

Builders At Their Best



VOL. 1 JAN/FEB 2010

General Membership Meeting January 12, 2010

On Tuesday, January 12 we had our first General Membership Meeting of the New Year at Fletcher's in Hartwell. Thirty-two members, representing all four counties, were in attendance. We would like to say Thank You to Hart EMC, who sponsored the meeting.

Bill Leard gave an overview of Hart EMC and stated that he appreciated our association and the quality of housing that we provide. He also talked about the need for well-insulated housing and energy efficient appliances as energy costs continue to rise.

An overview of our 2010 Goals was presented by Cathy Eison. The Board is focusing on the following areas in 2010: Meetings, Membership, Committees, Community involvement and Fundraisers. A survey of the membership is currently in process to get feedback on the structure of membership meetings. The Board is planning a membership drive in the April/May timeframe focusing on builders that are not currently members to become part of our association. In addition, County Directors were appointed to ensure the focus of our association encompassed all four counties. Committees in 2010 will be led by a Board member, but mainly comprised of member volunteers to enhance the skills available to our association. By using various media, we plan on enhancing our identity within the various communities we cover. In addition, we plan on adding more fundraisers next year. Two specific additions are a "Playhouse" to be built by Howard Eaton, and a Fishing Tournament to be led by Ricky Carter.

We also talked about the need for member volunteers to serve on committees. Charlie Eison is looking for volunteers to assist him with the planning of our annual Spring Golf Tournament. Mike Little is looking for members to assist him with the Membership Committee. If you are interested in serving on a committee contact us at hbaneg@yahoo.com, or call us at 706-376-1658.



Ricky's Corner

I hope you all had a great Christmas and that you are heading for a Happy New Year. I hope 2010 turns out better than 2009. I would like to thank Hart EMC for sponsoring our January Membership Meeting. Please fill out the member survey that you received through e-mail so we can get your feedback.



The Georgia General Assembly session has officially started. The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is in action also. Your GAC has a good relationship with the legislators and works closely with them on issues that have an effect on our industry. They give of their time traveling and meeting in Atlanta, usually once a week, to discuss the bills that should be supported, opposed or just watched. These people are the watch dogs for the association. When you get an e-mail asking for you to call your legislators please take this seriously. It does affect your business. Some of you will think they will not listen to me. I do not want to be a bother to them: but you are wrong. These people represent each of us. They are not experts on every issue. They cannot understand how it will affect you unless YOU tell them. So do not be shy. Educate these people. You can bet that if you do not try to talk to them that the other side will. The problems that we are experiencing now rest on our shoulders because of our lack of participation in our Governmental Process. When we elect people to office, whether you voted for them or not, your job is not done when you leave the poll. It is just starting. It is our responsibility to keep them in line. Sometimes they need a pat on the back or a kind word, as they are mostly getting not so kind words. They can use our prayers also. They do have a tough job.

Happy 2010

Ricky Carter, President HBANEG

HBANEG is now on facebook. To keep current with NAHB and HBAG news and events please be sure to become Fans of the Home Builders Association of Northeast Georgia.



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Did You Do Your Housekeeping?

In the last newsletter I talked about planning for 2010 by setting a budget for expected revenue and expenses. However, I forgot to mention the need to put the finishing touches on 2009.

Year-end entries to ensure accounts reflect the correct balance have to be made. Assets have to be depreciated. Interest has to be recorded. These are just two examples of the accounting activities that go on at year end. W-2's and 1099's need to be issued, and transmittals have to be sent in to government agencies. I know it's the ex-auditor in me, but I have supporting documents for each account balance on my balance sheet. I also write notes to myself on any documents that aren't easily understood. I know that if I'm ever questioned in the future on what I did, it will be much easier to remember with helpful notes.

In addition, I'm not sure that it's anyone's favorite activity, but completing 2009 records and filing them in a retrievable order is a necessary part of business. If you can't retrieve the information you need when you need it, then it's basically like not having the receipts or information at all. Running a retail store, I find it necessary to start new vendor and customer files each year. I also have to store the previous year's data. It all has to be filed and labeled appropriately.

And last, but not least, you need to update your employees' tax records with any changes on their W-4's. You also need to make any personal tax estimate changes based on your estimated 2010 income. Unfortunately, no matter how much your income has declined, you still have to do all the accounting paperwork. It's necessary not only for governmental reporting, but for good business practices so you have a handle on your business.

Cathy Eison, EO HBANEG



2/9
BOD Meeting
Hartwell Paint

2/19
Waste Water Class
Hart Library

2/23-24
HBAG Winter Board
Atlanta, GA

2/24
HBAG Legislative
Luncheon
Atlanta Train Depot

3/9
BOD Meeting
Hartwell Paint

4/8
Northeast Georgia
Construction Impact
Study, Time and
Location TBA

4/13
BOD Meeting
Hartwell Paint



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Cell 706-436-5838

December Membership Renewals

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Builders Warn of Debilitating Provision in Health Care Bill

As Congress moves to craft a final health care bill in the coming weeks, NAHB is leading the fight with other like-minded business groups to strip a jobs-killing provision in Senate legislation H.R. 3590 that would derail the fragile housing and economic recovery by placing a major financial burden on builders. The measure was approved by the Senate on Christmas eve by a 60 to 39 vote.

Language offered by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and slipped into the Senate health care legislation at the last minute unfairly targets small construction firms with more than five workers by requiring them to provide health care coverage or face stiff fines. Meanwhile, small businesses in all other industries would be exempt from providing mandatory health coverage if they employ 50 workers or less.

NAHB has been alerting lawmakers that this requirement is patently unfair and dangerous for an economy that is only beginning to recover from financial collapse. It would place a huge competitive disadvantage on the housing industry, which under normal conditions accounts for more than 17% of the nation's gross domestic product but today continues to struggle for survival.

Immediately after the Senate approved H.R. 3590, NAHB sent a letter to every senator expressing disappointment that the narrow employee mandate provision targeting the construction industry had been included in the health care legislation. The letter urged all senators to work with House and Senate conferees to strike this provision from the final measure.

House health care bill H.R. 3962, which passed the chamber by a slim margin of 220 to 215 on Nov. 7, contains no provision comparable to the Merkley amendment.

NAHB lobbyists and grassroots members have been working diligently since Christmas to reach out to more than a dozen Democrats in the Senate and more than 50 Democratic centrists in the House to explain how this provision threatens the viability of countless small home builders across the nation and to call on their support to strip this requirement from the final bill.

NAHB has received positive feedback from Democrats in both chambers who oppose the Merkley amendment and Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) is leading the charge to gather support for a "dear colleague" letter to send to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), urging his assistance to strike the provision from a final bill. NAHB is also working with House Democrats to pursue a companion letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

At this time, it is expected that the usual House-Senate conference process to reconcile the two bills will be bypassed in an effort to avert any procedural stalling tactics from the GOP, which remains united in its opposition to both health care bills.

As the process moves forward, NAHB will continue to push for the elimination of the Merkley language and seek other changes to address the concerns of the housing community and small businesses.

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NEW MEMBERS

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\$50

To any of our members who succeed
In getting a NEW member to join

EPA'S NEW LEAD PAINT RULE AFFECTS BUILDERS, REMODELERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS AND SUBCONTRACTORS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all contractors to be EPA certified and to follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination when working in homes and housing units, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978. These new rules were created in order to prevent dangerous lead paint exposure, which can affect children's brains and nervous systems and cause high blood pressure in adults.

According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) "Few subcontractors associated with home building and remodeling (including insulation and HVAC installers and others) are even aware of the Lead Renovation Repair and Painting Rule that will govern remodeling activities in homes and child-occupied facilities built before 1978. Those who are aware of it may assume it targets only professional remodelers, but this is not the case. In fact, it applies to any contractor who "disturbs" at least six square feet of painted surface on the inside of a home or 20 square feet on the outside. That means that contractors who install windows, insulation, home entertainment equipment or similar items in the target housing must become certified to do the work."

According to the EPA's website, the Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program (RRP) includes pre-renovation education requirements as well as training, certification, and work practice requirements. The Pre-renovation education requirements are currently in effect and require lead pamphlets to be distributed before starting any renovation work in facilities built before 1978. The requirements for training, certification, and work practice rules go into effect April 22, 2010. Renovators and firms are required to be certified by completing a training course conducted by an EPA approved training firm. Employees must be trained in the use of lead-safe work practices and must follow these specific practices which minimize occupants' exposure to lead hazards. Any activity that disturbs painted surfaces greater than 6 square feet per room inside or more than 20 square feet on the exterior of the home or building fall under this regulation. Activities include most repair, remodeling, and maintenance activities – including window replacement and building demolition. Specific examples of activities include electrical work, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and window replacement, among others. There are additional requirements for signage, recordkeeping, and record retention. The RRP Rule and specific requirements are posted on the EPA's website www.epa.gov/lead.

The EPA estimates 200,000 or more contractors will require certification training. HBANEG is working on providing EPA certified training to help local contractors meet the certification requirement. Contact HBANEG for further information.

EPA has the right to inspect work sites, review records and reports and respond to complaints. Enforcement action against a company that fails to comply with the RRP Rule could result in fines as high as \$32,500.00 per violation, per day.

Advertising Opportunities

1/2 Page Ad

\$70 per month, \$500 per year

1/2 Page Color Ad

\$100 per month, \$750 per year

1/4 Page Ad

\$55 per month, \$325 per year

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\$80 per month, \$475 per year

Business Card Ad

\$35 per month, \$250 per year

Business Card Color Ad

\$50 per month, \$375 per year

Wastewater Training Class

Tech 102 Contractor Training
19 February 2010
Hart County Library-Katherine Hailey Memorial Room (Downstairs)
150 Benson St. - Hartwell, GA 30643 - 706-376-4655
8 Continuing Education Units

Three Ways to Register for the Class

1. Call the Continuing Education Center, UGA - Griffin at 770-229-3477. Anyone who answers can help you.
2. Go online at www.ugaonsite.com and follow the Class Schedules link.
3. Register at the door on the day of the class.

Cost

4. Preregister or at the door - \$120.00

An Open Letter From Stephens County's New Building Inspector

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been hired by Stephens County to get the Building Department up and running. As of this date, the hopeful date to start building inspections in the county is March 1, 2010. The County is in the process of adopting the Georgia State Minimum Standard Building Code. At that time the permit process will change slightly (Plan review, comments and revisions, etc.).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to being of service to the builders and residents in our area.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Larry Krul
Stephens County GA
Building Inspections
706-886-9491 ext. 308

Mike Little
Branch Manager

bugmikelittle@yahoo.com

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Charlie Eison, Attendee-Builder
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P.O. Box 842
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HBA NEG is an organization of building industry professionals dedicated to serving the interests of our members, while maintaining a positive leadership position in the community, and providing the best quality and most affordable housing available through our efforts.

Cathy Eison
706-376-1658
hbaneg@yahoo.com

Next Membership Meeting

Economic Impact Study by Dr. Elliot Eisenberg
April 8, 2010 6:30 pm
Agricultural Center
6570 Georgia Highway 145 South
Carnesville , Georgia 30521



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7:30-5:30
Saturday
8:00-12:30



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