February Dinner Meeting

Thursday, February 15th

The Hills Restaurant at Greenwood Hills Country Club

Cocktails at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm

more details inside...

February 23-25

Home Show

at the

Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center

OUR MISSION:
The Wausau Area Builders Association chartered in 1967 and affiliated with the Wisconsin Builders Association and National Association of Home Builders, is a professional non-profit trade association. Serving the community, we represent the interests and concerns of the customer, building trades, industry suppliers, and all facets of the building industry.
President’s Message

January sped right by, but we had a great Annual Awards program last week at Willow Springs. Congratulations to the award winners, and thank you to the recipients of recognitions for participation in the last year.

Before you all know it, the Home Show will be in the news! You may already be hearing some of the new ads on the radio. 2018 will be an exciting year, with some notable changes for the Show. Thank you Shelly Talley-Nelsen for taking the lead in chairing this event.

It is also a great opportunity to showcase your business to the public. Remember, it is easier to keep your funnel full, than to start over when it is empty.

If any of you traveled to the IBS in January, we would love to hear about your trip in the next newsletter, please let me know if you went.

We have a great meeting coming up in February, watch for your invitation, and come join your friends and business associates.

We have a few committee openings available yet for 2018, so if you have desire to learn more about your organization, contact myself or Carolyn, and we can connect you with the topic you are most interested in.

Share your enthusiasm with the next Builder you do business with and bring them to our next meeting as a guest.

Thank you!

Russ Utech, 2018 WABA President

Joke of the Month

What's the best part about Valentines Day? The day after when all the chocolate goes on sale.
It is my pleasure to introduce Cara Spatz to all of our members. Cara, her husband Jeff and their 2 year old son, Jackson, live in Rib Mountain. Cara and Jeff were able to attend our January 25th installation meeting and spoke to the group that evening. She is very excited to be coming on board with us! The selection committee wants to extend a very warm welcome to her. We have very high hopes for Cara’s success with our Association. It is not a stretch to say that the committee is totally bubbling over with excitement to have her. Please introduce yourself to Cara at the next Dinner meeting so that she can begin learning everyone’s’ name.
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Monthly Dinner Meeting

February

Get ready for our February Dinner Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, February 15th, 2018 @ The Beautiful Greenwood Hills Country Club @ The Hills Restaurant!

Gloria has arranged for "Complimentary" Bull Falls 5 Star Beer, for your pleasure! (6 PM Cocktails (Cash Bar) / 7 PM Dinner) We will have a gorgeous dinner buffet entree of scrumptious "Chicken Marsala"...pan-seared chicken breasts in a wild mushroom Marsala cream sauce! Yum! Included with your dinner will be Garlic mashed Yukon potatoes, Seasonal fresh vegetable blend, French baguettes and dipping oil, and fresh traditional Caesar salad.

Rumor also has it, that Gloria will have dessert for all you "sweet tooth's out there!" You don't want to miss this one! Especially when it's INCLUDED in your membership for The WABA!

Watch for your email and get your reservation in...you're gonna love it!

Mrs. Gloria J. Fenhaus
Director & Chairman of Events

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If a new home is in your future, let us help you explore your options.
EPA Must Re-examine Lead Definition and Clearance Testing Standards, Court Says

Reprinted from the NAHB website

A recent court decision that requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take another look at its dust-lead hazard standard may result in tighter regulations for contractors who do lead-abatement work if it leads to a stricter standard for clearance testing.

Down the road, it could also increase the number of homes subject to the Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) that remodelers and other home contractors must pay attention to.

In 2009, advocacy groups filed a petition calling on EPA to revise its dust-lead hazard standards and definition of lead-based paint. EPA granted the petition and convened a review panel and coordinated a survey with HUD to see whether lower lead clearance levels were feasible. But in 2016, after the agency failed to act further, the groups filed a lawsuit at the 9th Circuit, asking the court to order EPA to conduct these two rulemakings.

On Dec. 27, 2017, in A Community Voice, et al. v. EPA, the 9th Circuit found that EPA must abide by its statutory duty and gave the agency 90 days to issue a proposed rule concerning the dust-lead hazard standard and definition of lead-based paint.

EPA may ask for more time, ask the full 9th Circuit to review it or ask the U.S. Supreme Court to take the case – so the outlook is still murky.

The Outlook for Remodeling

EPA has estimated that 76% of homes built between 1960 and 1978 do not contain currently regulated levels of lead-based paint. As a practical matter, the RRP rule is already applied to many homes where lead paint is not present in sufficient quantity to be regulated, because commercially available test kits cannot be accurately calibrated to the current definition of lead-based paint.

If EPA tightens the standard, and HUD joins EPA in changing the definition of lead-based paint, many of these homes will officially be regulated by the RRP Rule. Lead test kits may then meet the RRP specifications for the false positive/negative ratings for test kits.

NAHB will continue to engage with EPA to ensure the agency understands the impacts that changes to the lead-based paint definition and clearance standards could have on the RRP rule.

For additional information about the lawsuit, please contact Amy Chai at achai@nahb.org. For more information about EPA's lead-based paint regulations, please contact Tamra Spielvogel at tspielvogel@nahb.org.
BALA Awards Shine Spotlight on Top Design Trends

Reprinted from the NAHB website

A remarkable 129 single-family, multifamily, interior design, remodeling and community projects were honored at the 2017 Best in American Living™ Awards (BALA) ceremony held during the NAHB International Builders’ Show in Orlando.

Judges awarded eight Best in Region, five Of the Year and two Judges’ Discretionary awards. In addition, one Game Changer award was given as well as one “Wow!” award, a special award given to a project with a one-of-a-kind design detail. These projects represent the nation’s best in home and community design, interior design and remodeling.

BALA winners showcase top design trends that home buyers can expect to see in homes and communities over the next several years.

Overall, homes showcased blurred lines between commercial and residential materials and between single-family and multifamily details. There is also a shift towards more modern architecture but with understandable forms, like roof peaks and row homes with traditional scaling. This year featured many more trends, among them:

Clean details. Winners favored clean and simple lines and detailing over their ornate counterparts, making homes feel fresh and uncluttered.

The Birdhouse on Prout’s Neck – Jeff Roberts Imaging. This Scarborough, R.I. home features an open but defined floor plan, using various ceiling heights, textures, and architectural details to create distinct spaces that are still visually connected.

Open but defined floor plans. By changing materials, adding columns or changing ceiling heights, open floor plans have evolved to include added definition. This creates more function and order for home owners who, in the past, may have struggled to best organize and use vast, open spaces.

Metal and wood exterior details. Particularly on single-family homes, winners showed an increased usage of metal and wood, often combining the two materials to create interesting two-tone facades on both traditional and contemporary-style homes.
More developed regional styles. In both single-family and multifamily projects, strong regional styles have emerged. For example, in Michigan, expect to see familiar peaked roof, layered facades and sturdy columns.

Restored and repurposed. Historic preservation and restoration as well as adaptive reuse projects are increasingly popular with multifamily designers and developers. Adaptive reuse projects can be particularly chic and sought-after by millennials.

Whites, grays and charcoal paints. Gray is still trending with home buyers, and white is in it for the long haul. There is also an increase in monochromatic designs that incorporate multiple textures. For example, a white kitchen with quartzite countertops, a white shiplap ceiling, white cabinets and airy white window coverings creates a clean and multi-layer look that is guaranteed to compliment itself.

Lincoln Park Transitional Home – Camera Department Inc. At 12,000 square feet, you may expect this Chicago home to have an equally as grand kitchen to match. However, the designers opted for a right-sized kitchen that is functional and clean without overwhelming the chef.

Right-sized kitchens. Double islands are appearing infrequently, and single-islands are designed to be smaller and proportionally sized with the kitchen and adjoining rooms.

Whiteside Residence – Rebecca Lethe. Refined and sophisticated, this home in Highlands, N.C. is tastefully designed and styled. Fixtures and finishes are both what you’d expect from a spa.

Spa-like baths. Bath design is trending toward refinement and sophistication, creating an atmosphere that is reminiscent of hotel baths. Tasteful and luxurious are the two words that will define baths in 2018. Also look for floating (wall-hung) vanities and stand-alone tubs.

More information about this year’s winners and trends can be found at bestinamericanliving.com.
Top Builder Challenges for 2018: Labor Access and Building Material Prices

From NAHB

The cost and availability of labor along with building material prices stand out as the two most significant problems builders expect to face in 2018, according to a recent survey of NAHB members.

A whopping 84% of respondents cited these two issues as major challenges this year, and not surprisingly, these were the top two concerns cited by builders in 2017.

As NAHB economist Ashok Chaluvadi reported in a recent Eye on Housing blog post, labor and building material prices have become a growing concern for builders in recent years. In 2011, just 11% of builders rated labor as a significant problem while 33% reported building material prices as a major problem.

Rounding out the top five concerns for builders in 2018 are the cost/availability of developed lots (62%), impact/hook-up/inspection or other fees (60%) and inaccurate appraisals (42%).

Two emerging issues for builders in the coming year are attempts to limit the mortgage interest deduction/other support for housing and high interest rates. Forty-nine percent of builders expect the issue relating to housing tax incentives to be a problem in 2018 vs. 31% who said it was a problem in 2017. Although the share who expect high interest rates to be a concern this year is still relatively low at 18%, this is up strongly from the 4% who said it was a problem last year.
What's in a name?

In our case, quite a bit.

A name like "Pella Windows & Doors of Wisconsin" comes with expectations. Not only do building professionals expect Pella's high-quality materials, colors, and styles, they want local insight and a work ethic worthy of Wisconsinites. Our strong values and integrity complement a true consultative approach, so your next project is worry-free, rewarding, and a good value.
Let's Level Bill to reform Wisconsin wetland laws is heard before joint committee

On Thursday, December 21st, the legislation supported by WBA to reform the process for developing in areas with wetlands received a public hearing before a joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform. The assembly committee is chaired by Representative Cody Horlacher and the senate committee is chaired by Senator Rob Cowles.

WBA President David Belman and former WBA Advocacy Chair Chad Wuebben made the trip to show support for the legislation. Senate Bill 600 and Assembly Bill 547 were authored by State Senate President and WBA builder member Roger Roth and Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke. Roth and Steineke authored this regulatory reform package after hearing multiple stories from business owners in and very near their legislative districts who showed how the current law is too expensive to comply with and is not protecting and preserving high quality wetlands.

With a hot button issue like this, it should come as no surprise that the public hearing attracted a considerable crowd of supporters and those objecting to the legislation. At the end of the day, half of those who showed up were against and half were in support of the bill, but the most compelling arguments for the reforms came from small business owners like WBA President Belman.

Belman talked about specific examples and provided additional materials on neighborhood developments that were required to preserve low quality wetlands at a huge cost to the end user, the homeowner.

The joint committee took 6 and ½ hours of testimony on the legislation until ultimately adjuring at 5:30 pm.

The bill authors will now likely work again with interested parties and the respective committee chairs to see if changes are necessary before the bills can move out of committee and be considered by both houses before the session concludes in March 2018.

Senator Lasee and Representative Ripp get promotions

Recently, Governor Walker announced that he was tapping two legislators to fill vacancies within his administration. State Senator and Housing and Insurance Committee Chair Frank Lasee was chosen to become the Department of Workforce Development Administrator of the Workers’ Compensation Division. Representative Keith Ripp has been picked to become the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Assistant Deputy Secretary.

“It is an honor to have been asked by Governor Walker to serve as the Division Administrator for Worker’s Compensation in the Department of Workforce Development,” Said Lasee. “I look forward to working with Secretary Allen and my co-workers in the Department of Workforce Development.”

Both Ripp and Lasee have resigned from their respective seats in the legislature and those will remain unfilled until the November 2018 general election. Whoever is picked to replace Lasee and Ripp will be seated in those seats in early January 2019.

Representative Ripp commented that “While I am excited to begin this new opportunity, I must reluctantly resign as the state representative for the 42nd Assembly District. I never imagined running for any state political office in my life, but since I was first sworn in as a legislator in 2009, I have had the privilege of representing residents from Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, and Sauk Counties. It has been my honor serving and working for you as your citizen legislator at the Wisconsin State Capitol.”

Senator Lasee has received the WBA Friend of Housing Award several times while serving in both the state assembly and the state senate and was named the WBA Legislator of the Year in 2015. Representative Ripp has also been a longtime recipient of the WBA Friend of Housing award and had a very close relationship with members of the Madison Area Builders Association, regularly attending local events in the Madison area.

We are thankful for the opportunity to work with Ripp and Lasee during their time in the legislature and commend them for their efforts to help reduce the cost of housing for Wisconsin families.

Assembly Committee Holds Hearing on Litigation Reform Bill

The enclosed article was provided by the Wisconsin Civil Justice Council (http://www.wisciviljusticecouncil.org/) and the Hamilton Consulting Group (http://www.hamilton-consulting.com/). WBA is a longtime member of the
Wisconsin Civil Justice Council and WBA Executive Director Brad Boycks serves as the group’s Secretary.

The Assembly Committee on Judiciary held a hearing Thursday on a bill that would reform Wisconsin’s civil liability statutes to lower litigation costs for Wisconsin businesses and government. AB 773, authored by Reps. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Sens. Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) and David Craig (R-Big Bend), would further improve Wisconsin’s litigation climate by making changes to discovery and class action statutes, among other reforms.

The bill’s authors began the hearing by emphasizing their goal to draft legislation that makes Wisconsin consistent with federal rules and other states’ procedures and maintains fairness in Wisconsin’s civil justice system.

A wide variety of groups testified in support of the bill. The National Federation of Independent Business, Wisconsin Chapter, and the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) focused on the costs savings for businesses small and large that could be affected by the debilitating costs of discovery. According to ATRA’s testimony, from 2006 to 2008, the average company paid average discovery costs per case of $600,000 to $3 million. Under the bill’s reforms, they said, businesses will be able to settle based on the merits of the cases, not simply in fear of paying these massive discovery costs. Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce’s testimony also emphasized the importance of lowering litigation costs for Wisconsin businesses and improving Wisconsin’s litigation climate to help job creation and economic development.

The Wisconsin Defense Counsel (WDC) later testified in support of the bill’s provisions regarding discovery and lawsuit lending. The bill’s limit on discovery of electronically stored information would reduce overburdensome discovery requests, and its proportionality requirements would prevent unnecessary “fishing expeditions.” WDC also noted that regulating lawsuit lending makes Wisconsin’s civil liability procedures fairer by protecting consumers and ensuring transparency in civil cases.

The Wisconsin Civil Justice Council and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for Legal Reform testified on the class action portions of the bill. The bill would make class action statutes more fair and efficient by requiring the type and scope of injury of the representative class members be typical of the type and scope of injury being alleged by the absent class members, thus precluding “no-injury” class actions. The bill also requires class members be verifiable by reliable and feasible means and would provide for interlocutory appeal of class certification. The groups said these changes would make Wisconsin’s civil justice system fairer and less costly.

The Wisconsin Insurance Alliance also testified in support of the bill’s provision adjusting the interest rate insurers must pay on overdue claims. The bill provides that the rate mirror interest rates on general judgments and self-adjust consistent with markets.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) testified for information only on the bill’s provision prohibiting DOR from using contingency fee arrangements with unclaimed property auditors. DOR expressed concerns that this provision could increase costs and make it difficult to hire auditors, but later testimony assured legislators that contingency fee arrangement bans have been implemented in other states and would not prohibit audits from taking place in Wisconsin.

Those testifying against the bill, including the Wisconsin Association for Justice and the Alliance for Responsible Consumer Legal Funding, argued that the changes stray too far from simply federalizing Wisconsin statute. Many said that there is no evidence of discovery abuses in Wisconsin and that state judges consistently keep discovery in check. However, supporters refuted that the bill would give judges guidelines related to discovery and class actions that are currently missing from state statute.

AB 773 has 23 sponsors in the Assembly and five in the Senate. So far 17 groups have registered in support.

The Senate version of the bill has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, and no public hearing has been scheduled.

**Development bill receives public hearing in Assembly Housing and Real Estate Committee**

Recently the Assembly Housing and Real Estate Committee held a public hearing to take testimony on Assembly Bill 770 (AB 770) (link: http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab770.pdf). AB 770 has been dubbed “the development bill” and contains a number of WBA priorities to address park fees, infrastructure bonding, impact fees, not requiring codes above the UDC, and ideas to encourage workforce housing. The groups and individuals who have spoke against AB 770 are local elected officials and groups representing local government. The Wisconsin League of Municipalities has stated multiple times that they are unlikely to be anything but against the bill because they argue it takes away too much
local control. The Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Towns Association have stated some concerns on the legislation and have been actively working with Representative Brooks on modest changes.

Getting both the Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Towns Association to be neutral on the bill would go a long way to helping move the bill from committee and ultimately get it passed in both houses prior to the end of session.

We are hoping to see an amendment with changes to AB 770 this week. The next step is for the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate to hold an executive session on the bill and move it out of committee. Next up would hopefully be a vote on the floor of the state assembly in late January or early to mid February.

Passage of AB 770 continues to be a top legislative priority for WBA to close out the 2017-2018 legislative session.

**Trump Signs Tax Bill into Law**

On December 22nd President Trump signed into law landmark tax reform legislation.

“NAHB commends President Trump and members of Congress for their hard work and dedication in crafting this once-in-a-generation overhaul of the nation’s tax code,” said NAHB Chairman Granger MacDonald. “Providing tax relief for hard-working families and creating a more favorable tax climate for small business will make the economy more vibrant and competitive. In turn, this will boost the housing sector, which represents roughly one-sixth of the U.S. economy. Housing not only equals jobs, but jobs mean more demand for housing.”

Throughout the tax reform debate, NAHB and our grassroots were at the forefront of the legislative process. We held several meetings with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, along with other committee members and staff, while builders engaged with key House and Senate lawmakers in their home districts and at their offices on Capitol Hill.

Thanks to the efforts of the entire Federation, NAHB achieved significant victories on the real estate exception to the business interest deduction, second homes, private activity bonds, the capital exclusion, and many other provisions.

Under the new law, the majority of taxpayers will receive a tax cut, including working class home owners and renters, small business owners and our members who are engaged in all aspects of the residential construction sector. Lower tax rates will spur job and economic growth, and that is good for housing.

An overview of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, with all changes taking effect for the tax year starting Jan. 1, 2018:

**Mortgage interest deduction.** Retains the mortgage interest deduction and the deduction for second homes, but reduces the mortgage interest cap from $1 million to $750,000.

**State and local property taxes.** Allows taxpayers to deduct up to $10,000 of state and local taxes, including property taxes and the choice of income or sales taxes.

**Capital gains exclusion.** Maintains existing law that allows home owners to exclude up to $250,000 (or $500,000 for married couples) in capital gains on the profit from the sale of a home if they have lived in the house for two of the last five years.

**HELOC.** Eliminates the deduction for interest on home equity loans.

**Private activity bonds.** Retains private activity bonds (PABs), which will enable the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to maintain its effectiveness as the most indispensable tool for the production of affordable housing. Without PABs, we would face the loss of more than 788,000 affordable rental units over the next decade.

**Alternative Minimum Tax.** Eliminates the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for corporations and increases the AMT exemption amounts and phase-out thresholds for individuals.

**Individual tax brackets.** Retains seven tax brackets, with rates ranging from 10% to 37%. This will provide tax relief for individuals and small businesses and represents a tax cut for most taxpayers.

**Estate tax.** Doubles the estate tax exemption.

**Carried interest.** Retains existing carried interest rules, but assets must be held for three years.

**Pass-through deduction.** Allows most taxpayers with pass-through income to deduct 20% of that income based on wages or on wages plus a capital element.

**Business interest deduction.** Provides the taxpayer a choice of making a one-time election for a deduction limited to 30% of adjusted gross income; or for real estate, a 100% deduction for business interest, but with certain trade offs.

**Like-kind exchanges.** Preserves the benefit for real estate investors to make tax-free exchanges of property, commonly referred to as “like-kind” exchanges.

**Multifamily depreciation.** Gives the taxpayer the choice of taking 27.5- or 30-year depreciation, depending on how they elect to treat their business interest.
Individual tax provision sunsets. Almost all individual tax elements – mortgage interest, state and local property taxes, individual brackets, etc. – expire at the end of 2025. Unless Congress acts, starting in 2026 these modifications will revert back to the tax code as it exists today in 2017.

Be sure to check with your tax professional regarding details on the new tax law. The above items are offered as general descriptions only and do not constitute tax or legal advice.

Brad Boycks
WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs
Wisconsin Builders Association®bboycks@wisbuild.org
(608) 242-5151 ext.16
Visit our web site: www.wisbuild.org

Happy Valentines Day!
Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed our party. This year we held it at Willow Springs Garden and had a wonderful turn-out with over 110 people in attendance. Great prices, great food, time spent with fellow members made it an enjoyable night for all who joined.

Jeff Dorner from WBA swearing in our incoming President, Russ Utech.

The 2018 Board of Directors being sworn in by WBA's Jeff Dorner.
Winner of the 2017 Associate of the Year, Shelly Talley-Nelson with Associated Bank and winner of the 2017 Builder of the Year, Cory Sillars with Dan Sillars General Contractor.

Thank you to our 2017 Board Members for their dedication to our association!

Congratulations to the NTC scholarship recipients.
### Candidats
- Tim Brown - 5
- Don Budnik - 1
- James Coleman - 2.5
- Brennan Duke - 1
- Gloria Fenhaus - 4
- John Henning - 2
- Matt Keeney - 3.5
- Brent Kriewaldt - 2
- Robert Kulp - 5
- Wayne Lodholz - 2
- Sam McLellan - 2
- Philip Pesanka - 1
- Tony Pfefferman - 2
- Sarah Ruffi - 1
- Gary Rusc - 3.5
- Jerry Schepp - 2.5
- Lori Stevenson - 4
- Shelly Talley-Nelsen - 1
- Russ Utech - 7
- Tim Witzeling - 4
- Roger Zell - 5

### Members
- Joan Belke - 9
- Jason Blenker - 15
- Ray Bodenheimer - 24
- Michael Bolen - 8.5
- Alex Forer - 13
- Gary Guerntd - 11
- Travis Hoerman - 6
- Leroy Kazmierczak - 15.5
- David Kempf - 6.5
- Don Marquardt - 7.5
- John Ohrmundt - 7
- Mike Polencheck - 7.5
- Andy Radant - 10.5
- Matthew Waldvogel - 13.5
- Craig Wilhelm - 6.5

### Life Members
- Ken Bauer - 226
- Jason Brettingen - 27.5
- Shane Brzezinski - 27
- Dwight Dorpat - 83
- Gerard Draxler - 120
- Arden Emmerich - 51.5
- Dave Framke - 239.5
- Jerry Jarosz - 97
- William Keener - 88
- Arnold King - 70
- Doug Knight - 164.5
- James Koebe - 64.5
- Bob Kolbeck - 27
- James Kraimer - 157.5
- Rick Kuharske - 106.5
- Brian Luedtke - 31.5
- Larry Meyer - 113
- Robert Mork - 29
- Kolby Muscha - 36
- Ted Peotter - 32
- Guy Reedy - 194.5
- Robert Schulz - 27.5
- Cory Sillars - 87.5
- Dan Sillars - 532.5
- Sid Sorensen - 196
- Bob Sundell - 40
- James Sydow - 43.5
- Jeremy Voigt - 68
- Jim Voigt - 144
- Larry Voigt - 181
- James Wanserski - 27
- Ken Wanta Jr. - 26.5
- Richard Wanta - 374
- Rod Werner - 225
- Jim Woller - 208.5
- Bernie Wood - 42

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**Wausau Area Builders Association Shirley Kruesel Scholarship**

**Eligibility**
The Wausau Area Builders Association is proud to offer scholarships given annually in honor of Shirley Kruesel, who was the executive officer of the Association from 1990-2012. Students must meet the following criterion to apply for consideration:
- Graduating senior from a high school located in a community currently served by the WABA including but not necessarily limited to Antigo, D.C. Everest, Marathon, Medford, Merrill, Mosinee, Newman, Northland Lutheran, Stratford, Spencer, Wausau East, Wausau West, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood;
- Who has demonstrated community service and involvement;
- With a GPA of 2.5 or greater.
- Students planning a career in the shelter industry are especially encouraged to apply.
- Students whose parents and/or grandparents have an association with the WABA are especially encouraged to apply.

**How to Apply**
Students interested in applying for a scholarship can register and apply through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin’s (administrators of the scholarship fund) electronic filing system found at: [www.grantinterface.com/cfon-cwscholarships/Common/LogOn.aspx](http://www.grantinterface.com/cfon-cwscholarships/Common/LogOn.aspx).

**Selection and Review**
Applicants qualifying for consideration, based on the eligibility requirements stated above, will be judged by the selection committee in the following priority levels for scholarship award:

- **Level 1** - Student planning to go in to the building shelter trade whose parent or grandparent has an affiliation with the WABA, and has demonstrated community service and involvement
- **Level 2** - Student planning to go into the shelter trade with demonstrated community service and involvement
- **Level 3** - Student whose parent or grandparent has an affiliation with the WABA, going into any field of study, and has demonstrated community service and involvement

Completed applications must be submitted electronically by **March 31** for review and final selection.
Hello WABA members,

What a fun filled and exciting experience at the International Builders Show again this year in Orlando. If you have never gone to IBS, you really must plan to attend one time. The opening ceremonies featured Terry Bradshaw as the featured speaker. A very entertaining guy! I attended the Area 10 Caucus meeting on Tuesday of the show and the full Board meeting as your National Director on Thursday. We have had multiple changes approved for the way NAHB will be doing business into the future. All of the changes are needed to keep NAHB strong for all of us.

As a contributor to the NAHB Build PAC fund, I was able to attend a wonderful reception and dinner with that group on Monday evening. Kolbe Window and Door invited me to their distributor reception Tuesday evening. On the final evening of the convention, the Spike / National Director Party is traditionally held. We were treated to the band Chicago as the entertainment.

I strongly encourage everyone to try to make the trip to Las Vegas for IBS 2019 on February 19–21. Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve WABA as your National Director in 2017.

Cory Sillars