

The Builder News

The Official Publication Of The Wolf River Builders Association

Calander of Events

October 2016

Date	Event Listing
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Oct. 31	<i>Happy Halloween!!</i>
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Coming Events

November – No General Membership or Board Meeting in November. See you in December!!

Nov. 3	Special Customer Services Training “A Passion for Service” – Bill Drury. Presented by Shawano Chamber. 715-524-2139 for more info.
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Nov. 6	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Clocks go back!
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Nov. 8	<i>Election Day</i> - Make sure you vote!
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Nov. 11	<i>Veterans Day</i> – Thank a Veteran!
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Nov. 15	Chamber Business Connection, Exit Elite Realty, 517 E. Green Bay Street, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., RSVP
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Nov. 24	<i>Happy Thanksgiving Day!</i>
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Nov. 26	Holiday Stroll/Small Business Saturday. Main Street, Shawano.
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Dec. 13	General Membership Meeting, The Corral Bar, Leopolis
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Dec. 25	<i>Merry Christmas!!</i>
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Dec. 27	WRBA Board of Directors Meeting, Launching Pad, 5:45 p.m.
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Mission Statement

The Wolf River Builders Association's purpose is to associate the builders within Menominee, Oconto and Shawano Counties for the purpose of mutual advantage and cooperation; to collaborate with all fields related to the building industry for the benefit of the industry as a whole; and to assist in the accomplishment of the mutual objectives of the National Association of Home Builders and Wisconsin Builders Association.



Wolf River Builders Association

Professionals You Can Trust!

NO November General Membership Meeting!!

Next General Membership Meeting will be

When: Tuesday, December 13

Where: The Corral Bar

N4889 Cty Road D, Leopolis
715-787-3240

Networking/Cocktails: 5:45 - 6:30

Dinner: 6:30; Meeting to follow.

PLEASE RSVP to Diane
by Tuesday, December 6, 2016
@ 715-853-2310 or via Email -

wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com

One meal per membership is free, but we need your RSVP! Any additional meals for spouse or guests are \$15.00 each.

"No Shows" will be billed.

Interested in bringing a door prize?
Let Diane know or just bring it along!

Hope to see you there!

Check out the Member Benefits through NAHB –

<http://www.nahb.org/ma>



Progressive “Attendance” Drawing

The name drawn for the **\$120 pot** at the September meeting held at the Spinning Wheel Inn was **Heins Appliance**.

Neither Brian nor Craig were in attendance so the pot for the October 11th meeting at the Golden Sands was increased by \$20 and was **\$140**. The name drawn at the Golden Sands was **Budget Blinds**. Neither Kurt nor Michelle were at the meeting, so the December 13th meeting pot will be **\$160!!** Sorry Brian and Craig, Michelle and Kurt!

The “Progressive” Attendance Drawing” is fairly new. For each General Membership Meeting, each member will have a chip with a number that corresponds to their name placed in the bucket, whether you are in attendance or not.

If you are present and your name (#) is drawn, you will win the pot! If you are not present and your name is drawn, the pot will grow by \$20 for the next meeting. Minimum pot will always be \$20.

Make sure you are there to win if your name (#) is called!

Activities

The results of the September Meeting Election of Officers are as follows:

President-Elect: Greg Brown – SCHS Trades Program

Treasurer: Don Pedersen – KerberRose S.C.

Secretary: Cap Wallrich – Wallrich Agency

Builder Director: Trish Kieckhafer – Stone Creations

Builder Director: Mark Flunker – Wolf River Habitat for Humanity

Associate Director: Mike Johnson – M J Electric

Associate Director: Sam Schabow – Sherwin-Williams

Associate Director: KJ Schreiber – Titledown Flooring

Incoming President is Bill Rapaich – Top Shelf Builders and Past President is John Maule – Maule Construction

Installation of Officers was held at our General Membership Meeting on October 11th at the Golden Sands Golf Course. The Installation was performed by Josh Keeney from LeafGuard Gutters & Roofing in Neenah. Josh serves on the Wisconsin Builders Association Board as the Associate Vice President. Thank you to those members who stepped up and were willing to support the WRBA as a member of our board.
Activities Chairperson: John Maule – 715-853-6826



Bill Rapaich being congratulated by Josh Keeney after his installation as the 2016/2017 President of WRBA.



Don Pedersen, Greg Brown, Mike Johnson, John Maule, KJ Schreiber, Sam Schabow, Trish Kieckhafer and Mark Flunker during their installation by Josh Keeney.



October General Membership Meeting with Josh Keeney as our guest for the Installation of Officers.

Advertising

The Shawano *Shoppers Guide* has merged with a Wittenberg publishing company and the paper has changed its name from the *Shoppers Guide* to the *Super Shopper* and now is published to come out on Fridays. The November issue of the *Super Shopper* with the WRBA front page ads will come out on November 25th. Any additions, corrections, or changes for our November ad are due to Diane by November 18th. The December issue will be out December 30th. Changes need to be in to Diane for that issue by December 23rd.

Two more issues and we will begin a new ad campaign for 2017. We have not received our pricing yet from the *Super Shopper*, but we are hoping it will remain the same. If so, the pricing for one space is \$90 per quarter (three issues--one ad/month--a cost of only \$30/month). You can also do a double ad on a quarterly basis for \$180/quarter. If you prefer to have your ad for the full year and pay it up front, you will receive a 5% discount, making the price \$342 for the full year. A double ad for the full year will be \$684.

As always, ad space is available on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to have your ad included in the future, let Diane know that you are interested by contacting her at 715-853-2310 or via email at wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com

Education

Don't forget to check the WBA website (www.wisbuild.org) for the education opportunities being offered by the area builders associations. Many offer "member" rates to all WBA members. If there is any interest for specific subjects for classes, please let Greg or Diane know and we will see what we can do. Topics do not need to be only builder related, although we will do what we can to help the builders get CEU's!
Education Chairperson: Greg Brown – 715-526-2175

Grow our membership! Please **invite member prospects** to membership meetings! We'll cover dinner for the first meeting to give them the opportunity to see what we are all about. And we will give **you** a \$10 Kwik Trip Card for bringing them! We need to promote new membership and the benefits that NAHB, WBA and WRBA offer, but we also want to focus on retention within our organization as well. There are lots of reasons to maintain your membership! We'd love to hear what you find valuable in your membership...the networking? Dinner meetings? Discounts through NAHB? Contracts, Legal Hotline, or Rebate Program through WBA? Member-to-Member discounts offered at local level? Advocacy? Let us know! *Membership Chairpersons: Tom Krause – 715-853-7859, Trish Kieckhafer – 715-853-9961*



Member of the Month

Mike Johnson with M J Electric was our Member of the Month for September. We put Mike on the spot at the last minute, but he did a great job of telling us about his business.

For October, Tom Krause and Laura Hoppe with Cellcom "tag teamed" it and did a great presentation of some of the services that they offer, inspiring at least one of our newer members, K J Schreiber, to contact them after the meeting. Hearing about some of the services and discounts that Cellcom offers, the KJ was able to take advantage and save some money on his cell phone service.

Looking for someone to be the Member of the Month for the December Meeting! Could it be you?

Member of the Month Program

WRBA would like to have more of the members present information about their business at the monthly general membership meetings. It could be general information about who you are, how your business got started, what your company does, or info on a special promotion that you are holding, a sale that you have going on, etc. If we don't get volunteers, we will be contacting members to ask that you take a turn and tell your fellow members a bit about your business! Consider it free advertising! Contact Diane today via email or phone message!

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Available

WRBA is again looking to place an order for Kwik Trip Gift Cards. They make great Christmas gifts! If you are interested, let me know what denominations you need before November 11th and I will make sure that I order enough to cover requests. Denominations available include \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100. Contact Diane for more information. (still have \$10 and \$20 from last order available now!)



Advocacy Digest
October 20, 2016

The WBA BOD Endorses Senator Ron Johnson

On Thursday, October 6th, U.S. Senator Ron Johnson addressed the WBA Board of Directors meeting to give the group an update on issues he has been working on in Washington D.C. and to discuss his reelection campaign.

In a follow-up vote by the WBA Board of Directors, members voted in favor of WBA formally endorsing Senator Johnson in his reelection bid against the person he defeated in 2010, former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold.

Johnson faces a highly competitive challenge from Feingold in a closely watched race that likely will have a big impact on what party has control of the U.S. Senate for the 2017-2018 session.

The WBA endorsement comes in addition to funds that have been approved by the National Association of Home Builders Political Action Committee BUILD-PAC.

Fault Lines Developing in GOP on Transportation Funding

There have been comments heard here and there over the past few months that GOP leaders in the state assembly and state senate have differing views on transportation funding that may run at odds with Governor Walker. Recently Governor Walker announced his plan to fund transportation projects in his upcoming state budget, and the deep divisions on these issues with GOP leaders in Wisconsin became much clearer.

Governor Walker is doubling down on his promise not to raise fees or taxes to aid transportation projects unless they are offset with corresponding cuts somewhere else in state government.

The plan announced Thursday by Governor Walker and Department of Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb has a substantial increase in local road aid (\$65 million), no increases in taxes or fees, \$1.7 billion for the State Highway Rehabilitation Program, and the lowest level of bonding for transportation projects (\$500 million) since the 2001-2003 state budget.

“This budget provides more funding to local governments for their roads and bridges, keeps borrowing at historically low levels, and maintains our no tax or fee increase pledge,” Governor Walker said.

“Good roads and bridges are important to Wisconsin and our economy, and this budget proves you don’t have to raise taxes or fees to maintain a safe and strong transportation network.”

Two prominent conservative members of the Senate GOP caucus, Senators Nass and Stroebel, quickly released statements of support for the governor’s pledge to not raise taxes and fees to pay infrastructure.

Senator Duey Stroebel stated on Twitter, “Prioritizing our road projects is like Wisconsin families’ need to keep their budgets in order.” With Senator Steve Nass adding in a press release, “Governor Walker has kept his word by proposing a reasonable transportation budget that sets the right priorities and doesn’t increase taxes or the legislation fee.”

Leaders in the Assembly GOP had a much different take on Governor Walker’s proposed transportation plan. In a joint statement Speaker Robin Vos, Majority Leader Jim Steineke, Joint Committee on Finance Co-Chair John Nygren, and Assistant Majority Leader Dan Knodl stated that “This budget request falls short of addressing the long-term funding crisis in our transportation budget. This is a political solution, not a real solution.”

As reported by the online news service wispolitics.com, Speaker Vos had additional, more pointed comments on Walker’s proposed plan when he stated, “Delaying a project costs you money. It doesn’t save you money,” Vos said. “I’m not going to fund increased expenses in one area by increasing expenses in another. That’s what he’s doing. It’s phony math.”

Assuming that the GOP remains the majority party in both houses of the legislature come January 2017, expect this issues to continue to be very contentious and one that could delay the passage of a state budget this spring if a compromise cannot be worked out on transportation funding.

Loser in 2016 Could Win Big in 2018 and Beyond

Rightfully so, all eyes are on the 2016 elections for President, U.S. Senate, and for races for the state assembly and state senate. A silver lining for the eventual loser of the Presidential race is the fact that, traditionally, the party that loses the presidential election bounces back and makes gains on the national and state level in the election that follows in two years.

In Wisconsin, that is key for a number of reasons. In 2018, we will have an election for

governor, attorney general, all 99 seats in the state assembly, and all odd numbered seats in the state senate (17 total seats).

After the 2020 election, the process will begin to reapportion the legislative districts in Wisconsin for the state assembly, state senate, and congressional districts. If one party holds the governor's office and each house of the legislature, they just need to agree on a plan that follows the guidelines put forward for the reapportionment and pass that as a bill that is signed into law. Since redistricting is, by nature, a partisan effort, if one party writes the maps in 2020 and they withstand any legal challenges, it is likely they lock down a legislative majority for the next ten years.

Winning in the future by losing in 2016 will likely not make those that supported the losing presidential candidate sleep better at night right away, but if things play out as they have in the past, the agony of defeat may not have to last until the next Presidential election in 2020.

Money Race in Key State Senate Races

Recently, those candidates running for election this fall were required to file their campaign finance reports with the elections commission. The online news service wispolitics.com did a comprehensive comparison of each candidate running for a state senate seat that is up for election this fall (all even numbered seats are up in 2016). The complete run down of state senate races' finance reports [can be found here](#).

In the race for state senate seats, there is one key open seat that is getting most of the attention this fall. State Senator Rick Gudex (R-Fond du Lac) decided against running for another term in 2016, leaving this 50/50 swing seat open. Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris is running for the seat for the democrats, and Fond du Lac City Council member Dan Feyen is seeking to hold the seat for the GOP.

Feyen had first went through a primary election in August, and, in doing so, spent down most of the funds he had raised since announcing his candidacy this spring. Harris has had the luxury of not having to run in the primary, and has been able to stockpile cash for the general election.

Harris has a substantial fundraising advantage over Feyen, having \$132,190 cash on hand versus Feyen having only \$19,656. With recent campaign finance law changes, legislative campaign committees can now transfer unlimited amounts of dollars to candidates. It would not be a surprise if both of these candidates eventually receive a large amount of funding from their respective leadership campaign committees to help fund their campaigns this fall.

A race that has been a top target for democrats this fall is in the 12th State Senate District where democrat Bryan Van Stippen is challenging first term State Senator Tom Tiffany. Third party independent funds have already been spent in this district on behalf of both candidates.

In this key state senate race, the incumbent Tiffany holds a huge fundraising advantage over the challenger Van Stippen. The last campaign finance report shows Tiffany having \$281,275 cash on hand and Van Stippen with \$53,535.

In all of the other seats up for reelection this fall (10, 14, 24, 30, and 32), the sitting state senator holds a fairly substantial lead in cash on hand as we get closer to the home stretch of campaign 2016.

Assembly GOP Announces Agenda

Recently members of the Assembly GOP Caucus, currently at 63 members, announced their "Forward Agenda". The Forward Agenda comes out just as political races have started get heated up across the state before Tuesday, November 8th.

This agenda was meant to lay out the issues that GOP incumbents, challengers, and those running in open seats will support next legislative session if they are elected in the fall.

In the introduction to the agenda, the Assembly GOP explains that "every Wisconsin resident deserves to have the opportunity for a great education, a family-supporting job and a safe neighborhood. The American Dream should be within everyone's reach in Wisconsin and government should not put barriers in the way to personal success. By focusing on these priorities, Wisconsin Assembly Republicans will continue to move our state forward. We will look to address the major concerns in our state. We want long-term

solutions, not quick fixes to the problems that face Wisconsin families.”

Areas that the Assembly GOP plan to address next session include:

- Job Growth and Government Reforms
- Education and Workforce Development
- Health and Public Safety

To read the entire Forward Agenda [click here](#).

Sjostrom Named to Forestry Council

In September Governor Scott Walker announced that he has appointed WBA Board of Directors member Jason Sjostrom to serve as a member of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry. Sjostrom replaces WBA member Virgil Waugh of Amwood Homes who had served on the council for the past number of years.

Members of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry are all appointed by the governor and is a diverse group of leaders in the forestry community who direct Wisconsin’s efforts to achieve sustainable forestry. The Council was created by State Statute 26.02 in July 2002 to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Commerce, and other state agencies on a host of forestry issues in the state, including:

- The practice of sustainable forestry, as defined in s. 28.04 (1) (e)
- Protection of forests from fire, insects, and disease
- Reforestation and forest genetics
- Management and protection of urban forests
- Public knowledge and awareness of forestry issues
- Forestry research
- Economic development and employment in the forestry industry
- Marketing and use of forest products
- Legislation affecting management of Wisconsin's forest lands
- Staffing and funding needs for forestry programs conducted by the state

Current Council priorities include:

- Timber supply
- Managed Forest Law program
- Forest certification
- Deer impacts on Wisconsin forests
- Forestry education

Thank you to Jason for stepping up to serve as a member of Wisconsin Council on Forestry, occupying a spot on the council that has traditionally been held by a WBA member.

NAHB Endorses Candidates for Congress

From NAHB: For the first time in its 74-year history, NAHB is officially endorsing candidates for the U.S. House and Senate in the upcoming Nov. 8 elections.

“As housing goes, so goes the economy,” said NAHB Chairman Ed Brady. “This election could determine if the housing and economic recovery stays on track or veers off course. The incumbents and candidates from both political parties that NAHB will be endorsing have all exhibited a commitment to advance policies that will promote homeownership and rental housing opportunities for all Americans.”

When the 115th Congress convenes in Washington early next year, there will be plenty of unfinished housing business awaiting lawmakers. NAHB believes that Congress must focus on:

- Reforming and streamlining the regulatory process.
- Ensuring that any tax reform efforts protect vital housing tax incentives that are needed to keep housing and the economy moving forward.
- Easing tight credit conditions for home buyers.
- Enacting comprehensive housing finance reform.

In the coming days and weeks, NAHB will be working with its state and local homebuilder’s associations to coordinate announcing the endorsements. A full list will be available after all the endorsements have been finalized. NAHB does not endorse candidates for president.

Brad Boycks
WBA Executive Director



Home & Cottage Show

The 2017 WRBA Home & Cottage Show dates are set, packets are out to WRBA members, and will be out shortly to the general public. Dates for the show are April 8th & 9th, and will again be held at the Crawford Center in Shawano. If you are interested in helping out with this years show, please contact Cap or Diane and let us know! We'd love all the help that we can get!

Home Show Chairperson: Cap Wallrich – 715-526-2156

[Like us on Facebook!](#)



Wi-Fi Security

Wi-Fi hotspots in public places are convenient, but often not secure. If you connect to a Wi-Fi network and send information through websites or mobile apps, it has potential to be accessed by someone else.

Encryption is the key to keeping your personal information secure online. Encryption scrambles the information you send over the internet into a code so it's not accessible to others. When you're using wireless networks, it's best to send personal information only if it's encrypted, either by an encrypted website or a secure Wi-Fi network. An encrypted website protects only the information you send to and from that site. A secure wireless network encrypts all the information you send using that network.

The Federal Trade Commission offers these tips to protect your information when using public Wi-Fi:

- When using a hotspot, log in or send personal information only to websites you know are fully encrypted. To determine if a website is encrypted, look for **https** at the start of the web address (the "s" is for secure). Look for **https** on **every** page you visit, not just when you sign in. If you think you're logged in to an encrypted site but find yourself on an unencrypted page, log out right away.

- Unlike websites, mobile apps don't have a visible indicator like **https**. Researchers have found that many mobile apps don't encrypt information properly, so it's a bad idea to use certain types of mobile apps on unsecured Wi-Fi. If you plan to use a mobile app to conduct sensitive transactions — like filing your taxes, shopping with a credit card, or accessing your bank account — use a secure wireless network or your phone's data network. If you must use an unsecured wireless network for transactions, use the company's mobile website rather than the company's mobile app, so you can check for the **https** at the start of the web address.

- Many web browsers alert users who try to visit fraudulent websites or download malicious programs. Pay attention to these warnings, and keep your browser and security software up-to-date.

- Consider changing the settings on your mobile device so it doesn't automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi. That way, you have more control over when and how your device uses public Wi-Fi. Once you are all done with your web browsing, make sure to log off any services you were signed into. Then, tell your device to forget the network. Visit www.cellcom.com/security for additional mobile security tips.

Cellcom is an innovative wireless company that provides nationwide service for its customer base throughout Wisconsin and Michigan, with nearly 70 retail and agent locations. Cellcom is respected for its long-standing reputation of delivering extraordinary customer care, being a strong community partner, and for its renowned network, which is customized to its rural markets. As a subsidiary of Nsight, Cellcom is part of a family of companies offering complete telecommunications services.

COMING EVENTS:

November – No Meetings

**December 13 – Regular General Member Meeting –
The Corral Bar, Leopolis**

**January 10 – Christmas Party/General Member
Meeting, Golden Sands Golf Course**

**January 27 – WBA Member Meeting Day/Board
Meetings, Intercontinental Hotel,
Milwaukee**

Membership News

WRBA Members Renewed – Welcome Back!

- J C Santy Construction LLC
Representative: Brad Santy
- Gary's Doors & Service
Representative: Gary Felckowski
- Top Shelf Builders, Inc.
Representative: Bill Rapaich
- Representative: Tom Krause
- CoVantage Credit Union
Representative: Darci Kotter
- Dearco Paint & Decorating
Representative: Greg Rusch
- Knope Roofing & Furnace
Representative: Kort Knope
- L J Sperberg Construction
Representative: Larry Sperberg

Members – Renewal Due September

- Crossroads Custom Cabinetry – Cory Klement
- Wallrich Agency – Cap Wallrich

Members – Renewal Due November

- Stone Creations of WI – Trish Kieckhafer
- Woodstock Hardwood Flooring & Design Center – Philip Kersten

Members – Renewal Due December

- Maule Construction LLC – John Maule
- Menominee Tribal Enterprises – Al Quinney
- T&L Builders of Shawano LLC – Tom Darga
- V G Builders LLC – Steve Van Gheem
- Dynamic Designs Unlimited LLC – Tammy Brzezckowski

Non-Renewing Members

The following member has either allowed their membership to lapse with NAHB or have opted to not renew their membership. If you see this past member, please encourage them to renew today.

- Floors Unlimited – Tim Coffey

Membership Dues — Installment Payments

If desired, you may make installment payments on your membership dues renewal. You may split the payment up into two or three payments, with the final payment due by your renewal date. There will be no refunds if dues are not paid in full. And one payment in full when due is always an option!

Wolf River Builders Association 2015/2016 Board of Directors

President	Bill Rapaich Top Shelf Builders Inc. W8043 County Road M Shawano, WI 54166 715-524-2016
President-Elect	Greg Brown SCHS Trades Program 220 County Road B Shawano, WI 54166 715-524-2016
Treasurer	Don Pedersen KerberRose, S.C. 115 E. 5 th Street Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 526-9400
Secretary	Cap Wallrich Wallrich Agency 300 E. Green Bay St. P. O. Box 90 Shawano, WI 54166 715-526-2156
Past President	John Maule - Maule Construction LLC (715-745-2256)
Builder Directors	Trish Kieckhafer – Stone Creations of WI (715-526-8690) Mark Flunker – Wolf River Habitat for Humanity (715-584-5995)
Associate Directors	Mike Johnson – M J Electric (715-853-7630) K J Schreiber – Titletown Flooring LLC (920-655-6100) Sam Schabow – Sherwin Williams Co. (715-526-1818)
State Directors	John Maule – Maule Construction LLC Bill Rapaich – Top Shelf Builders Inc.
Executive Officer	Diane Montour Email: wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com Website: www.wolfriverbuilders.com Ph: 715-853-2310

National Association of Home Builders

Put your membership to work now.

Money-saving discounts that benefit you, your business, and your family



and many more...



nahb.org/MA