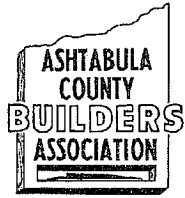


INTEGRITY



# BUILDERS PLAN

December 2010 / January 2011

P.O. Box 745

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-0745

Telephone (440) 997-1866

ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net

www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org

## ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS

"The Voice of the Industry in Ashtabula County"

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We hope you have a  
Prosperous and Happy  
Holiday Season!

Your Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Happy Holidays Everyone,

I want to thank everyone that attended the annual meeting. I hope everyone will be enjoying the upcoming holidays. This year has come and gone fairly quickly and it has been pretty good for most of the people I have talked with. I hope the coming year is as good or better but we will have to wait and see. This is my last letter as your president, and I want to thank you all for allowing me the honor to be president for the last two years. I have enjoyed it and I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year at the general meetings and special events. Mr. Joe Oros will be taking over for the coming year and I look forward to working with him. As always your association is here to assist you in any way possible. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you,

Rick

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 13th	Tax Changes Elks
January 22nd-January 23rd	Casino Trip Seneca Niagara
February 26th	Reverse Raffle Jefferson 4H Building
March 10th	General Meeting
April 14th	General Meeting
May 12th	General Meeting
June 9th	Steak Fry
July 14th	Golf Outing

Happy Hour is 6:00pm - 7:00pm

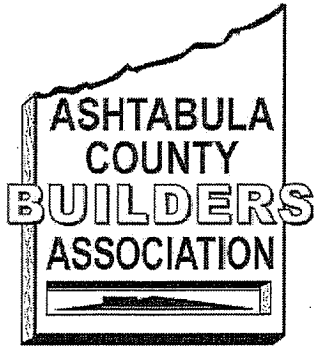
Dinner 7:00pm

RSVP by Sunday prior to meeting date and if you need to cancel please call by

Monday evening.

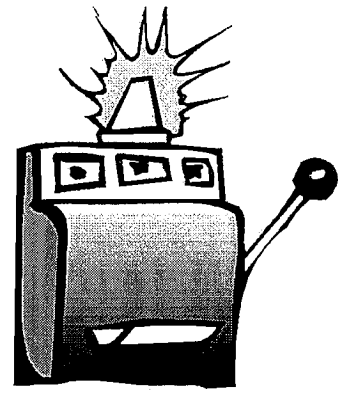
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Page 3	Reverse Raffle
Page 4	NAHB Fires Back
Page 5	NAHB Fires Back, Continued

INTEGRITY



## CASINO TRIP

Seneca Niagara



As always the Board of Directors are thinking of ways to excite the members of the Builders Association, we are constantly trying to think of new programs and exciting extra events. Several of your Board Members thought that a Casino Trip would be an exciting event. This event will not take the place of our regular Builder's meeting in January but will be an additional event. This will be an excellent opportunity to get to know your fellow members better and also a great way to help chase away the winter blues. There are only two things that we must mention and that is that only those 21 and older can travel with us and only those that feel lucky and want a good time are permitted. **Also this trip is not limited to Ashtabula County Builders Members only it is open to all.** More details to follow as we get closer to this great trip. If you have any additional questions please call Michelle at (440) 997-1866.

Saturday, January 22nd - Sunday, January 23rd

Bus Leaves 9:00 a.m. Ashtabula January 22nd

Bus Returns 5:00 p.m. Ashtabula January 23rd

BYOB on the Bus

\$150.00 per person sharing a room

\$230.00 per person for a private room

\$300.00 per couple

A private buffet luncheon will be provided for our party on Sunday. You will also receive a players card on arrival with \$50.00 slot dollars and \$20.00 towards a restaurant per person.

**PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 31ST**

(440) 997-1866 or [ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)

There is a ten room minimum for this trip.

Ashtabula County Builders  
Association Presents:  
Annual Reverse Raffle  
February 26, 2011

**Grand Prize: \$1500.00**

50/50 Raffle - Instant Bingo - Black Jack - Silent Auction

**\$50.00 a couple**

Includes dinner and open bar

Doors open at 6:00p.m. - Raffle starts at 7:00p.m.

Location: Ashtabula County Fairgrounds  
4-H Building

All Proceeds will Benefit:  
Community Care Committee &  
The Ashtabula County Builders Association

For more information or tickets contact:

997-1866 or [ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)

# NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

*The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB*

*Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae*

## **NAHB Fires Back at Deficit Commission's Call to Slash Mortgage Interest Deduction**

Released on Dec. 1, the final report of President Obama's bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform includes disturbing recommendations that would curtail or eliminate essential housing incentives such as the mortgage interest deduction (MID).

As NAHB had anticipated, the final report of the bipartisan commission recommends significant alterations to the mortgage interest deduction as part of an overall plan to cut the federal budget deficit. Proposed options include eliminating the MID, changing it to a 12% non-refundable tax credit, setting a \$500,000 cap for eligible mortgages and limiting its application to primary residences.

Prepared for the bad news, NAHB immediately rolled out a new consumer-oriented website, that will be a critical tool in the association's fight to preserve the MID as a cornerstone of American housing policy

—[SaveMyMortgageInterestDeduction.com](http://SaveMyMortgageInterestDeduction.com).

Other commission recommendations would eliminate the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), the deduction for real estate taxes for home owners, accelerated depreciation for rental housing, energy tax incentives, tax-exempt housing bonds and the capital gains exclusion on the sale of a principal residence. In addition, the proposals would result in significantly higher tax rates for capital gains and dividends.

Highly controversial proposals unrelated to housing appear in the report, including a recommended increase in the Social Security retirement age to 68 by 2050.

As a result, commission co-chairs Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles were only able to muster the support of 11 of the 18 commission members, which fell short of the 14 votes required to issue a formal recommendation to Congress and the White House. While even a formal recommendation would not be binding in terms of what, if any, action Congress would need to take, the proposal itself can be expected to form the foundation for discussions next year about ways to bring down the national debt.

### **NAHB Response**

"While we commend the hard work of the President's deficit commission to improve the nation's fiscal situation, this is simply the wrong approach to the problem," NAHB Chairman Bob Jones said in response to the report.

"It would put a huge tax increase on millions of middle-class home owners by eliminating or devaluing the mortgage interest deduction," he said. "The consequences would be devastating for housing and the economy. Eliminating or

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scaling back this vital housing deduction will shrink the local tax base of many communities, causing already cash-strapped state and local governments to further cut jobs and essential services. Given the extreme fragility of the housing market, with 21% of construction workers currently idled, tampering with the mortgage interest deduction is just not sound public policy."

Meanwhile, in interviews with the The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, CNN.com, Marketplace Morning Report and the Dallas Morning News, NAHB Chief Lobbyist Joe Stanton explained why tampering with the mortgage interest deduction to help reduce the federal deficit is bad public policy and would further harm a housing market that is already struggling to regain its footing following the worst downturn in decades.

In the Journal report, Stanton said that NAHB would use "the full weight of our grass roots" to prevent any reduction of the mortgage-deduction tax break. "You are already talking about an industry that is completely battered, and this will kill us," he said.

## **SaveMyMortgageInterestDeduction.com**

SaveMyMortgageInterestDeduction.com is designed to help the association get the word out to consumers about the threat to the mortgage interest deduction, educate policymakers about the MID's importance and scope and facilitate feedback to lawmakers about the importance of preserving this critical homeownership incentive.

It provides up-to-date information on the threat to the MID, along with fact sheets, frequently asked questions, media stories, statistics and more. Most importantly, SaveMyMortgageInterestDeduction.com tells visitors how to remain engaged and make sure their opinions are heard on this vital issue by connecting with NAHB's Facebook and Twitter conversations and with its Eye on Housing blog.

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

If you have any suggestions  
for an article or changes to the newsletter  
please call Michelle at (440) 997-1866  
or [ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net](mailto:ashtabulacountybuilders@windstream.net)