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Lackawanna Home Builders Association  
404 N. Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

New!  
2008  
GALA

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Lackawanna Home Builders Association

# Foundations



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LHBA  
www.lackawannaha.com  
email lhbagentile@aol.com  
(p) 570-341-7496 (f) 570-341-7596  
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www.pbuilders.org  
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Kenny May .....340-6400  
Tom Podrasky .....383-2100  
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Stephen Siciliano .....963-5951  
Pamela Swierbenski .....383-3840

**Honorary Lifetime Board Members** Linda McHale, Tom Mecca, Ed McFarland  
**Senior Life Directors** Don Aston, Len DeRigge, John Eastman, Bud Kozik, Fred Rose, Ken Kurtz, Stephen Siciliano  
**Life Directors** Chris Casciano, Kevin Icker, Tom Podrasky, Hank Rowinski, Pam Swierbenski

## LHBA Wins Two National Awards

The association was recently honored at the National Association of Home Builders Executive Officers Council annual seminar in Providence, Rhode Island. The association picked up two Association Excellence Awards. In recognition of **extraordinary contributions to association management in the field of Communication, Special Events Publication**, the association was cited for its 2007 Home Showcase Show Guide. The association wishes to acknowledge *Happenings Magazine* for its continuing support of the LHBA and its annual home showcase. The 2007 guide would not be possible without the creative support of the *Happenings Magazine* team.



The association is doubly proud to have also been honored for its Member recognition Program/Event- the **Presidential Volunteer of the Year Award**. President Joseph O'Connor established this award in 2006 in order to recognize exceptional volunteerism. Roy Kitch was honored for his volunteerism in 2007. Middle Atlantic Inspections, BIU received the 2008 award and the inaugural award was presented to Marilyn & Rich Andres of Andres Web Services.

## Solution to Calm Financial Storm Centers on Housing

Perhaps many of us feel we are in the eye of the financial storm these days. As a service to our members the board of directors encourages all members to access Nation's Building News online at [www.nbnnews.com](http://www.nbnnews.com). This site is the most efficient way to keep you in the know and up to date on this very serious issue facing the nation and our

members locally. Restoring the nation's housing market to full health from one of the most difficult downturns in living memory is at the top of the agenda for builders everywhere. With the dramatic succession of events over the past several weeks- including the federal takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac - restoring the housing finance system itself will be a leading topic

of discussion among members of the builders association at the local, state and national level. When visiting [www.nbnnews.com](http://www.nbnnews.com) you will need to enter the members only section. To do so, you will need your pin number, which is always published with your annual dues invoice. If you do not have your confidential pin number, just call the LHBA or email [lhbagentile@aol.com](mailto:lhbagentile@aol.com).

## Nuts & Bolts

• **Problems with scrap metal theft continue as PBA presses for action in General Assembly-** PBA is continuing its efforts in support of the Scrap Metal Theft Prevention Act, House Bill 1742, introduced by Rep. Eddie Pashinski, D-Luzerne. Scrap metal prices have remained high this year, enticing thieves to target construction sites, utility companies, cemeteries and homes. We would like to see the state Senate pass this bill and send it to the governor by October 8. PBA released an op-ed on September 15 to newspapers statewide.

• **Contractor registration bill expected to pass this fall-** The General Assembly is expected to make final adjustments to the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act, SB 100, before concluding the 2007-08 legislative session. PBA successfully negotiated this bill to protect members from overly burdensome provisions that had been suggested when the bill was being drafted. If passed, the bill will require a single statewide registration of all home improvement contractors. Contractors who build only new homes will not be affected. Ken Kurtz, senior life director of the LHBA and PBA life Director testified in favor of excluding new home builders from this legislation. PBA will provide information to members to help them prepare for this transition.

• **Visit local, state and national websites to learn about articles, events and programs featured in this edition of Foundations.** See the back cover for contact information.

# President's Corner



Dear LHBA Members:

I wish to acknowledge our associate members.

The association brought back an old time favorite in September- Table Top Night as a way to honor and thank our associate members.

September is always slated as Associate Member Appreciate Month and I wish to recognize the fine work all our associate members do on behalf of the home building industry. In particular I wish to acknowledge and thank the following associate members who took the time and invested in our first Table Top Night in many years. Please take a look at this list and when in need of products and services these associate members carry, please give them a call.

## Table Top Night Exhibitors

- Andres Web Services**- Marilyn Andres - (p) 586-0418  
emailmandres@andreswebservices.com
- Builders Benefits, Inc.**- Camille Holmes - (p) 825-2288  
Email cholmes@swiftkennedy.com
- Chimney Charm Inc.**- Kevin Icker - (p) 343-2745  
Email chimneycharm@aol.com
- Erie Materials Inc.**- Bob Crandle - (p) 346-3390  
Email bcrandle@eriematerials.com
- First National Community Bank**- Marlo Wright  
(p) 348-4818 • emailmwright@fnbc.com
- The Home Depot**- Ken May - (p) 340-3400  
Email prodesk\_4118@homedepot.com
- Mesko Glass**- Kevin Bideganeta (p) 5702-346-0777
- Olsommer-Clarke Insurance Group**- Michael Stout  
(p) 570-842-9600 Emailmstout@nepainurancegroup.com
- Pella Products Inc.**- Bill Dongas - (p) 570-654-4510  
Email bdongas@pellascranon.com
- Penn Security Bank & Trust Co.**- Debbie Wright  
(p) 570-346-7741, ext. 2344  
Email d.wright@pennsecurity.com
- Pennstar Bank**- Lynn Biondi (p) 570-689-5327  
Email lbiondi@Pennstarbank.com
- SolutionPro Energy Smart Building**- Carrie Thomas  
(p) 570-559-7843 • Carriethomas@solutionprollc.com
- Sears Contract Sales**- Nan Dalton - (p) 570-982-9158  
Email ndalt@searshc.com
- Wyoming Valley Hardwood Floors Inc.**- Jim Gourniak  
(p) 610-767-9201 • Email jgourniaksr@yahoo.com

-Joe O'Connor  
President

# Executive Officer's Notebook



**P**A Housing and Land Development Conference to be held in Scranton. The association is pleased to announce the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center has selected the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center as the site for its very prestigious conference.

As one of several locals in the northeast on the planning committee for this event, I can report this is one conference our members should put on there calendar as an event you will not want to miss! The conference takes place **February 11-12** and will offer our members some very favorable discounts to attend. For more information go to [www.engr.psu.edu/phrc](http://www.engr.psu.edu/phrc). All registration materials will be up on our website later this month, or just call the LHBA and I will be happy to process your registration.

The 2009 Home Showcase brochure is in the mail. Prior to our direct mail campaign, we are happy to report that the show is 40 percent sold! Thanks to our members who have helped us achieve this success by registering early. Exhibitors who registered early have first choice in booth selection. Give me a call and I can add you to the growing exhibitor list.

The association seeks to improve our communication's efficiency and we need your updated contact information, including email addresses and websites.

1. Visit [www.lackawannahba](http://www.lackawannahba) and check the information that is published for your company. Remember this is a free marketing service for our members. If you have a website let us know and we will establish a link from our site to yours.
2. Update any information that is incorrect and in particular send us your email address and website
3. Send information to [lhbagentile@aol.com](mailto:lhbagentile@aol.com) or directly to our website manager at [mandres@andreswebservices.com](mailto:mandres@andreswebservices.com).

-Dottie

## Grab the Spotlight!

**Happenings Magazine is offering LHBA members the opportunity to have their work featured in an upcoming issue.**

Members who advertise for a minimum of six-months in *Happenings Magazine* are eligible to have a project spotlighted in an editorial feature. In recent months the publication has showcased local home theatres, landscape design and kitchen renovations- just to name a few. Call (570) 587-3532 for advertising rates and more information.



# Upcoming Events

- October 9** LHBA board meeting - LHBA boardroom
- October 23** PBA northeast regional BOD meeting, Marvelous Mugs
- October 30** Red Hot & Green! - Introduction to Green Building, sponsored by: Erie Materials & Ecostar Carlisle - The Parish Center, Dunmore
- November 6-8** PBA BOD meeting - Cranberry Township
- November 13** LHBA BOD meeting - LHBA boardroom
- November 20** Annual General Membership Meeting - TBA
- December 4** LHBA Christmas BOD meeting by Erie Materials, Inc.

## NAHB Member Advantage Program Update

- GM NAHB \$500 Private Offer Plus GM Employee Discount
- New- Omaha Steaks, Grillin' Up Savings for our members 10% discount in addition to other offers.
- Brighter Lights BIGGER IDEAS- the 2009 International Builders' Show in Las Vegas **January 20-23**. First time attendees register for only \$100. Visit [BuildersShow.com/FIRSTTIME](http://BuildersShow.com/FIRSTTIME).

Available to Members Only!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- B P Builders & Son - Robert J. Parry
- L. R. Costanzo Co., Inc. - Louis A. Costanzo
- Protex No-Burn Services Inc. - Jack Loscombe
- USA Insulation - Tom Pavlowski

## THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS:

- Advanced Window Technology; C and S Wood Products Inc.;
- Consolidated Distributing Co.; Creative Concrete Restorations;
- Custom Pools & Spas; Denzal Construction Company LLC; Erie Materials Inc.
- Excel Structures Inc.; Florey Real Estate; J. Ronald Featherall Builder
- First Liberty Bank & Trust Co.; Giant Floor & Wall Covering; Guman's Welding Inc.
- The Home Depot; James Youells Plumbing & Heating;
- Michael Paolucci Masonry Inc.; Perma Glaze;
- Small Business Insurance Services Inc.

# Mark Your Calendar

**It's Red Hot & Green! Annual Housing Education Program October 30, 6 p.m., the Parish Center Dunmore**

Get a brief overview of what green building is all about. Get answers to your green questions, share your thoughts on this very hot topic (no pun intended) and enjoy a fabulous Tex/Mex Buffet catered by Stirna's Restaurant. This very informative and interesting evening is brought to you free of charge by you know who- Erie Materials Inc. and Ecostar Carlisle. Visit [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org) for more information on green building.

# News for Your Business

**Association Workers' comp program saves members cash on premiums** The PBA's workers' compensation program has been growing at an exceptional rate due to very competitive rates and pricing stability over time. In fact, last year the program exceeded a total sales volume of \$9 million, reflecting tremendous popularity with members. Not only does the program provide competitive rates currently, but it will become even more competitive going forward. For instance, there will no longer be a common effective date, reducing hassles for PBA members. The insurance provider, Eastern Alliance, is now an A-rated carrier. How do you get a quote? It's easy- just contact LHBA member Michael Stout at Olsommer-Clarke Insurance Group at 689-9600. Michael will be happy to quote your company.

