

Well, folks its October and September around here was very dry as far as weather and aren't we blessed that is all we can complain about weather wise. There is so much to be thankful for in the River Valley and also in our humble local HBA. Remember, to keep all those that have suffered in the recent days and weeks in your prayers and give when and where you can. There are many people that have issues with the U S of A, and some have a good cause, but we are also still the Shining city on the hill that the world aspires to and one of those great attributes is our generosity. America is an empire, but we are the most benevolent empire the planet has ever known. We may be flawed, but we are not ruthless, we are compassionate and that is one of many reasons I am proud to be an American. I am also proud to be a member of the Greater Ft. Smith Association of Homebuilders. Where fellow members' serve the cause of homebuilding in this area by serving their fellow members and the association. To all our faithful, I am grateful. On to the business at hand as we "launch" into the 4th quarter of 2017 and that is not a veiled reference to "Rocket Man", I'll leave that to the other president and his references aren't veiled, they are pretty straight forward as you may have noticed. Anyway, the 2017 Showcase home built by Carrington Creek Homes in Stone Brook at Chaffee Crossing and brought to you by AOG is complete and ready for touring. It is a sight to see and very modernly "chic". I want to thank wholeheartedly all who have labored and contributed on this project. It keeps our association in business year after year. The Grand opening reception is this Thursday October 5th 5:00-7:00 pm, this doubles as our monthly meeting and what a great venue it is! And we will have a great atmosphere and great food brought to you also by AOG. Come on out, this is our annual kickoff for your Fall parade of homes which begins the next day at noon. The Showcase home is open from noon to 6:00pm daily from October 6th through the 15th. The parade itself has a slightly different schedule, it is open from noon to 6:00pm on the week-ends of October 6th-8th and then again the next week of October 13th-15th. Once, again this year we want to thank Armstrong Bank for sponsoring the Parade of Homes tour \$1000.00 drawing that one fortunate visitor will win, all they must do is visit all the parade houses and get their card stamped much like a bingo card and turn it in at the Showcase home before 6:00pm on October the 15th. A few dollars more never hurt, that's what Clint Eastwood always said. So I am excited to get to visit with my fellow members at the Showcase Home reception Thursday evening and show some great houses during the parade and hopefully we sell a few! Also, we will be having drawings at the reception for door prizes, might get an early Christmas Gift. Speaking of Christmas which will be here in a matter of moments, which tells you how old I am, to kids, Christmas always took forever to get here! We will be having our annual Christmas Installation Banquet on December the 1st at the Pro-Pack building on Garrison, beautiful setting and hopefully, a fun event with great food from 21 West End. More on that to come next month. November is nominations month when we will be presenting the slate of officers for 2018 to serve our association. The year is winding up, which means ending but also means accelerating toward action. This association is vigilant and also is always in action. We must keep our eyes focused on local, state, and federal issues that could hinder us or help us and be ready to act accordingly. Thanks to our EO, Stephanie Stipins, we have had a great year. It has been a landmark year with the initial RCAP class, this sets the stage for many great opportunities to come. I Hope we can all always be thankful, if we are always thankful there is no room for self-centeredness and wouldn't that have some great consequences....

Your Prez...