



NIAGARA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION NEWS



FEBRUARY 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carl Capolupo
NCBA President

What a Meeting!

If you missed our January meeting, you missed one of the most exciting and productive meetings we have had in quite a while.

We had 45 members and guests come to the Hideaway in N.T. to meet with six of our state legislators for a discussion of NY Labor Law 240/241, commonly known as the Scaffold Law, and new stormwater regulations from the state DEC, both of which are putting an extreme burden on many of our members. See the write-up below for a review of the meeting.

The January board meeting was also highlighted by the acceptance of four new members. See page 4 for their information. My personal thanks go to Kristin Savard and Paul Game for sponsoring these new members.

Speaking of members... our Member Profiles are back! The board made a renewed commitment in January to publish more of the Member Profiles, so we can all get to know our fellow members on a more personal level. In order to do

that we MUST have your cooperation. If you have not already done so, please complete a Member Profile form today, and send it in by email or fax to our office. The forms are available at www.niagaracountybuilders.com The profiles will be published at the rate of 2 to 4 per month until all members have been included. See this month's profiles, including two of our newest members, on the insert with this newsletter.

There will be no general membership meeting in February, only a board meeting. **Our next general meeting will be on March 8th, when we will invite our local building inspectors for the annual get-together to discuss changes to state and local building codes.**

Winter is a great time for many of us to set our goals and plan our work for the coming year. If you are in the middle of your winter "down time", use it wisely to make your business better in 2012.



Assemblyman Schimminger and
Senator Maziarz at 1/12 Meeting

Carl

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 8

Board Meeting Only

NCBA Office

2728 N.F. Blvd., Niagara Falls

Board Mtg. 5:30 pm

**Call in your RSVP
to 693-5736 by February 3**

**Next Membership Meeting
Wed. March 8**

JANUARY MEETING RAISES NCBA PROFILE

Our January meeting at the Hideaway Grill in N.T. was a milestone for the NCBA. We invited our local New York State legislators to join us for a discussion of Labor Law 240/241 and new stormwater regulations from the state DEC that present significant obstacles for many of our members.

All six of our legislators either attended or sent a key staffer to listen to our presentations, and joined in the discussion about possible solutions. These legislators and staffers all remarked how worthwhile the meeting was, and how they had gained new perspective on these key issues.

Assemblyman Robin Schimminger reminded us that he is the sponsor of

A.2336, a bill to amend the law to take away some of its more potentially harmful effects. He vowed to continue that fight.

NYSBA Executive V.P. Lew Dubuque came in from Albany for our meeting, and he was thrilled with what he saw. Lew wrote to all of the HBAs in the state to share the evening's events. He said, "This was an amazing example of (one of our) local associations taking the initiative on issues that are important to all of our members across New York State."

It was a great meeting. We all gained a better perspective on the potential dangers of these two issues, and we secured the support of our key state legislators to carry the fight forward.

NYSBA NEWS & NOTES

Our state organization reminds us that contractor members of the association are eligible for rebates on many commonly used products. You may already be using many of these products, so if you are not signed up to participate in the rebates you are leaving money on the table.



The Member Rebate Program combines the buying power of all our state HBAs, so you are eligible to receive the same manufacturers rebates that the nation's largest builders receive.

Go to the NYSBA website, www.nysba.org or call the NCBA office at 693-5736 to get started claiming your rebates! Many HBA members across New York State are cashing in hundreds of dollars every year. Don't miss out on your share of the savings!

NCBA CALENDAR

At the November board meeting we decided to reduce our number of annual Membership Meetings from eight to five. The board will continue to meet monthly. While we are reducing the number of meetings, we plan to keep the value of those meeting very high, as demonstrated by the January meeting with state legislators and our March meeting with local Building Inspectors.

To help with your planning, following is our schedule for the rest of 2012:

February	Board Mtg	Feb. 8
March	Bd & Members mtg	Mar 14
April	Board Mtg	Apr 11
May	Bd & Members mtg	May 9
June	Board Mtg	Jun 13
July	Golf Outing	TBA
August	Picnic	TBA
Sept	Bd & Members mtg	Sep 12
October	Board Mtg	Oct 10
Nov	Bd & Members Mtg	Nov 14
Dec	Christmas Party	TBA

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MEMBER ADVANTAGE SAVES YOU MONEY

As a member of NCBA and NAHB you can take advantage of a vast array of benefits. One of those is the Member Advantage program, which offers you access to savings and discounts from many companies that you probably already use.



Offers include a \$500 savings on many new GM vehicles; discounted shipping rates from FedEx; payment solutions from Solveras; rental car savings from Hertz, Avis and Budget; and savings on computer products from Dell and HP.

Check out the website at www.NAHB.org/MA to discover how you can save money on these goods and services.... and tell your fellow members what you found!

Thomas DiMatteo
Gerald DiMatteo

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BUILD PAC HELPS ELECT PRO-HOUSING CONGRESS

At our January meeting NCBA 2nd V.P. Gary Pollard talked about BUILD-PAC and encouraged all of our members to get behind the new effort to support this important aspect of the national organization.

BUILD-PAC is NAHB's Political Action Committee, which helps to elect national and state legislators who are building industry supporters. For example, in the 2009-2010 election cycle, BUILD-PAC was able to back over 350 pro-housing candidates for Congress, and we need to aggressively raise funds to keep the pro-housing candidates in Congress in the next elections.

NAHB leadership is encouraging all HBA members across the country to join in this effort with a donation of only \$20.12.

See the BUILD-PAC insert in this news-



letter to learn how you can help with your donation. Our board is encouraging all of our members to participate. Use the enclosed form, and send it to the NCBA office with your **personal check or credit card order for \$20.12 or more.** We have already received a donation of \$100, and two \$20.12 checks.

Please note that business checks or credit cards **may not** be used for this effort—they **must be personal donations.**

With just these small donations, if every member of the NCBA would participate we would contribute over \$1400 to help elect pro-housing candidates.

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REMINDER

There is no General Membership meeting in February. Next meeting is March 14 with Building Inspectors. Board Meets on Feb. 8

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It is imperative that we know our representatives in Albany so we can keep them informed about the issues that affect our industry. Contact them as follows:

NYS Senator George Maziarz 175 Walnut St. Suite 6 Lockport, NY 14094 Dist. Office 716-434-0680 Albany Office 518-455-2024 maziarz@senate.state.ny.us	Assemblyman John Ceretto 1700 Pine Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14301 Dist. Office 716-282-6062 Albany Office 518-455-5284 cerettoj@assembly.state.ny.us	Assemblyman Ray Walter 5555 Main Street Amherst, NY 14221 Dist. Office 716-634-1895 Albany Office 518-455-4618 walterr@assembly.state.ny.us
NYS Senator Mark Grisanti 8701 Buffalo Ave., Suite 20 Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Dist. Office: 716-283-0741 Albany Office: 518-455-3240 buffalo.grisanti@gmail.com	Assemblywoman Jane Corwin 8180 Main Street Clarence, NY 14221 Dist. Office 716-839-4691 Albany Office 518-455-4601 corwinj@assembly.state.ny.us	Assemblyman Stephen Hawley 121 N. Main St., Suite 100 Albion, NY 14411 Dist. Office 585-589-5780 Albany Office 518-455-5811 hawleys@assembly.state.ny.us
	Assemblyman Robin Schimminger 3514 Delaware Ave. Kenmore, NY 14217 Dist. Office 716-873-2540 Albany Office 518-455-4767 schimmr@assembly.state.ny.us	

STAY IN CONTACT WITH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

FOUR NEW MEMBERS COME ABOARD IN JANUARY

The board approved four new member applications at our January meeting. Joining forces with us to give the NCBA a stronger voice in Niagara County, Albany and Washington are:

- Fittante Architecture, Jim Fittante, Lewiston
- Wilson Environmental, Don Wilson, Williamsville
- Tedesco Construction Services, Jeff Tedesco, Lewiston
- Barden Homes, Jon Keagle, Middleport

Welcome to the NCBA ~ We look forward to working with you!

We also have in process an application from Michael Chamberlain of Milestone Builders, Inc., in Lockport. They will be accepted at the February board meeting.

Kristin Savard earned three and a half SPIKE credits for January. She was the sole sponsor of three of our new members, and shared sponsorship for Barden Homes with Paul Game. Spike credits are earned for each new member you sponsor (1 credit) or when a member you sponsored renews their membership (1/2 credit).

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