

Well, my fellow members of the Greater Ft. Smith Association of Homebuilders, If you are reading this, then we have made it this far and as Andy said to Red in the Shawshank, "Perhaps you might come a little further". We have surpassed the fall parade and Showcase Home season, we have made it thru the All Hallows Eve festivities and we set our sights on November. Thanksgiving, hunting season, the no shave month, black Friday, the debut of the new I phone, and the rest...Hope to see all at the general membership meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Glass Pavilion at noon. Our Sponsor is Arkansas Valley Electric and our speaker is John Cooley the CFO of Pro-Pack, He will brief us on the Future of Ft. Smith and how the Comprehensive Plan the city has can help encourage a brighter tomorrow in our area and how we are helping and can help further. As always we will have a great meal from 21 West End and some great fellowship too. Also, speeding towards us like a runaway North Korean missile is our annual Christmas Installation Banquet on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be held at the Pro-Pack building on Garrison catered by 21 West End. Need to get your tickets early, as there are only 96 available, get them before ticket master buys them up! As to the not too distant future, the 2018 Home Show at Kay Rogers Park brought to you by Breeden Dodge is February 16-18, reserve your favorite space today! Now, some past business, we have looked to the future, we are reading in the present, let us reflect on last month, shall we...By all accounts we had a smashing Parade of Homes, we made up for a lack of quantity by having great quality. I know we had tremendous traffic and I'm pleased. They had bout' 100,000 people at the Show Case Home and it was a success (slight exaggeration). The even greater news is, the Show Case Home is under contract and is scheduled to close in a few days. My heartfelt thanks go to AOG our longtime partner in this endeavor and the many participating members who contributed skills and products and of course, Carrington Creek Homes and Stone Brook at Chaffee Crossing, thanks again. We are also participating in the Young Builder's program at Spradling Elementary. This is a great opportunity to help young students learn about our industry and discover and develop skills and build a bond. The School has been great, the kids have been great and we appreciate Lowes helping with tools and materials. I was fortunate enough to witness and participate in this a few days ago and came away impressed and thankful. The enthusiasm the students and teachers and administration and our members showed was wonderful, thanks to everyone involved. I as always want to thank Stephanie, the board, and the associate council for their tireless effort and commitment to our cause and association. Now, you may know some of the changes going on at the state level of our association, and you may not. Let me assure you that great folks our working hard and the future of our association on the state level will be different, but will be great and much better than recent history, I'm looking forward to the future. Which makes since, you can't look backwards at the future, you would miss it. I guess you would see it after it went by, but then it would be the past. You would be looking forward to the past and that's just crazy. I think that about wraps it up. I do want to also thank all those that have agreed to serve or been nominated to serve the Association next year. Now, that really wraps it up. Let's all pause with friends and family and give Thanks for the cornucopia of blessings we have received this year. After all, during this season, the only one that shouldn't be thankful is the turkey and no one wants to be a turkey! Even a wild one...

Your Prez...