



The Alaskan Job Site

Volume 13 Issue 3
www.buildersofalaska.com

Newsletter of the Alaska State Home Building Association

July 2007

To: Members of the Alaska State Homebuilding Association
From: National Representative State of Alaska

Dear ASHBA Board Members:

I just returned from the NAHB's Summer Executive Board Meeting that was held in San Francisco. These Executive Board meetings are always well attended. The depth of commitment of the Board amazes me. The time commitment and attention that many of these individuals have made to our industry deserves our gratitude. Many have been deeply involved in the association for decades. I encourage all of you to become more involved at a National level by applying to serve on a committee or council. The deadline for applying is September 28th for 2008 appointments and can be done by going to (www.nahb.org/committeeform). Alaskans have traditionally had a strong voice on these committees and we certainly want that to continue.

All of the issues I recently addressed to you in my last report are still priorities. Following is a brief summary of some issues that were presented to us in San Francisco that have importance to Alaska. I have also included my notes from the NAHB's Chief Economist at my reports conclusion.

Global Climate Change:

The U.S. Senate passed energy legislation on June 21 to include higher fuel economy standards for vehicles, mandates for biofuels production, increased efficiency requirements for home appliances and green building criteria for federal facilities. The House Energy and Commerce Committee has passed companion legislation that has several noticeable differences from the Senate version. A full House vote is expected in late July. NAHB successfully worked to amend a section of the Senate's bill requiring energy code increases for FHA properties by establishing a review for accessibility and affordability conducted by the relevant agencies.

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits:

NAHB is scheduled to meet with the Department of Energy on July 30 to discuss regulatory barriers to accessing energy efficient tax credits, including definitional and acquisition issues. The Senate failed to include a tax title in its recent energy legislation (H.R. 6), although the Senate Finance Committee approved a three-year extension of the new home energy tax credits to Dec. 31, 2011 in mid-June. The House Ways and Means Committee voted down an amendment to include an extension for the credits in its energy tax bill in June, despite vocal bipartisan support.

Wetlands:

Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) has introduced the Clean Water Restoration Act that would greatly expand the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. Hearings on the bill (H.R. 2421) are expected to be held in July; there is no word about when the Senate might move on similar legislation. NAHB continues to work against the bill in partnership with the Waters Advocacy Coalition. NAHB also recently filed a lawsuit against the 2007 suite of Nationwide Permits – specifically NWP 46, which covers discharges in ditches – and our court appeal against the 2002 suite of NWPs is underway.

Storm Water:

NAHB has met with staff at the EPA Office of Water and Office of Wastewater Management to discuss ways to simplify the Construction General Permit that is set to expire in 2008. NAHB and the Associated General Contractors are looking into whether there is sufficient interest to develop a joint advocacy strategy on this with other construction-related industry stakeholders. Meanwhile, NAHB continues to track State Construction General Permits that are set to expire in 2007 and will provide comments to the HBAs once a draft state construction general permit is issued. NAHB is developing a toolkit to help HBAs get involved in and influence their local storm water regulations. At the same time, NAHB staff continues to assist HBAs in their efforts to comment on ordinances that are being proposed to meet the storm water federal phase II rules for MS4s. NAHB has met recently with numerous key members of Congress to discuss reintroduction of storm water reform legislation.

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Spike Report for the Alaska State Home Builders Association

As of June 30, 2007

Anchorage.....311 Members

Matt Matthews 850.50 Life Spike
 Richard Coan 359.00 Life Spike
 Chuck Spinelli..... 324.50 Life Spike
 Evan Rowland..... 241.00 Life Spike
 Clai Porter 188.50 Life Spike
 Bill Taylor 116.00 Life Spike
 Creta Bloxom 113.50 Life Spike
 Michael Quinn 109.00 Life Spike
 Jim Ward..... 106.00 Life Spike
 Jim Jackson 104.00 Life Spike

Retention Rate..... 80.3%

Juneau.....106 Members

Rita Hamilton..... 214.00 Life Spike
 Jeffrey De Smet..... 96.00 Life Spike
 Wes Keller 88.50 Life Spike
 Alan Wilson 87.00 Life Spike
 Steve Burnett..... 72.00 Life Spike
 Gary Ogden..... 57.00 Life Spike
 Bruce Denton 41.50 Life Spike
 Susan Ogden 34.50 Life Spike
 Russ McDougal..... 24.50 credits

Retention Rate..... 84.9%

Mat-Su175 Members

Jess Hall 330.00 Life Spike
 Scott Pattison 109.00 Life Spike
 Thom Antonovich 78.50 Life Spike
 Steven Orr 66.50 Life Spike
 David Owens..... 45.50 Life Spike
 Bill Standard 40.00 Life Spike
 Kathy Martin..... 36.00 Life Spike
 Gary Smith..... 35.50 Life Spike
 Bill Bruu..... 27.50 Life Spike
 Tom Smith 23.00 Credits

Retention Rate..... 76.6%

Kenai..... 106 Members

Robin Ward 183.50 Life Spike
 Jean Bunn 152.50 Life spike
 Steve Wisdom..... 125.50 Life Spike
 Nichole Smith..... 78.50 Life Spike
 Bob Hammer 24.50 credits
 Jeff Twait..... 23.50 credits
 Gene Rabung 14.00 credits
 Marilyn Pipkin..... 12.50 credits
 Tim Moerlein..... 10.00 credits
 Larry Smith..... 5.00 credits

Retention Rate 85.7%

Interior 203 Members

Steve Bee 671.50 Life Spike
 Terry Duszynski 332.50 Life Spike
 Randy Wakefield..... 318.50 Life Spike
 Mark Tomlinson 199.50 Life Spike
 Richard Tilly..... 189.00 Life Spike
 Jack Hebert 139.50 Life Spike
 David Miller 129.50 Life Spike
 Dave Dillard 101.50 Life Spike
 Mike Musick..... 58.50 Life Spike
 Paul Sauer..... 46.00 Life Spike

Retention Rate 82.3%

Ketchikan 64 Members

Kelley Roth..... 116.00 Life Spike
 Andy Rauwolf 19.50 credits
 John Matsura 16.50 credits
 Michael McKim 10.00 credits
 Trish Hoover..... 2.00 credits
 Garnet Dima 1.50 credits
 Gwen Byrd 1.50 credits

Retention Rate 77.4%

Alaska State HBA..... 965 Members

ASHBA Retention Rate ... 80.8%

(Continued from Page 1)

Green Building:

NAHB has begun developing a toolkit to assist state and local HBAs that are facing legislation that would mandate the costly requirements of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. Alaska is a bit ahead of the curve here. I will be sharing with NAHB (and all of you) the certification program that IABA has recently developed. There is consensus of the Executive Board that third party verification will be necessary for any credible program. To preserve cost-effective, market-driven green building, NAHB and the ICC are partnering in the development of the first ANSI standard for residential green building, which will be based on NAHB's Model Green Home Building Guidelines and published by Feb. 1, 2008. At NAHB's Spring Board meeting, members voted to fund a National Green Building Program, so that a turn-key, builder-friendly alternative to the LEED programs. Development of our National Green Building Program is taking place on an accelerated schedule, with the NAHB Research Center already initiating work on the interactive scoring software and website. NAHB Vice President/Secretary Bob Jones testified before the House Small Business Committee on July 11 about NAHB's plans for a national program and related green building efforts. He also provided recommendations to Congress on how to promote training and provide incentives for builders to build green and energy-efficient homes. NAHB successfully worked to remove specific references to the USGBC's LEED program from federal energy legislation that passed the Senate in June and is now moving through the House.

Fire Sprinklers:

Following NAHB's successful efforts to keep fire sprinkler mandates out of the main body of the International Residential Code in the most recent code development cycle, we can expect to face an even more intense challenge in the 2007/2008 code development cycle, which is already underway. NAHB will continue its grassroots campaign to lobby voting code officials at the state and local level and to increase the number of voting code officials attending ICC hearings who are in favor of NAHB's position. We will also be looking to employ new strategies related to the debate on fire sprinklers at the state and local level, and our CC&S Committee's Fire Safety Working Group will come up with recommendations on how to do this. Significant fire incidents are also pushing the issue into more public forums. As an example, NAHB was recently forced to take action against disparaging and untrue remarks made by a rogue fire official during CNN coverage of the recent South Carolina furniture store fire. NAHB secured a written apology from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, who the rogue official had falsely claimed to represent. CNN subsequently agreed to pull the interview from the air.

Immigration Reform:

The Senate failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation at the end of June, effectively killing the bill in the current Congress. In the absence of federal immigration legislation, NAHB expects the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to continue ramping up enforcement efforts on employers.

We also expect to see a continued increase in state and local activity on immigration for the remainder of this year and beginning of 2008; the number of bills introduced has already more than doubled over the past year to beyond 1,100.

Our Industry's Economic Condition:

Dr. Dave Seiders, the NAHB's, Chief Economist, always gives an interesting and detailed analysis of the economic condition of the home building industry. His report on July 21st to the Board was true to form. On the bright side Dr. Seiders reported that the US economy is doing well. Unemployment is down to less than 4%. Inflation appears to be under control. Interest rates are steady and the prime mortgage market is stable. Building materials and labor costs are essentially flat. The global economy also seems healthy and much of this is reflected in the strength of the financial markets.

However, the housing sector nationwide is doing poorly. The market index for our industry is down to early 1990 levels. Single family permits are down 31% on average nationally with Florida and Michigan down 57% and California 45%. Alaska was shown to be off about 33% with Anchorage the most significant contributor to the downturn. Housing starts this year are half of what they were in 2005 as are home sales for the bigger builders. There are 1.5 million homes vacant in the US, 6.5% of new homes which is a record high. Not good news obviously. Dr Seiders does not see a turnaround soon as there are still many homes in construction now that are not sold. One builder attending the board meeting said that his company has been experiencing a 50% cancellation rate in his Texas market. Despite the poor market conditions the affordability index for these homes is still not good. Prices have fallen in many areas but still not to a level that addresses affordability for many people.

There have also been some setbacks in the remodeling sector according to Seiders. It appears that major remodels such as additions are down somewhat. This may be due to concerns about equity at a time of possible deflation in home value. The maintenance sector for remodelers does seem to be fine.

The NAHB website (www.nahb.org) has regular reports on the economic health of our industry. It is a good place to get a sense of the trends that may affect your businesses. I hope none of you are experiencing hardships and that your schedules are full. Alaska has always been a market unto itself and of course we're all survivors. A little slower pace wouldn't hurt many of us. My best to all of you.

Jack (388-3583)

Jack Hébert, Fairbanks

News Around the State

Notes From Kenai HBA

With the summer building season in full swing and the salmon run at its peak, our members on the Kenai are staying busy and are hopefully managing to squeeze in some time to catch a fish or two.

Our annual family picnic was a great success and a fun event. The weather cooperated nicely, the food was good and all the kids as well as a few lucky adults walked away with a prize. Thanks to Wells Fargo for their continuing sponsorship and to our Board of Directors for their hard work and support in making sure it all went off without a hitch.

We are hoping to see the implementation of a health plan for ASHBA members and appreciate the efforts of ASHBA to provide this great member benefit. There was a good response from KPBA members to the benefits survey and our members are looking forward to more information for possible health care options.

Best wishes to our members across Alaska for a safe and productive season. We are looking forward to the ASHBA Convention and hope to see you in Girdwood!

Cindy Heaverley
Executive Officer

Notes From Mat-Su HBA

No article was submitted by the deadline

Emma Markley
Executive Officer

Notes From Anchorage HBA

The Anchorage Home Builders Association awarded their yearly scholarship to Nathan Rasmussen, the son of Paul Rasmussen owner of Mountaintops, LTD.

We were awarded the 2007 STAR Award from Anchorage School District Superintendent, Carol Comeau for our partnership in working on the Anchorage Construction Academy to promote workforce development.

Four of our members represented the AHBA in Washington DC during the Legislative visit and NAHB Board of Directors meeting. It was a great visit for our members and their families to see government at work.

The *Buy Now* campaign started May 21st with over 250 radio spots monthly to encourage consumers to buy. The ads will run until the end of September. We appreciate the matching funds from NAHB to make this a great program.

We just completed our annual golf tournament with everyone having a great time. This event always tells us it's summer and that Fall is just around the corner.

We are very proud of our website and encourage all of you to go to ahba.net to take a look. Have a great summer!!!

Vicki Portwood
Executive Officer

Notes From Northern SEABIA

It's been a busy summer for Juneau SEABIA, and we've been having a decent summer weather-wise. Recently, we have published our 2007 membership directory – Consumer's Guide to Building in Southeast Alaska. We also are gearing up for our summer excursion which is this Saturday, July 28th. We'll be going on a whale watching cruise for 2 hours and then we will cruise to the Orca Point Lodge, located on the south side of Colt Island to have dinner. If any of you are planning to be in town and want to like to take advantage of this great event, give us a call at the office.

We are sad to report that our Treasurer, Erik Niebuhr will be leaving us. He has accepted a position in Homer. He's been a great asset to the association and we wish him all the best.

Hope everyone is having a great summer!

Nelda Steward
Executive Officer

Notes From Interior HBA

The spring and summer have flown by here. Everyone is very busy with their building season and IABA is no exception. Our Season Kick off cruise was a huge success with over 200 people coming aboard for the festivities. Interior Alaska Green Building Initiative is well under way. We now have certified third party verifiers and an excellent checklist for the verifiers and builders to use to certify their green homes. We are working on the Interior Alaska Version of the Green Building Guidelines which will be completed soon. Many thanks to the Green Building Committee: Mike Musick, Robert Maxwell, Lynn Kuhl, Terry Duszynski and especially Thorsten Chlupp for developing the spreadsheet for our GBI Calculator. Look for a press release soon to come which will include our first certified green home. Two builders are vying for the honor. Who shall it be?

We also held a yard sale for our local Habitat for Humanity. It brought in over \$20,000.00 to help Habitat build their homes. Many thanks to all the volunteers and especially Steve Gochis of Alaskan Counter Fitters and Cindy Dillard of 3-2-1 Construction who stood by the entire weekend and helped with all the preparations! Now we are gearing up for our Parade of Homes! Coming to town September 29th and 30th! If you are in the area give us a call and we will show you around! Hopefully everyone is finding sometime to squeeze some playtime into their busy schedules. All work and no play Have a great summer!

Sasha Zemanek
Executive Officer

News Around the State

Notes From Ketchikan HBA

The Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association held a Family Picnic last Saturday, July 21st at Settler's Cove. The event was well attended. We would like to thank our sponsors: Matsu Alaska Construction, LLC, Edwardson Enterprises, Ketchikan Mechanical, Inc. and Wells Fargo Bank. We hope to make this an annual event.

Our HomeBuilder's Care venture for 2007 was helping a Boy Scout with his Eagle Project this spring. Taylor Murph chose to build a set of stairs from the trail way to the beach at Settler's Cove. This met the project requirement section of his Eagle Scout Achievement. Experienced builders were required because of the difficulty of the project. The stairs were completed over Spring Break and the 3 week-ends following. This was a valuable endeavor that helped improve the picnic area. Hikers had been cutting down the hillside to the beach causing extensive erosion; the addition of the stairs will eliminate this problem. At least two builders were available each day Taylor worked on the stairs. Taylor attended our Family Picnic and presented our organization with an Appreciation Plaque.

May was a very successful membership drive for our local. We were very proud to be able to report 11 new members to NAHB on Membership Day. We are now over 70 members strong! Following the membership drive our Builder's Directory was published with distribution beginning in June. It has been very well received in Ketchikan and surrounding areas. We are receiving a lot of inquiries and requests for the directory since publication.

In June, NAHB conducted training for our Board of Directors. The training included Board of Director's Orientation and Running Effective Meetings facilitated by Joshua Dick of NAHB. All of the Directors felt it was valuable worthwhile training and would recommend it to other locals.

The Ketchikan association is very excited about the \$1.5 million for Construction Academy Statewide expansion. Ketchikan is in great need of vocational training in the Construction Trade. Thanks ASHBA for all your hard work with this issue!!

The BIA of Washington is holding an education cruise immediately following Fall Board in Seattle. They will be stopping in Ketchikan for the day on September 11, 2007. We would like to remind everyone that we are offering shore excursions during their visit. We hope to be able to make some non-dues revenue on these excursions. Please contact our office if you want further information.

Our bi-annual Trade Show has been scheduled for February 9 & 10th, 2008 at the Ted Ferry Civic Center. We would like to see you here.

Pamela Roth
Executive Officer

If you haven't tried ASHBA's General Liability Insurance Program

Call Eric Parthemer 1-800-347-8774

Tom Smith, North Country Builders in the Mat-su Valley reported, "I got a smoking deal and the paperwork took 15 minutes to fill out for a quote."

Jim Jackson, Northwood Homes in Eagle River, "I re-applied and switched my insurance over to Totem Agencies, Eric and his staff did a great job in getting my quote out to me quickly and at a lower rate."



Join the Growing Ranks of
ASHBA Members that Enjoy this
GREAT BENEFIT



Totem Agencies
P.O. Box 3419
Kirkland, WA 98083-3419
Fax: 425.827.8774
HomeBuilders@totemagencies.com

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Jackson, President

Anchorage P/694-5890 F/694-5891

Bob Hammer, Vice President/Membership Chair

Kenai P/262-9870 F/260-6196

Nichole Smith, Associate Vice President/Alt. Nat. Assoc. Dir.

Kenai P/262-4494 F/262-3925

Russ McDougal, Treasurer

Juneau P/790-4896 F/790-4896

Wally Smith, Secretary

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Tom Smith, Past President/Past President's Chair

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Position vacant, Build-Pac Chair**Wes Keller**, Nat. Assoc. Dir./Member Benefit Chair

Juneau P/283-7503 F/283-7719

Clai Porter, National Build-Pac Trustee/Senior Life Director

Anchorage P/562-2283 F/563-8366

Terry Duszynski, Alt. National Build-Pac Trustee

Fairbanks P/479-3324 F/479-9319

Vicki Portwood, Executive Officer

P/644-4190 F/522-3757

DIRECTORS

Anchorage	Jim Jackson	694-5890
	Chuck Spinelli	344-5678
	Paul Michelsohn	522-3375
	Eric Schach (alternate)	349-2454
	Vicki Portwood , Executive Officer	522-3605
Fairbanks	Dave Dillard	488-1239
	Carolyn Foelsch	479-4056
	Sue Ellison	457-2221
	Dave Costello (alternate)	457-6045
	Sandy Fish , Executive Officer	455-6650
Juneau	John Wood	789-2282
	Eric Neibuer	790-8005
	Tom Sullivan (alternate)	790-5170
	Nelda Steward , Executive Officer	463-5774
Kenai	Larry Smith	262-6160
	Nichole Smith	262-4494
	Jeff Twait (alternate)	262-2887
	Cindy Heaverley , Executive Officer	283-8071
Ketchikan	P. Kelley Roth	225-4488
	Calvin Bakk	617-1403
	Charles Dearden (alternate)	225-6822
	Pam Roth , Executive Officer	247-4903
Mat-Su	Position Vacant	
	Dave Owens	746-5471
	Scott Pattison	357-3301
	Jeff Clements (alternate)	373-1389
	Emma Markley , Executive Officer	376-2666

**Visit the State
Association
Website:
buildersofa-**



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Executive Officers Report

NAHB Spring Board and Legislative Visit June 5-11, 2007 – Washington DC

The meetings/events I attended were:

Capitol Hill Visits

We were well represented with 23 members from Alaska to visit, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Ted Stevens and Rep. Don Young. Pictures will be in the June newsletter.

Emerging Issues Facing Associations: Implications for the Future of HBA's

The presentation was what our HBA could expect in the next 20 years. The driving forces on our association is Society (changing demographics), Technology (information and communication explosion), Economy (globalization of economy the haves and have nots), Environment (global climate and resource changes) and Politics (accountability, transparency and budget constraints). As an association we need to look to these trends and make the changes necessary to keep our HBA young and vibrant. The ideas that came from this presentation will be coming out in the next months.

State EO Forum

Executive Officers from around the nation met to discuss issues common to all of us. In our state there are several things we need to accomplish for our builders. The AKWARM energy rating program needs to be certified federally so that the Alaskan builder could participate in the Energy Tax Credit Program. The movement to embrace Green Building is in high gear. Our builders are already building green. We need to quantify exactly where we are so the public will understand we are truly green. We need to continue our work to bring a Worker's Comp Insurance program to our members to reduce their premiums that right now in Alaska are the highest in the nation.

State & Local Government Affairs Focus Group

NAHB asked me to serve on this focus group to discuss future State and Local Government Affairs meetings. I was able to represent you in the type of meetings you want to attend. There was representation at the meeting that wanted to change it to a professional lobbyist meeting rather than a meeting to educate the HBA volunteer member. The recommendation that came out of the discussion was to keep it to two and half days and educate the HBA member to be able to work in your local area on the issues affecting the construction industry.

President's Council Meeting

This is the first year that NAHB included Executive Officers as part of this meeting. The time was well spent working on Membership, Public Relations, Small Association Issues, Government Affairs, Industry Issues and Governance and Operations. You will be seeing the results from this meeting in the coming months.

The Inside Scoop on Lobbying Your Government Officials

John Napier, former US Congressman and formal federal judge discussed how to lobby. He told us to push our agenda because no one else will. The Lobbyist Motto: "Be fair, precise, professional and persevere." The Lobbyist Code of Conduct: "Be good and do the best you can." John gave us some practical solutions on how to handle the visit with your legislator. We need to foster a relationship with the local office of each of our US Congressmen.

Area 15 Caucus

The five states got together to discuss the issues that would be coming before them at the upcoming Board of Director meetings. Everyone was warned that there is a lot of money out there and builders need to be careful you know when to build and when not to build. NAHB spends \$.89 to make \$1.00 for the NAHB Build-Pac fundraising. There is a drive to increase the funds in the NAHB Build-Pac. Green Building is at the forefront and a new program to develop a Standard for Green Building will be coming our in February 2008. The Remodelors Council changed their name to NAHB remodelers so that is could be googled. All states are experiencing a slow down in new construction at this time.

Board of Directors Meetings

Dave Sieders Economist for NAHB stated that there has been a dramatic change in the housing marketing since the IBS in February. Interest rates are good and will not be falling. We will be below the housing start trends of the last few years and may not get back to that trend until sometime in 2010 - 2012. Remodeling is not counter cyclical to new construction and there will be some decline this year. We are not experiencing an economic recession and until we do there will be no interest rate reduction.

I appreciate the Alaska State Home Building Association and Anchorage Home Builders Association for sending me to Washington DC. I received a scholarship from NAHB to offset some of the costs which is a great help.

Vicki Portwood
Executive Officer

The Alaskan Job Site

Alaska State Home Building Association
8301 Schoon, Ste 200
Anchorage, AK 99518

Washington DC

Legislative
Visit



2007 Calendar

September

5-9 NAHB Fall Board-Seattle, WA

November

1-3 State Convention—Alyeska Resort
Contact Mat-su HBA to register
at 376-2666

8-10 State & Local Govmt Affairs-Austin, TX

Contact the office at 644-4190 if you have
an item for the calendar

State Convention
Nov 1-3
Alyeska Resort

Visit
NAHB website:
NAHB.org



Alaska State Home Building Association named:
Clai Porter, Builder of the Year 2006
Mark Tomlinson, Associate of the Year 2006