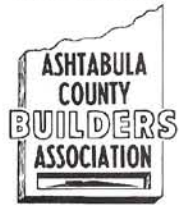


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

January, 2009

P.O. Box 745

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-0745

Telephone/Fax (440) 997-1866

ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org

ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

" The Voice of the Industry in Ashtabula County"

GENERAL MEETING

\$25.00 PER MEAL

INCLUDES:

Happy Hour, Choice of :

Prime Rib, Chicken or Fish with

Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad and Roll

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope that everyone's holiday season was great! I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing board members for their service to our organization. I would also like to welcome our new board members and their new insights on strengthening our organization.

January's meeting will be all about this. In the New Year we will face new challenges and new hopes for our struggling economy. Your Builders Association will be here to assist you in this New Year. Now is the time to come together with your fellow members to make new contacts or reestablish old ones in an effort to make the year a profitable one. If there are any benefits, programs for developing markets in our area, or educational forums you would like to see our association present to you please feel free to contact myself or any board member with this information.

Let's work together to make this a happy and profitable New Year.

Rick Miller

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 12th General Meeting
Elks Club

March 12th TBA
Elks Club

April 9th TBA
Elks Club

May 14th TBA
Elks Club

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

Dinner 7:00pm

RSVP by Monday prior to meeting date and if you need to cancel please call by Tuesday evening.

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A note from the Board

Insert

2009 Board of Directors

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Major Blitz Urges Central Role for Housing Stimulus Plan

A Note from the Board of your Builders Association

One of the topics at the last board meeting held in December was the shrinking membership of the builders association. The largest reasons for this reduction are because of attrition and difficult economic times. To remain a powerful voice for the members, the board has decided to start an aggressive membership drive. Our next challenge is how do we get prospective new members introduced to our organization. The Board has decided to cover the cost of a meal at our general meetings to any prospective new member accompanied by an existing member in good standings. If you know of a possible new member please extend an invitation to attend our next general meeting. We will continue this effort for as long as we feel necessary to grow our enrollment. All that we need is the name of your guest and the company that they are representing when you call in your reservation. We will hand an application to them at the meeting.

With the beginning of the New Year starts the reign of a new Board of Directors. This new Board has charged themselves with making changes to the general meetings to make them more interesting and also to make membership to the Builders an exciting experience. Look for more changes in the months to come, some will be announced in the newsletter and some will be announced at the general meetings. Any ideas you may have to help us accomplish our goals are always welcome and excepted.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Directors

**CHECK OUT THE WEB PAGE
THERE HAS BEEN MANY
CHANGES MADE RECENTLY.
SEND US A PICTURE, WE'LL
ADD IT!**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2009

Officers

Rick Miller, President

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Paul Crease, Treasurer

Frank Curtin, Immediate Past President

Trustees

Bill Claycomb

Joe Oros

Doug Spencer

Terry Strong

Dan Theiss

Rich Vanek

Tim Vogel

Director

Michelle Laveck

NEWSLETTER

**If you have any information you
would like to see in the newsletter
please let us know.**

ashtabulacountybuilders@alltel.net

**FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

**ASHTABULA COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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TWO YEAR TERM 2009-2010

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ONE YEAR TERM 2009

BILL CLAYCOMB

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DAN THEISS

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P.O. Box 160/ Austinburg, OH 44010
Tel: (440) 275-1755

RICH VANEK

S.R. Snodgrass
4134 Park Ave., Ashtabula, OH 44004
Tel: (440) 993-2142/Fax (440) 992-7997
rvanek@srsnodgrass.net

Major Blitz Urges Central Role for Housing in Stimulus Plan

In a major blitz to make housing a central part of the new economic stimulus package, NAHB and its allies in the [Fix Housing First](#) coalition will be converging on Capitol Hill during the first week of January to champion an aggressive plan that would create jobs and stimulate home sales in 2009. “Congress must address the root problems of rising foreclosures, declining home values and falling home sales — all of which are killing the economy, undermining the financial system and resulting in hundreds of thousands of layoffs month after month,” said NAHB Chairman Sandy Dunn. “That’s the message we will be delivering when more than 150 builders come to Washington January 7 in a targeted fly-in focused on key members of Congress.”

To restore confidence and get buyers back in the housing market, moves that Dunn claimed “would help slow foreclosures and put a cushion under property values,” NAHB is calling on Congress to buy down mortgage rates as low as 2.99% and expand and broaden the tax credit for home buyers enacted earlier this year. In addition, NAHB is supporting the proposed FDIC foreclosure relief proposal that could be funded out of the \$350 billion still remaining in the [Troubled Asset Relief Program \(TARP\)](#) administered by the Treasury Department.

Enactment of an expanded tax credit along with the mortgage buy-down program would create 600,000 jobs with a payroll of \$29 billion and generate 1.2 million additional home sales during the first year, according to an analysis by NAHB economists. A revived housing market would quickly ripple through the entire economy, stabilizing mortgage assets held by financial institutions, generating \$23 billion in business activity tied indirectly to the housing market and bolstering federal state and local tax coffers by \$21 billion.

To help ensure that housing-recovery measures are incorporated into economic stimulus legislation that will most likely be debated and voted on by Congress in early January, NAHB has mobilized its grassroots network, asking association members to meet with their U.S. senators and representatives while they are home in their states and districts during the holidays.

The Capitol Hill visits in January will be focused on the most influential members of Congress in the stimulus debate, and at this time there are no visits to Washington from NAHB members at large planned.

Visits will target House and Senate leadership, members of the tax-writing House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees, as well as key members of the Senate Banking and House Financial Services committees. In all, NAHB has identified 90 lawmakers from 38 states.

NAHB’s targeted builder fly-in campaign is being coordinated with [Fix Housing First](#), a coalition led by NAHB that consists of more than 600 organizations, home building companies and manufacturers who are urging Congress to enact bold measures to revive housing and the economy.

To help achieve these goals, builders will be meeting with their elected officials to urge a two-pronged approach, focusing on temporary programs that will strengthen housing demand and promote an economic recovery.

First, Congress should enhance the existing first-time home buyer tax credit by:

- Expanding tax credit eligibility to all buyers of principal residences
- Increasing the credit amount to \$10,000 to \$22,000 based on local house prices
- Making it a true credit by repealing all recapture rules
- Extending the expiration date to Dec. 31, 2009
- Increasing income phase-outs to \$125,000 (\$250,000 for married taxpayers); and
- Allowing the credit to be claimed at settlement to be used as a downpayment

The second component of the stimulus plan would provide home buyers with 30-year fixed-rate mortgages at 2.99% on contracts closed through June 30, 2009 and 3.99% on closings between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.

The coalition has also announced its support for continuing foreclosure prevention measures to keep people in their homes.