NCBA Established 1945

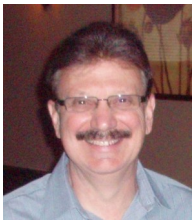
NIAGARA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION NEWS

NAHB

NOVEMBER, 2011

NYSBA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Carl Capolupo
NCBA President

October started out great as we celebrated the closing of our Parade of Homes. We had eight homes in the show this year. Our builders did a terrific job of presenting the latest in homebuilding design, techniques and materials; and attendance for the show was outstanding.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Kristin Savard and her committee for doing another great job. All of their hard work paid off, and the exposure we received as an organization was great. See the recap of the show on page 2.

November 11 is Veterans Day. The holiday serves as a reminder to remember and honor those who gave so much to keep America free, and to thank those who are presently serving. You stand tall when you honor a vet or remember to thank any member of our military.

November is also the month we elect our officers for the coming year. Our November 9 Election Meeting will be at Westby's at Ward Rd & N.F. Blvd. Be sure to come out and join us for an evening of fellowship and our annual election of officers. Don't wait—RSVP today!

This year we were able to secure a weekend date for our annual Christmas Party. On Saturday, December 10 we will celebrate the holiday season with a dinner party at the Como. The invitation flyer is included with this newsletter. Make your reservations early, and plan to join us for a great evening. Call the NCBA office at 693-5736 to donate items for the basket raffle.

I'll see you at our November 9 election meeting at Westby's, and I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Carl

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 9
Westby's Pub & Eatery
6935 Ward Rd (at N.F. Blvd.)

Board Meeting	5:30
Cash Bar	6:30
Dinner Meeting	7:00

Call in your RSVP
to 693-5736 by Friday, Nov. 4

Mark Your Calendar:
Saturday, December 10
NCBA Christmas Party

STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

► Gary Pollard reports that NYSBA is strongly urging all members to support BUILD-PAC, NAHB's political action committee. In the 2009-2010 elections BUILD-PAC supported over 350 pro-housing candidates for congress, and there is no let-up in the need to continue in 2012. PAC leaders note that housing is neither a democrat or republican issue, it is an American issue. Please consider contributing to this critical need.

► The New York State Code Council is seeking volunteers for their Technical subcommittees. These groups provide tech support to the State Fire Prevention & Building Code Council. Subcommittees include Building, Existing Building, Property Maintenance, Fire, etc. Call Gary or Jerry if you are interested.

► The International Builders Show (IBS)

is scheduled for February 8—11 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. NYSBA has reserved a block of rooms at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, which is right across the street from the Convention Center. The IBS is the largest annual show for the homebuilding industry, showcasing the latest in home building design, technology, products, etc. Make your reservations early if you plan to go.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PARADE OF HOMES

On October 2nd we closed out our annual Parade of Homes, and returns from the builders and the public indicate it was a very successful event.

Show visitors were enthusiastic about the variety they found in the houses, the floor plans and the extras that the builders included. Features such as home theaters, security systems, energy efficient heating and lighting and high-ceilinged basements all drew rave comments from happy show visitors.

From the builders side, several commented about the great turnouts each weekend of the show. Builders on Grand Island and in Niagara County praised the publicity for the show, and said they were busy talking with potential customers all six days.

Jerry O'Neill at Glenwood Bldrs.
Niagara Gazette photo

The Parade of Homes is a huge undertaking for an association our size, but show chair Kristin Savard and her committee came through with a wonderful effort to make this show an outstanding one.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 10 AT COMO

All members are invited to join us for the annual Christmas Party. This year's event will again be at the Como, 1919 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, on Saturday, December 10.

Our big holiday event features great food, the wonderful basket raffle, and the installation of officers. Plan on joining us to kick off the holiday season.

See the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. A portion of proceeds help our military families.

A LITTLE CONCEALED WEAPON HUMOR

NAHB has an email listserve that allows EOs from all HBAs to communicate together. One EO from Wisconsin wrote that her state had just passed a concealed weapon law, so she wrote to other EOs asking if any HBAs had policies about carrying concealed weapons at our meetings. Answers came from all over the country, including Alaska, where they don't need a permit to carry. My favorite answers were:

From Alabama: *"…of course in Alabama we all carry guns."*

And the winner, from Texas (of course): *"At our monthly meeting we check for guns, and if you don't have one we give you one."*

NCBA Officers & Directors

Carl Capolupo	President
Kristin Savard	1st Vice President
Gary Pollard	2nd Vice President & State Director
Debra Morrison	Secretary
Lawrence Quigliano	Treasurer
Jerry O'Neill	Executive Officer
Cathy Strassburg	Executive Assistant
Joe Paolini	Director
Pete Mascaro	Director
Stan Swogier	National Director
Gary DiMatteo	Director
Paul Game	Director
Jim Mordeno	Director

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BERNANKE RECOGNIZES VALUE OF HOUSING—WILL SPEAK AT IBS

Testifying before the Joint Economic Committee in Congress in early October, **Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke** specifically acknowledged housing's role in economic recovery and job growth and the challenges facing builders in today's market. "The housing sector has been a significant driver of recovery from most recessions in the United States since World War II," he said. "This time, however, a number of factors -- including the overhang of distressed and foreclosed properties, tight credit conditions for builders and potential home buyers, and the large number of 'underwater' mortgages -- have left the rate of new home construction at only about one-third of its average level in recent decades." Clearly, Chairman Bernanke understands the contributions that builders can make to the economy when given the chance, and throughout his tenure he has been willing to meet with our leadership on a regular basis to receive updates from us on the state of the housing market and discuss our concerns.

Building on this solid relationship, NAHB has announced that the chairman recently accepted an invitation to speak at the NAHB Board of Directors meeting to be held during the International Builders' Show in Orlando this coming February.

Register early for the IBS, and you could be one of the NAHB members who can attend the board meeting to hear the chairman speak. See the IBS website for details at www.BuildersShow.com.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

We are once again looking for somebody to share our office space in Suite 9 at 2728 N.F. Blvd. Our back office is once again available, and we are looking for a single person who needs a nice private office in a great location. The rent is reasonable. Call the office at 693-5736 for more info, or call Gary DiMatteo at 693-7831 to see the space.

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

NYS Senator Mark Grisanti
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Assemblyman John Ceretto
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Assemblyman Sam Hoyt
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Albany Office 518-455-4886
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Assemblyman Robin Schimminger
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Assemblyman Jim Hayes
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Amherst, NY 14221
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Assemblyman Stephen Hawley
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Albany Office 518-455-5811
hawleys@assembly.state,ny,us

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HOT TOPIC >>> OSHA FALL PROTECTION

The new OSHA Fall Protection requirements—and OSHA's heavy-handed enforcement— are getting a lot of opposition from builders nationwide. Input from other HBAs indicates that OSHA is going to new heights of arrogance in dealing with the issue, to the point that they even refuse to meet with or accept calls from members of congress who try to intervene.

One southern EO gave the following example of how OSHA is getting over zealous: "What I'm finding is that OSHA piles on the charges (much like a prosecutor) with the hope a contractor will settle for a lesser amount (half or so). But many of the claims can be disputed. In fact, we have a contractor who was fined $40,000 over three active jobs and OSHA offered him a settlement of 22K. He requested a hearing and, through that, had several charges dismissed and a fine of only $4,000 assessed."

A mid-west EO says his association is taking a pro-active role. "We are in touch with Rob Matuga at NAHB on this topic and have arranged for a conference call Friday with top OSHA officials and U.S. Senator McCaskill's staff on Friday. Frustration/ outrage over OSHA fall protection is as high on our members' list of priorities as any of the other critical issues (credit, appraisals, etc.)"

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