

LOCAL EVENTS**Anchorage**

- Parade of Homes Banquet will be October 6 at the 49th State Brewing Company
- AHBA Christmas Party is on December 15th, also at the 49th State Brewing Company

For more information, visit:

www.ahba.net

Northern SEABIA

- Call 907-463-5774 for information on Juneau's General Membership Meetings

For more information, visit

www.seabia.com

Interior Alaska Building Association

- IABA's Parade of Homes will be held October 7th and 8th
- Holiday Party and Parade Awards on November 10th

For more information, visit:

www.interioralaskabuilders.com

2017 ASHBA Legislative Summary

This year's legislature will be noted for the longest consecutive number of days in session. For Alaska's home building industry, here's a summary of what happened to a few specific bills of interest:

SB45 would require a disclosure by an unlicensed contractor who attempted to sell a home within two years after construction began. This bill passed the Senate on April 15th by a vote of 19-0, and then was given only committee referral (Labor & Commerce Committee) in the House. The bill will still be awaiting further advancement when the Second Regular Session convenes in January.

HB79, the omnibus workers' compensation bill, was amended at the request of the Alaska State Home Builders Association to define an independent contractor. This was to address misclassification problems, and to help establish boundaries between contractors and subs for work comp coverage. The bill advanced through two committees in the House, and ended up in the House Finance Committee at the end of the 90-Day session. No Senate action was taken on the companion bill.

HB90 is a bill that would establish an occupational licensing surcharge within the office of occupational licensing. The purpose of the bill is to spread the cost of licensure enforcement across all licensed trades and professions, which would have a higher impact on those trades with a higher total number of licensed individual and businesses. On April 21st, the bill was advanced to the House Rules Committee, where it is awaiting calendaring for a vote by the full House of Representatives sometime next year. There is no Senate companion bill. 4

We also began drafting a new bill to establish a statewide residential building code. This has long been a goal of Alaska's home building associations, and we hope to advance this to a full committee hearing next session.

One of our biggest accomplishments this past year is in the area of workers' compensation insurance rates. For over a decade, Alaska was the #1 state in the nation for work comp insurance. This year, Alaska moved down to #5 primarily because of legislation we supported in 2014 (HB316) to address rising medical costs. Last year, a new medical fee schedule was adopted that lowered overall rates by 4%, and is expected to continue to squeeze down rates going forward.

In conclusion, this long-lasting session advanced our specific bills into a good position for passage next year. The bigger issues of concern remain about addressing the state's overall financial situation in order for business investments to predict their risk, which impacts the overall state economy.

John Bitney

LOCAL EVENTS**MatSu Home Builders Association**

- Membership Drive Cocktail Party with SBS in October
- Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner on Dec. 8th

For more information, visit:
www.matsuhomebuilders.com

Southern SEABIA

For more information, visit:
www.sealaskabuilders.com

Kenai Peninsula Builders Association

- KPBA Annual Meeting and Election on October 19th at Paradisos
- Annual KPBA Awards Banquet on November 16 at Kenai Catering

For more information, visit:
www.kenaipeninsula.builders.com

Aaron Welterlen, 2017 ASHBA President

It has been a trying time for builders in Alaska this past year. With the State at an impasse regarding budgetary issues, the economic outlook for Alaska continues to meander along with no real signs for improvement.

Here in Fairbanks, we are poised to receive two squadrons of F-35's by 2020, while this should be a boon to us local contractors, we are hindered by low appraisals, high building costs and the general lack of lending capital. In the long run this will benefit us, in the short term we just meander along.

It is time for the State to get its act together for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Homeownership is one of the most important factors in a strong, thriving community. People take pride in their homes, which leads to neighborhood pride, this in turn leads to both local community and statewide pride. It is our industry's duty to provide the housing that leads to this feeling of community, and we do a fine job of it.

Our job will be for naught if the State is unable to get a fiscal plan together. Consumer confidence is one of the most important items in our industry. Consumers only spend money on major projects when they are comfortable in their jobs and feel secure. So far, our industry hasn't suffered a severe decline (as occurred in the 80's recession), but we definitely have felt the impact. It is only a matter of time until we feel the effects more.

This can easily change with Legislators coming together to find common ground for the benefit of all Alaskans. It will be up to us to let them know how they are doing and we shouldn't be shy in voicing our opinions, whether we feel it's good or bad for Alaska.

I hope that the remainder of 2017 continues to treat all of you well, I look forward to making further progress on SB 45 this coming year, and I hope that 2018 will be a year to remember.

Kind Regards,

Aaron Welterlen, President
Alaska State Home Building Association



ASHBA 2017 Building Conference

The 2017 Building Conference will be held November 1 - 3 at the beautiful Hotel Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. This year's conference has great events, education, speakers and networking.



BUILD AK
2017 CONFERENCE
November 1-3 | Alyeska Resort, Girdwood

- GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH THE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING INDUSTRY
- MEET THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS THIRD VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, DEAN MON
- MEET THE COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING
- DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOM RATE UNTIL OCTOBER 9th
- TWO DAYS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND REAL ESTATE LICENSEES
- REGISTER AT WWW.ASHBACONFERENCE.COM

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide an organization wherein building contractors and persons engaged in a trade, industry or profession related to housing may meet to discuss various problems of common interest, particularly those related to labor, production and finance. To maintain high standards in the building industry, to support building contractors in efforts to rectify conditions of an unsatisfactory nature, to encourage those methods of contracting work which reduce the building contractors risks and to encourage sound business methods. We are an aggressive, service oriented Association run by and for the membership.

FOLLOW US

On the web at:

buildersofalaska.com

On Facebook at:

Alaska State Home Building Association



Raffle

The Alaska State Home Building Association will conduct a gun wall raffle with its gaming permit. The winning tickets will be drawn at the 2017 Building Conference, November 3rd in Girdwood. Contact a member or the executive officer of your local association to purchase a ticket.

State Membership Summary

Local Association Members on 8.31.2017

AHBA - 49 Builders & 168 Associates
NSEABIA - 14 Builders & 31 Associates
MAT-SU HBA - 41 Builders & 69 Associates
KPBA - 37 Builders & 41 Associates
IABA - 48 Builders & 81 Associates
SSEABIA - 11 Builders & 31 Associates



The Member Rebate Program (MRP) is a free member benefit of the Alaska State Home Building Association available to all active Builder and Remodeler Members. With over 5,200 active members nationwide, MRP gave an average of \$1,010.63 to members in 2014 alone. ASHBA's Member Rebate Program lets builders and remodelers receive cash rebates for using certain manufacturers' products in the building and remodeling of homes. There are currently 51 participating manufacturers covering 35+ difference product categories.

Alaska State Home Building Association
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Anchorage, Alaska 99509
Robin E. Ward, Executive Officer
907-644-4190

We are on the Web at
www.buildersofalaska.com
and Facebook

2017 Board of Directors

Andre Spinelli, Anchorage - Past President & Leg. Co-Chair
Aaron Welterlen, Fairbanks - President
Carolyn Foelsch, Fairbanks - Associate Vice Pres. & Membership Co-Chair
Jim Dunlap, Anchorage - Vice President & Leg Co-Chair
Richard Carr, MatSu - Treasurer & Finance Co-Chair
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**Alaska State
Home Building Association**