

Everyone is talking about the President's first 100 days in office, well, I'm a President and I have been in office much longer, some 500 days, give or take and I haven't even dropped one Supreme Court Justice or selected a "Moab", or is it the other way around? Oh well, Hello folks and it's time once again to bring you up to speed on the goings on in the Greater Ft. Smith Association of Home Builders. When last we visited, spring had just sprung, and the coil is continuing to unwind. We are amongst the throws of spring time, May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is also Russian Labor Day. As your President, let me assuage your fears, I have no connection to the Russians other than that furry winter cap made from Brezhnev's eyebrows that Putin sent me for my second inaugural, I'd send it back, but that could cause an International incident and don't we have enough of them at the moment? On to current business, May is my favorite month and we here in the local HBA are very busy indeed. Come one, come all to our general membership meeting Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at noon. Our meeting sponsor is our friends from AOG. It will of course be downtown Ft. Smith at the Glass Pavilion and our delicious lunch will be served by 21 West End, always a hit. Our guest speaker will be from the Rinnai Builder Program, so come learn how we can save some energy, water, and money. Sounds like a triple win to me. Also, we will be hosting some special guests, the 2017 recipients of the Mason-Barr Senior Scholarship and their families. Come out in full force to wish these future leaders our best and enthusiastic support. We should have a great time. then the very next day, Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> we are playing the 2017 Mason-Barr Scholarship Golf tournament to raise money for the 2018 Scholarship recipients. Gotta' keep crankin' em out...It is at Ben Geren Park. It Tees off at 11:00am and is Brought to you by OG&E with Lunch by First National Bank and the Hole in One Sponsor is Breeden Dodge. We have almost 50 sponsors and 42 teams, this event gets bigger and better every year with all proceeds going to academic achievement. Learning is a great cause. We should never cease to strive for knowledge or halt from assisting those who are attempting to better themselves. Kudos once again to Chuck Fawcett, he is the golf tournament wizard and without him I shudder to think how much we would suffer. His committee at his behest did their usual great job as well. Thanks to you all. Speaking of this worthy pursuit, our own RCAP program which kicks off this August with its first class has had its first board meeting. They are busily working for this event and program, which by the way RCAP stands for Residential Construction Apprenticeship Program. We are very excited about helping folks enter our industry and gain and hone skills. Thanks to Armstrong Bank and our own Association for sponsoring this endeavor. Where we can impact people's lives for the better it is always exciting. Also, with our Scholarship Golf Tournament we will be able to help some of the RCAP pupils as well. There is always big things going on and none bigger than our annual Showcase Home brought to you by AOG and being built this year in Stone Brook at Chaffee Crossing by supervising builder Carrington Creek Homes. The house is well under way and steam rolling towards our October grand opening and fall parade extravaganza! It is indeed grand too, go by and see its soaring ceilings and remember, there is time to get involved and "showcase" your skills and products in this house for the local home buying population to get to see, touch, and experience, it's a great opportunity. To all those who are helping with this project, you have my deepest thanks. Your commitment to our Association and keeping our industry strong means a great deal to me, thanks so much! To Stephanie and our Board, Executive committee, and Associate Council, many thanks to all of you for your hard work, you are the corpuscles in our vascular system, you keep us alive! I want to remind everyone that we are in a red alert membership drive month as well. Sign up an associate, a builder, an affiliate, with numbers there is strength. We have great members, but could always use some more. Remember, associate council meeting Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> at noon and our board of directors meets just before our general membership meeting at 10:30 am at 21 West End on the 11<sup>th</sup>. We are gonna see quite a bit of

one another next week, so make this week count and get plenty of rest. A little bit of rest is good. It can refresh your mind and replenish the body. Just don't rest in peace, because you still have too much work to do and you would miss next month's meeting and pretty much everything else. You can come in peace and go in peace, just don't rest in it, we need you. With all the importance we are putting on education, remember what the philosopher said, "sometimes learning can be difficult, but never learning leads to difficulty"...

Your Prez...