsor (\$250) includes Lee Electric Supply Co. Dietz is also pleased to announce that over 50 golfers have already registered. The office is slowly taking on the look of a Pro Shop as members are dropping off prices and gifts for the tournament. Thanks to all who have stepped up to help out with this event. Anyone wishing to register to play golf, take a welcome, single hole, prize, major or tournament sponsorship should just call Dottie at the office. Thanks to the committee and members for their generous support.

EPA extends Lead paint Certification requirement Deadline

Last Friday, NAHB scored a clear victory when the EPA announced that it would delay enforcement of the worker training and firm certification requirements for the Lead-Based Paint (LBP) rule. Although the rule became effective April 22, this new directive effectively gives remodelers until Oct. 1, 2010, to file for firm certification, until Sept. 30 for workers to register and Dec. 31 for workers to take the required training course. However, workers will still be required to use lead-safe work practices during this time. NAHB has been urging EPA to delay the rule for a number of reasons, including the lack of training providers and training opportunities.

EPA's action is in direct response to NAHB's continued involvement in the LBP rule, NAHB's petition to delay the rule, NAHB's work with the HBA of Tennessee to provide relief in areas damaged by the recent flooding, NAHB's support of Senator Collin's amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations Act that would delay the rule's effective date, and NAHB's efforts to educate the Members of Congress on the rule and its ramifications. EPA's memo acknowledges that the delay was necessary because of concerns raised by the regulated community. Now that EPA has heard and acted on our concerns, it is incumbent on NAHB to continue to provide support to remodelers to increase their awareness of the rule and inform them of the opportunities to get the necessary training and certification.

It is rare that we are able to claim clear victories in the regulatory arena, yet EPA's delay of enforcement of the LBP rule is exactly that. Unfortunately, there are still a number of uphill battles ahead related to clearance testing and removal of the "opt-out" provision - battles that staff and the members will continue to fight. Thanks to all of you throughout the federation for working so hard on this issue.

Nuts & Bolts

Order your 2009 Code Books direct from the LHBA and save a few dollars. Complete enclosed order form in this edition of *Foundations* and return with your check. When books are delivered to the LHBA we will call you and you can pick up books at the LHBA office.

Put your membership to work now. The Member Advantage. Money saving discounts that benefit your business, your employees and your family. Visit www.nahb.org/MA or call the LHBA. General Motors, FedEx, Hertz, Paychex, Solveras Payment systems, Omaha Steaks, Office Depot, Wyndham Hotels, FTD, HP.

REMINDER - New Foundations and the Keystone Builder are now available on line. If you wish to access Foundations only on line, just let us know and we will no longer send it to you via U.S. mail.

Moving Toward Electronic Communications. Please send email to lhbagent@aol.com and confirm your email. We would like to capture as many current email addresses of the membership as possible. It will only take a moment and we promise to only send you emails on information that will impact your business and your bottom line! Thanks.

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President's Corner



It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the LHBA for the past 18 months, which have incidentally coincided with some of the toughest months our industry has seen in quite sometime. There have been obstacles that were beyond our control that we are striving to overcome from the current "new" economy, to over regulation by the government.

Over the many years that I have been a member of the association, I often have been asked by prospective members "Why should I join the builders' association?" What can it do for me? There are many products and services we offer members from insurance programs to affinity programs discounts, rebate programs, networking and marketing opportunities, and our most powerful program is advocacy at the state and national level.

One of the most important and powerful benefits of our association gives our members is a united voice that must be heard by our lawmakers in Harrisburg and Washington DC. Over regulation by the government is one of the obstacles that we face. A strong advocacy program can influence our lawmakers and is the foundation of our democracy. Every voice deserves to be heard.

In 2009 we worked closely with the PA Attorney General's office on a statewide contractor registration law with contracts designed by the AG and PBA. In May 2009, the LHBA was the first local builders association to present a program announcing the anticipated certification of remodelers performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes built before 1978. This law took effect April 22, 2010. But just today (June 21) we received notice that firm certification is extended until October 1, 2010. Your association has completed two EPA certified training programs in the past two months and will no doubt be offering more training with this extension. Read more about this extension on the front page of this edition of *Foundations*. This extension of the date is due in a large part by the work done by our national association, the NAHB. On the state level we continue to lobby against sprinkler systems.

Perhaps, you have been too busy keeping your business on track during these difficult times to attend some of our general membership meetings. This is most understandable. But, whenever possible please try to put a few LHBA meetings on your calendar each year and remember that the association and its board of directors are on your side – Reshaping and Enriching our Communities.

- Roy

Executive Officer's Notebook



Home Showcase 2011 takes on new name, new look and new exhibitors.

In an effort to enhance the home showcase, the steering committee has unanimously voted to change the name of the home showcase to the **Home and Lifestyles Showcase of NEPA** produced by the Lackawanna Home Builders Association. Happenings Magazine Communication Group is currently working on a new logo for the showcase and the committee is currently finalizing plans for the showcase which will take place February 4, 5, & 6, 2011 at the Ice Box. Committee members are redesigning the exhibit hall and we are happy to report that all booths will now be the standard exhibit booth size of 10 ft. x 10 ft. This will make it easier for many of our exhibitors who participate in other shows both locally and regionally where the 10 ft. x 10 ft. size is the standard. The new lifestyles concept will open the show to exhibitors who offer a variety of products and services that we have not had the opportunity to display at our showcase. The official brochure with all details of the showcase will be available in late July. However, if you would like to get on a pre-registered list for preferred booth selection, please complete the enclosed pre-registration form enclosed in this edition of *Foundations*.

-Dottie

P.S. General Membership Meeting Thanks You.
A special thank you to Lou Biacchi for his great presentation Legislative affairs 101 at our April membership meeting.
Also, thanks to Bill Shigo and Ed Goodfield of Building Inspection Underwriters of PA for facilitating the annual code update. Thanks guys for a great job. Special thanks to John Hudak for continuing to provide the services of BUI to our members. We truly appreciate the support of our associate members and PBA in providing quality programming to our membership.

Finally, a very special thank you to Pat Dietz, chairperson for the 13th annual golf tournament. We are well on our way to a very successful tournament in support of the Salvation Army.

Upcoming Events

July 8	PBA northeast regional meeting - Marvelous Mugs
July 22-24	PBA board meeting - State College
August 12	LHBA board meeting - LHBA board room
August 19	Annual Golf Tournament - Pine Hills C.C.
September 9	HBA board meeting - LHBA board room
September 16	GMM - TBA

News for your Business

Code Officials Alliance

PBA has received word that a new state-wide building code organization has formed. The Code Officials Alliance for a Common Sense Construction Code states on its website that it was "created for those individuals in the building industry – including building code officials, municipal officials, design professionals and building contractors – who have a vial interest in Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code," and would like to see changes in the process by which Pennsylvania adopts codes. If you would like additional information, visit www.codeofficialsalliance.org.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage can help simplify your sales with FHA financing. Whether buyers are looking to purchase their first home or their fourth, FHA home financing can place their goal – and yours – within closer reach. Buyers can purchase a home with little money down, overcome credit challenges, and qualify with the help of a family member or friend as a co-signer. To learn more about FHA financing, contact Chris Kulp, Regional Builder Sales Manager at 215-529-0416.

Legislative Affairs

New erosion and sediment control & stormwater management regulations approved; DEP to work with PBA on "stormwater BMP offsets" alternative

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission voted to approve the Chapter 102 regulations, governing erosion and sedimentation control and post-construction stormwater management, by a vote of 4-1 at its June 17 meeting. PBA members and staff spoke at the meeting in opposition to the mandatory buffer requirements in the regulation for projects in special protection waters, pointing out both the economic harm that such a requirement will produce and its inappropriateness on many development sites.

Prior to the committee's vote, as the result of a meeting arranged and hosted by Rep. Camille "Bud" George (D-Clearfield), chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, PBA was successful in persuading the state Department of Environmental Protection to work to develop guidelines and procedures necessary to develop the "stormwater BMP offsets" option that PBA has promoted over the past several months. Deputy Secretary for Water Management John Hines has committed in writing to begin discussions shortly with PBA and other stakeholders in order to develop the necessary guidelines and procedures.

The "stormwater BMP offset" alternative developed by PBA would allow builders and developers to meet stormwater management requirements by paying to install forested buffers on farm lands, rather than installing costly infiltration areas on new development sites that often do not work as designed due to soil and other geological conditions. This option will assist builders and developers throughout the state in meeting stormwater management requirements in a more cost-effective manner, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay watershed portion of Pennsylvania, where tougher new requirements will likely be part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. For more information, please contact Grant Gulibon at 800-692-7339, ext. 3013 or ggulibon@pabuilders.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Milliken Millwork - Frank Gentile

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS:

Carbondale Concrete
Cermarino Construction Co., Inc.
Chimney Charm Inc.
Concrete Texturing Tool & Supply
F & S Supply
First Liberty Bank & Trust Co.
Heritage Homes LTD
Interior Accents!
Keystone Propane Service Inc.
Mariotti Building Products
North Penn Bank
Pella Products Inc.
Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling
UGI Penn Natural Gas

PBA News

Doug Meshaw announces retirement

PBA would like to take the time to announce the retirement of Executive Vice President Doug Meshaw. Doug has faithfully served PBA for the past 19 years, starting as a field services director before advancing to EVP. He has been hardworking and loyal, as made evident through his recent radio appearances fighting for a rollback of the 2009 building code, and is known statewide for his work on the code. During his tenure as EVP, Doug has participated in board meetings, overseen day-to-day office duties, served with 3 PBA presidents, and has seen various Governmental Affairs victories including the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act, the PA Construction Code Act, and the Scrap Metal Theft Prevention Act. His contributions to these causes are more than evident. Thankfully, PBA is not losing Doug completely. He has agreed to act as a part-time consultant on construction code issues through April of 2011. The LHBA would like to wish Doug the best in his retirement.

Lou Biacchi promoted to EVP

PBA is pleased to announce the promotion of Lou Biacchi to Executive Vice President effective July 1, 2010. Lou brings a variety of qualities that will benefit PBA greatly. Having served the association for the past 24 years as the Director of Government Affairs he has extensive knowledge of both PBA and the building industry as a whole. All of us here at the LHBA congratulate Lou on his promotion, and look forward to working with him in this new capacity.

Mark Fortney announces retirement

PBA has received word that Mark Fortney will be resigning from his position as Director of the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center effective July 23, 2010. He has served the residential construction industry for the past 12 years, and has made various contributions toward advancing the quality and affordability of housing while promoting innovation in the housing industry. He can be reached after July 23rd at MRKFortney@gmail.com.