

# The *Builder* News

The Official Publication Of The Wolf River Builders Association

## Calander of Events

### January 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Listing</u>
Jan. 12	<i>WRBA Christmas Party</i> – Golden Sands Golf Course, RSVP req'd
Jan. 19-21	International Builders Show – Las Vegas
Jan. 26	WRBA Board of Directors Meeting, Launching Pad, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Chamber Banquet & Awards The Gathering, \$30/person
<b>Coming Events</b>	
Feb. 4	Chamber – Lunch & Learn, \$8.00, Resources for Finding & Training Qualified Workers, 11:45 – 1 p.m.
Feb. 9	WRBA Membership Meeting, location to be determined
Feb. 14	<i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>
Feb. 23	WRBA Board of Directors Meeting, Launching Pad, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	WBA Business Day in Madison, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Mar. 2-4	Better Buildings: Better Business Conference, WI Dells
Apr. 9-10	WRBA 2016 Home & Cottage Show at the Crawford Center!

## 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.



# WRBA

Wolf River Builders Association

*Professionals You Can Trust!*

## WRBA - January

### Christmas Party/Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016

**Where:** Golden Sands Golf Course

300 W. Nabor Road, Cecil

**Social/Networking:** 5:45 - 6:30

**Dinner:** 6:30 - Meeting to follow

**MENU – CHICKEN CORDON BLU & WALLEYE**

PLEASE RSVP to Diane

by Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

@ 715-853-2310 or via Email -

[wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com](mailto:wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com)

One meal per membership is free, but we need your RSVP! Any additional meals for spouse or guests are \$20.00 each.

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

*Hope to see you there!*

Reminder: No Shows will be billed, whether "free" meals or spouse/guest meals.

Check out the Member Benefits through NAHB –

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

### Activities

The December 8 meeting was held at Antler's Supper Club in Bonduel. We had the privilege of listening to Jerry Roloff tell us a bit about the Wolf River Habitat for Humanity store and also Trish Kieckhafer, who talked about the activities/products at Stone Creations. Thank you to both of you!

The January 12 meeting will be our Christmas party at the Golden Sands Golf Course and will include a short business meeting. Don Pedersen from KerberRose S.C. will be talking briefly about 1099's and the possible penalties involved.

We are looking for someone to share information about their business, projects, updates, offers, etc for the February meeting. Let Diane know if you are interested.

*Activities Chairperson: John Maule – 715-853-6826*

### Advertising

WRBA 2016 Advertising Campaign is just getting underway. Now is the time to get signed up for the 2016 season!

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.

As always, ad space is available on a first come, first served basis.

You can also get a 5% discount by reserving your space on an annual basis...but you must commit with the January ad and must be paid in full within the first quarter. A single ad for the 2016 year to take advantage of the 5% discount would be \$342; \$684 for the double ad on the annual basis. Contact Diane at 715-853-2310 to reserve your space today.

### Education

Don't forget to check the WBA website ([www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org)) for the education opportunities being offered by the area builders associations. Many offer "member" rates to all WBA members. There are also some plans for education classes to be offered in our area this winter. Watch your newsletters and emails for more information.

*Education Chairperson: Greg Brown – 715-526-2175*

### Membership –

We need to grow our membership! Please **invite member prospects** to the regular general membership meetings! We'll cover dinner to give them the opportunity to see what we are all about.

*Membership Chairperson: Tom Krause – 715-853-7859*

**Like Us On Facebook!!**



## **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY NAHB BENEFITS!**

### Community Service

The Board of Directors recently voted to again offer up to three \$500 scholarships for area high school students that are continuing their education in some aspect of the building trades. Greg Brown with the SCHS Trades Program was contacted regarding the idea of providing us with an item to raffle off. We have agreed to his offer of an 8 x 12 tool shed at a cost of \$1700 for WRBA. We have the tickets and will start selling raffle tickets for this item soon. We will hold the drawing at the Home Show in April at the Crawford Center.

### WRBA Home Show

The dates are set! April 9 & 10 will be the show dates for the 2016 WRBA Home Show. Packets are out! This year we also have a separate packet for Craft type vendors to see if we can increase interest in our show. Support the WRBA and our local Home Show!

### Associate of the Month Program

WRBA would like to have more of the Associate members present information about their business at the monthly general membership meetings. It could be general information about who you are and 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!



## Monday Morning Review December 18, 2015

### Property Rights and Water Law Packages Introduced

In the works for almost two years, two separate bills were introduced by State Senator Frank Lasee and Representative Adam Jarchow recently which address a number of property rights issues. The bills were broken into two bills, one to address “lands near water” and another titled “statewide uniformity.”

Both bill drafts contain a number of positive public policy changes, but, for the sake of this article, we will focus on some main highlights along with the items that we have spent the greatest amount of time on over the past two legislative sessions.

The highlights of the “lands near water” bill draft (LRB 3588) as provided by the bill authors include are:

- **Clarifies that man-made ditches and storm water control structures are NOT navigable waters.** Current law isn't clear enough to explain that even if a storm water detention system is navigable at times, it is NOT applicable to the same regulations that the natural waters of Wisconsin are. Modern storm water control structures play an important role in preventing runoff pollution from reaching our lakes, rivers, and streams. This bill will help clarify the laws regarding these structures which will cut red tape when they are designed and implemented in Wisconsin.
- **Exempts permits for dredging a man-made waterway (like a cranberry bog or stormwater pond) when the water body does not connect to a navigable waterway.**
- **Changes the way Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI) are designated.** The current process was intended to provide extra protection to a limited set of waters with special natural resource interests. Once designated, activities in those waters were not eligible for exemptions or certain general permits under chapter 30. The ASNRI definition included trout streams, outstanding natural resource waters, designated natural areas, and scientific areas. The scientific area designation has been applied in a wholesale fashion to many surface waters in the state. This bill specifies that the scientific area designation applies to those portions of waters with critical habitat for endangered species, wild rice waters, designated coastal wetlands, wild and scenic

rivers. This bill also requires JFC to approve ASNRI designations.

- **Clarifies the practical alternatives review process when a wetland permit is needed.** Currently DNR is having applicants consider alternatives on property that they don't even own as a “practical” alternative. This has proven to be anything but practical and it interfering with economic growth by forcing property owners to jump through too many hoops.
- **Removes hurdles that interfere with storm water management and man-made ditches** that are engineered to minimize runoff and pollutants carried in runoff. We all want cleaner lakes and streams. This bill makes it easier for best practices to be used for storm water management.

Clarifying state statutes on wetland “practical alternatives” is probably the main concern we have heard from our members. Recently, this issue came up in Brown County as a concern from a member who was working with a client on a home, but had an issue with a small wetland while attempting to construct a driveway. Per the DNR, the “practical alternative” for the above example was to purchase additional land not currently owned by the client that may or may not actually be for sale to complete the driveway project and start construction of the home.

The second bill draft, titled “statewide uniformity” (LRB 3936) also contain a number of key provisions including:

- **Clarifies that counties are not authorized to enact county-wide development moratoria.**
- **“Tie goes to the property owner”** – Codifies current case law by stating that if a local ordinance is challenged in court, and the ordinance is unclear, the ruling shall favor the property owner's free use of private property.
- If a professional land surveyor, in measuring a setback from an OHWM of a navigable water, relies on a map, plat, or survey that incorporates or approximates the OHWM, the setback measured is the setback with respect to a structure constructed on that property. This provision only applies if the map, plat, or survey relied upon is prepared by a professional land surveyor and DNR has not identified the OHWM on its internet site at the time the setback is measured.
- **Clarifies that land that is platted and zoned for residential, commercial, or manufacturing use is**



assessed at its unimproved value until a building permit is issued.

Point number four above is something that has been discussed for a number of years, and was first brought up as a point from the former WBA Development Council. This provision is an attempt to reestablish in state statutes a provision that used to be contained in the State of Wisconsin Assessors Manual. The concept would create a new "tier" of taxation for land that was in agriculture use value for at least two consecutive years, but is not yet fully developed with homes.

The "statewide uniformity draft" would add "land that that is platted and zoned for residential, commercial, or manufacturing use until such time that all approvals, including post-construction inspection approvals, required before the initial use of the land for a residential, commercial, or manufacturing use are issued" and that "was in agricultural use for 2 consecutive years prior to being converted to residential, commercial, or manufacturing use" to the definition of "undeveloped land". Finally, all "undeveloped land" would then be taxed at "50 percent of its full value."

We are hopeful that public hearings on both matters will happen soon. Both pieces of legislation contain multiple provisions, and additional input from interested parties will be a key part of the committee process. It is highly likely that some provisions will be slightly changed and some likely will be removed completely before any final votes take place by both houses of the legislature, hopefully sometime in January 2016.

Governor Walker also recently publicly endorsed both bills [in a statement on Wisconsin Public Radio](#). To review the entire bill draft on "statewide uniformity" [click here](#) and for see the draft titled "lands near water" [click here](#).

### **Senator Gudex Decides Against Reelection Run**

Recently the official notice that freshman State Senator Rick Gudex (R-Fond du Lac) would not seek reelection to the seat that he has held since January of 2011 was released. Gudex narrowly defeated former State Senator Jessica King for the 18th Senate District seat ([link for map](#)).

"I am proud of the many major accomplishments that this legislative body and I have realized. It has been great working with various groups of individuals, building relationships, and addressing their needs and concerns. I am confident that the decisions made during my term in office have and will continue to keep the great State of Wisconsin moving forward. As you may know, I had spent 26 years of my career in manufacturing management. I haven't lost my love for manufacturing and will be returning to the private sector. I want to thank everyone who has supported me during this term in office. It has made the experience all the better," said Senator Rick Gudex.

The race for the 18th Senate District was already at the top of list of competitive races that may determine who is in the majority in the state senate come January 2017. Gudex's retirement, which was somewhat expected in recent weeks, now creates an open seat that is very competitive in presidential election years.

There is one candidate that has already announced on the democrat side, current Winnebago County Executive [Mark Harris](#), and one candidate on the republican side, current Fond du Lac County GOP Chairman [Dan Feyen](#). Most expect multiple GOP candidates to emerge which would trigger a primary in September 2016.

The now-open seat for the 18th Senate District is likely to be the hottest, most expensive, and most competitive seat for the state senate in the 2016 election cycle. Gone are the days of former State Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh) getting token opposition (2000) or no opponent at all (2004).

### **Code Packages Moves Back to DSPS, January 1st, 2016 Effective Date**

Recently, the state legislature completed their passive review process for two building code packages that were unanimously approved by the Dwelling Code Council, one dealing with [decks](#) and another revising several provisions in [the one- and two-family code](#).

Once this package was returned to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), it was then finalized and is now officially set to take effect on January 1, 2016.

This has been a process that started in September 2013, and included the [11 member Uniform Dwelling Code Council](#). It is important to note that seven of the eleven committee members were WBA members, along with two inspector members that WBA supported in the appointment process as well.

Thank you to Chair Mike Coello, Vice Chair Mary Schroeder, Abe Degnan, Steve Gryboski, Jesse Jerabek, Peter Krabbe, and Mike Marthaler for all your hard work to make the one- and two-family building code and deck code easier to understand, with an eye on cost reduction and cost containment to keep housing affordable in Wisconsin.

### **Electrical Code Council Told to Fall in Line with National Codes**

The electrical code council recently met for the third time as they began the process of reviewing the electrical code for one- and two-family dwellings and commercial buildings. This process is expected to take most of 2016, with the goal of having a code package that would go to the legislature in early 2017.

The WBA representative on the council is Charlie Johansen of Hayward who has served on the council since Governor Tommy Thompson was in office.

For the first time, the council was joined by guests that represent electrical component manufacturers who

typically lobby for the expansive national code to be adopted in Wisconsin and all states.

The most disappointing moment of the public hearing was when a representative from the national electrical manufacturing group, when talking about [AFCIs](#) and [GFCIs](#), suggested that anyone who was against any of the items in the national code which advocate for the expanded use of AFCIs or GFCIs were against making homes safer.

It is important to note that the out-of-state representative failed to mention that each code committee at DSPS is charged with looking at both safety and affordability, and need to find a good balance for the final code package.

A lot of additional work remains before any votes are taken in the advisory code committee, and we will continue stay in close contact with Charlie, other members of the council, and DSPS staff to closely track the actions of the electrical code council.

### **Marco Rubio Talks Technical Colleges at Waukesha County Rally**

Before the much-anticipated GOP presidential took place in Milwaukee, presidential hopeful and current U.S. Senator Marco Rubio held a campaign rally in Waukesha County sandwiched between two fundraising events. During lunch, Rubio held a fundraiser for his presidential campaign, and in the evening he was the featured guest at an event for Wisconsin Speaker Robin Vos.

The well-attended rally held at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha featured an introduction by State Senator Leah Vukmir and a twenty-minute speech by Senator Rubio. You can view Rubio's [entire speech to Wisconsin voters here](#).

The most interesting part of Senator Rubio's speech, also mentioned during the debate, was when he spoke about technical college education, trade schools, and vocational colleges. During that portion of the speech ([which can be found here](#)), Rubio stated that "a welder makes a lot more than a philosopher." The welder/philosopher line was also used during the debate on November 10.

Finally, Rubio also stated that "I want to be the vocational education president. Not someone that celebrates these jobs and helps the private sector create them, but someone that actually makes it easier for make people go into those fields."

**Brad Boycks**

WBA Executive Director



## **Blue Light Exposure** - *article provided by Cellcom*

Blue light is emitted from many sources, including the sun, light bulbs, TVs, computers, tablets and smartphones. There's some evidence that blue light can impact the quantity and quality of sleep and cause. Darkness is a natural cue to our bodies that it's time for sleep, but light exposure from various screens after the sun has gone down can delay sleep. Excessive blue light exposure can lead to melatonin deficit and disruption of circadian rhythms which can mean less sleep and poorer quality sleep.

Experts in the sleep field recommend the following:

- Be mindful of blue light exposure at the end of the day.
- Proximity is an important factor with night time exposure. Considering utilizing screens that are farther away closer to bed time.
- Use your devices less in the evening. Some studies show that effect on melatonin doesn't begin until more than an hour of exposure.
- Consider staying away from devices before sleeping. Recommended time varies from 30 minutes to three hours.
- Impact on sleep, overall, is about more than just the blue light exposure. If you're having trouble sleeping, try modifying your lighting and device use, but consider other factors that may be impacting your sleep.

There are additional options for decreasing exposure to blue light in the evening. Turning the brightness setting down on laptops, tablets and phones can help. Many phones and tablets have an auto-brightness feature to automatically dim the screen when it is dark or in low light. Consider using an application that warms your screen colors depending on the time of day or a screen protector that filters blue light. Cellcom offers protective filters for some of its devices.

**#####**

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**WBA's Annual Lobby Day, Business Day** in Madison is Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Help pass WBA's 2015-2016 Advocacy Agenda by attending!

Sign up with Diane today to attend by January 18<sup>th</sup> – will need to have final list to WBA from local association by noon on 1.25.16. Cost to attend is \$130 per person.

Highlights of the day include: Governor Scott Walker; Senator Ron Johnson; Stephen Hayes, Fox News Contributor and Columnist for The Weekly Standard; Demographer and Futurist, Ken Gronbach; keynote speaker Larry Kudlow, Host of CNBA's Primetime Kudlow and Company and a chance to lobby your local legislators to help the building industry in 2016.

The recommended time for state capitol office visits is 2:15 to 3:00 pm but if you would like you can schedule meeting at the capitol any time after the issue briefing is complete at 9:00 am (but that would require members to miss some of the scheduled speakers). There would also be time for office visits after the event from 4:00-5:00 pm.

**Tentative Business Day in Madison 2016 schedule:**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**

5:00-7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception at the Madison Club, 5 West Wilson Street, Madison WI

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

7:30-9:00 a.m.: WBA Issue Briefing

9:00 a.m.: Group Welcome

9:15 a.m.: Ken Gronbach, President of KGC Direct, LLC and an internationally respected demographer

10:15 a.m.: Break

10:30 a.m.: Senator Ron Johnson

Noon: Lunch

12:15 p.m.: Larry Kudlow, Host of CNBC's Primetime Kudlow & Company

1:30 p.m.: Stephen Hayes, senior writer at The Weekly Standard and a Fox News Contributor

2:15 p.m.: Legislative Visits/Afternoon Meetings (by invitation only)

3:00 p.m.: Governor Scott Walker

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: Additional time for Legislative Visits scheduled by local associations

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

***"The Bottom Line"*** – the monthly newsletter of the **Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce** – provides us with the following dates/events:

Jan. 28 – Chamber Banquet & Awards, The Gathering, Shawano, \$30/person; \$240/Table of 8

Feb. 4 – Lunch & Learn, Chamber Office, Resources for Finding & Training Qualified Workers, \$8 for members, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Feb. 4 – Alcohol & Drug Abuse: A Library of Resources for Employers, 4<sup>th</sup> workshop, 8 – 10:30 a.m., Borders Inn and Suites, Shawano

Feb. 12 – Wine & Cheese Tasting, The Main Event, Cecil, 7:00 – 10 p.m., \$30/person in advance. To benefit Rural Health Initiative

More info on these events is available from the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 unless otherwise stated.

## **WRBA Membership News**

### **WRBA Member Renewed – Welcome Back!**

- Maule Construction  
Representative: John Maule
- V G Builders LLC  
Representative: Steve Van Gheem
- Dynamic Designs Unlimited  
Representative: Tammy Brzezckowski
- Brady's Septic Service Inc.  
Representative: Wayne Brady
- Menominee Tribal Enterprises  
Representative: Al Quinney

### **Members – Renewal Due November**

- Stone Creations of WI – Trish Kieckhafer

### **Members – Renewal Due December**

- T & L Builders of Shawano, LLC – Tom Darga
- Valley Cabinet, Inc. – Mike Stoller

### **Members – Renewal Due February**

- Robinson Construction LLC – Ray Robinson
- Torborg's Shawano Lumber – Jim Torborg
- Bill Biese Masonry Inc. – Bill Biese

### **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.

- Associated Bank – Dan Miller

### **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!

You can benefit by recruiting new members for WRBA this month and every month! Receive \$20 off your next membership renewal for each Associate member you recruit; \$40 for each Builder member you recruit. We are promoting membership for the balance of our meetings in 2015...plan to bring a prospective new member to see what WRBA is all about!

## **Wolf River Builders Association 2015/2016 Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	John Maule Maule Construction LLC 206 E. Freeborn Street Cecil, WI 54111 715-745-2256
<b>President-Elect</b>	Bill Rapaich Top Shelf Builders Inc. W8043 County Road M Shawano, WI 54166 715-524-2016
<b>Treasurer</b>	Don Pedersen KerberRose, S.C. 115 E. 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Shawano, WI 54166 (715) 526-9400
<b>Secretary</b>	Cap Wallrich Wallrich Agency 300 E. Green Bay St. P. O. Box 90 Shawano, WI 54166 715-526-2156
<b>Past President</b>	Mark Flunker - Wolf River Habitat for Humanity (715-584-5995)
<b>Builder Directors</b>	Mary Huntington – Crossroads Custom Cabinetry (715-526-3261) Trish Kieckhafer – Stone Creations of WI (715-526-8690)
<b>Associate Directors</b>	Tom Krause –Cellcom (715-853-7859) Bill Gorman–Gorman Plumbing (715-853-6231) Tammy Brzezckowski – Dynamic Designs Unlimited (920-822-4450)
<b>State Directors</b>	John Maule – Maule Construction LLC Bill Rapaich – Top Shelf Builders Inc.
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Diane Montour Email: <a href="mailto:wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com">wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.wolfriverbuilders.com">www.wolfriverbuilders.com</a> Ph: 715-853-2310

***Members Support Other Members!***





# WRBA Christmas Party

**Where:** Golden Sands Golf Course  
300 W. Nabor Road, Cecil

**When:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
Networking – 5:45 p.m.  
Dinner – 6:30 p.m.  
Short meeting to follow

**Menu:** Chicken Cordon Blu & Walleye

**Cost:** One meal free per membership  
Addt'l Guest/Spouse – \$20 each

**RSVP:** Call Diane at (715) 853-2310 or  
email reply no later than  
**Thurs., January 7 at**  
[wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com](mailto:wolfriverbuilders@gmail.com)

Would you like to donate a door prize?  
All donations are appreciated!

(Remember – “no shows” *will be billed*, including  
otherwise “free” meals). I need a firm count for  
dinner by Thursday, January 7, 2016.

**Hope to see you there!**