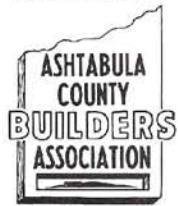


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

May, 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

Greetings to everyone! I would like to thank Mr. Bill Herzog of Sky Insurance and Sgt. Kemmerle of the Sheriff's Department for a wonderful presentation on loss prevention from the need for the proper insurances and the procedures to follow before and after a jobsite theft. Spring has finally arrived and there seems to be some bidding activity out there. Let's hope this trend continues. This month's program will try to give our builder members some insight into the recent wind generation farms that we all have been reading about in the newspapers. I hope to see everyone at the next meeting learning about possible construction possibilities that this new market can generate. As always your Builders Association is there for. I look forward seeing you all at the April general meeting. Thank you for your support!

Rick

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 14th	Wind Energy Elks Club
June 11th	Steak Fry Steve Laurette Elks Club
July 9th	Golf Outing TBA
August 13th	Summer Social Gareat
September 10th	Clam Bake Elks Club
October 8th	Building and Health Department Elks Club
November 12th	Annual Meeting Halo 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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Officers

Rick Miller, President

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Rich Vanek, Treasurer

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WELCOME

A special thank you to **Calvin Brown, Jr.**,
Brown Sprinkler Service, Inc. ,
for joining the Board of Trustees

NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae

NAHB Members Urged to Take Precautions Against Swine Flu

The recent outbreak and rapid spread of cases of swine flu across the U.S. poses a safety risk to home builders, their employees and subcontractors — especially those in [states where cases have already been identified](#) or whose workers have traveled to or from Mexico recently. As of May 4, there were 286 confirmed cases in 36 states and one death.

NAHB is urging members, home builders associations and their employees to learn how to recognize the symptoms of swine flu, and what precautions you can take to protect yourself.

The Red Cross has prepared Flu Checklists in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions that can be downloaded and posted on job sites.

Here are some tips from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) to ensure that you and your workers and families stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people, so try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you do get sick, the CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to reduce the chance you will infect them.

Housing Guru at Long Last Finds Grounds for Optimism

In a departure from his previous presentations at NAHB forecast conferences, Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, was “optimistic” at last week’s 2009 Spring Construction Forecast Conference.

The bottom of the housing recession is coming into view, he said, adding that there are several reasons for his optimism. Inventories have peaked and will begin to drop, housing affordability has improved because the price-income ratio has dropped dramatically, and mortgage interest rates are at record lows.

“Rates are below 5% and will stay there for quite some time,” Zandi said, noting that his forecast calls for a low of about 4.5% this summer.

Also fueling Zandi’s optimism, “more credit is on the way,” and the Administration is working hard to bolster the housing market.

Nevertheless, there are some troubling aspects to the market, he said. Confidence is at a record low, and there is no evidence that the employment situation is improving. The job market is “at a moment of truth,” Zandi said, and he expects it to begin to stabilize this summer. He also said to keep a close eye on measures of consumer confidence, which should begin to rise shortly before the recession ends.

In Zandi’s market recovery timeline, the first quarter of 2009 was most likely the low point for sales; starts will probably bottom-out in the second quarter. Failures of major financial institutions will start to diminish between the third and fourth quarters, and home prices will bottom-out in the fourth quarter of 2009.

“I expect prices to slide sharply, bottom out in the fourth quarter and begin to rise in 2010,” Zandi said. From peak to trough, there will be a 36% decline in prices, and it will be more than a decade before home prices return to the highs recorded during the recent housing boom, he added.

Zandi said he expects foreclosures to peak in the first quarter of 2010 and the jobless rate to peak in the second quarter. The Federal Reserve is likely to tighten the money supply in mid-2010, and a “self-sustaining expansion” should begin in the last quarter of the year, he said.

Bernard Markstein, vice president of forecasting and analysis for NAHB, agreed with Zandi that the first quarter of 2009 probably marked the end of the decline in residential construction.

Revisiting the housing market of recent years, Markstein noted that in the last quarter of 2005 housing starts nationwide were running almost 30% above “normal,” and only a handful of states — Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland and Alaska — were in the 75% to 100% of “normal” range.

By the end of 2006, construction was slowing, but “the pain was minimal.” A year later, at the end of 2007, the slowdown was accelerating rapidly and formerly “hot” markets — including California, Nevada, Arizona and Florida — had become problem markets. Nationwide, housing starts were at about 60% of normal, Markstein said, and housing experts were still hoping for a “soft landing.”

However, the soft landing didn’t materialize and by the end of 2008, single-family production nationwide had dropped to about a third of normal. Only three states — Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming — were in the normal range.

“By the end of this year, some improvement should begin to emerge, and 2010 should mark a significant improvement,” Markstein said. However, the pain will not be over for the formerly “hot” markets and the states in the Great Lakes area that continue to suffer from economic problems unrelated to housing.

Wind Energy and its Economic Impact for Ashtabula County

Presented by the Ashtabula County Builders Association

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Bill Romanko (993-1046)

Ashtabula- On May 14, 2009 at the Elks Lake Front Lodge in Ashtabula, the Ashtabula County Builders Association will be having a presentation on wind energy and its possible impact on Ashtabula County.

Wind power is the fastest growing source of electric power in the United States today. Ohio has been slow to follow this trend, but with the passage of the Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard on May 1, 2008, wind power development in Ohio is likely to increase significantly. Tim Ryan, partner and Managing Director of BQ Energy, and Joe Mayernick, Executive Director of Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County, will be the guest speakers of the Ashtabula County Builders Association.

Tim Ryan, based in Erie, Pa, is a partner and Managing Director at BQ Energy. BQ Energy is a renewable energy development company, specializing in wind and solar energy projects. BQ Energy developed a 20 megawatt wind project in Lackawanna, NY, which was completed in 2007. They also developed a 51 megawatt wind energy project in the Texas panhandle next to a Valero oil refinery. Tim has been involved with the financial aspects of over 19,000 megawatt of power projects throughout his career. Tim has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Bowdoin College and an MBA from New York University.

Joe Mayernick, Executive Director of Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County since 1990. As director, he is responsible for directing the efforts of an alliance of public and private sector groups in attracting investment, jobs, and tax base to the county. Under his leadership, the Partnership has managed over 250 projects of \$1 million or more, for of which exceeded \$100 million, and has developed eight industrial parks, three foreign trade zones and two joint economic development districts, retained 15,000 jobs and created over 10,000. Mr. Mayernick has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication/Economics from Bethany College and has completed Postgraduate work at the University of Pittsburgh and West Virginia University.

This meeting will be open to the public, dinner is available at 6:30 pm and the presentation starts at 7:30 pm. Reservations are required by May 11th and can be made by calling the Ashtabula County Builders Association at 440-997-1866 or by going to the Builders website at www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org. The cost of dinner is \$25.00 and is payable at the door by check or cash. Attendance to the presentation only is free of charge.

July 2009 - June 2010

Youngstown

Classes for Ohio Workers

Youngstown Service Office • 242 Federal Plaza West • Youngstown, Oh 44503

Attend one of the more than 60 occupational safety, health and ergonomics courses offered by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division of Safety & Hygiene. Classes are held throughout the state as well as online.

The division offers courses at no extra cost to Ohio employers with active workers' compensation policies.

2009	Course	Day (s)	2010	Course	Day (s)
8/19	Powered Industrial Trucks: Developing a Training Program	1.0	1/14	Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Refresher	1.0
9/9	Wellness in the Workplace	1.0	1/27	Ergonomics: Basic Principles	1.0
9/22	NFPA 70E and You: Insight and Implementation	1.0	2/3	Safety Works for Industry Module 1	0.5 AM
9/24	Controlling Workers' Compensation Costs	1.0	2/3	Safety Works for Industry Module 2	0.5 PM
9/30	Safety Works for Industry Module 1	0.5 AM	2/10	Safety Works for Industry Module 3	0.5 AM
9/30	Safety Works for Industry Module 2	0.5 PM	2/10	Safety Works for Industry Module 4	0.5 PM
10/7	Safety Works for Industry Module 3	0.5 AM	2/11	Restaurant and Food Service Safety	1.0
10/7	Safety Works for Industry Module 4	0.5 PM	2/17	Safety Works for Industry Module 5	0.5 AM
10/14	Safety Works for Industry Module 5	0.5 AM	2/17	Safety Works for Industry Module 6	0.5 PM
10/14	Safety Works for Industry Module 6	0.5 PM	2/24	Advanced Ratemaking	0.5 PM
10/21-22	Electrical Safety Audits	2.0	3/3	OSHA Recordkeeping	1.0
10/27	Temporary Traffic Management	0.5 AM	3/9	Controlling Workers' Compensation Costs	1.0
11/4	Emergency Preparedness Planning	1.0	3/17	Lockout/Tagout and Safety-related Work Practices	0.5 AM
11/10	Controlling Workers' Compensation Costs	1.0	3/23-24	Fall Hazards in Construction and Maintenance	2.0
11/16-20	Basic Construction Safety (OSHA 30)	4.5	4/13-14	Confined Space Assessment and Work	1.5
12/2	Accident Analysis	1.0	4/20	Controlling Costs through Claims Management	1.0
			4/27-28	Fundamentals of an Effective Safety and Health Program	2.0
			5/5	Effective Safety Teams	1.0
			5/19	Got Mold?	1.0
			6/22-23	Train the Trainer	1.5

Online courses

Avoiding Back Trauma
Getting Started with Safety
Industrial Hygiene Overview
Ladder/Stairway Safety
Preventing Cuts and Lacerations
Preventing Slips/Trips/Falls

For more information, call 1.800.OHIOBWC. To register for a class online follow directions on reverse side.

Online registration directions

How to enroll in a class

To enroll in a class:

1. Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com;
2. If this is your first visit, please click on First Visit and complete the requested information. If you do not know your BWC policy number, please ask your company's Human Resource person;
3. On the home page, click on Learning Center;
4. Click on Course Information & Enrollment;
5. Search by keyword, entering a word(s) that is closely related to the desired course. Click Search. The results will appear in the lower left corner of the screen. If it is difficult to see, consider changing the size of your screen display (directions below for "maximum visibility");
6. Locate the desired course and click on the information icon;
7. In the lower right section of the screen, locate the date/location of your choice. Click Enroll;
8. If you have given an e-mail address, you will receive an e-mail confirming your enrollment. If you have no e-mail address, you will receive a fax or letter.
9. Once you are enrolled, you can view your list of selected classes (and cancel, if needed) in the Personal Learning Center, which is located on the left side of the home page;
10. For assistance, please call 1-800-OHIOBWC.

How to update a profile

To update your own user information in BWC Learning Center:

1. Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com;
2. Click on User Information Center;
3. Click on Student Records;
4. Click on Update Profile;
5. Edit as needed. Click Submit.

How to find directions

To find addresses, directions or maps to training facilities:

1. Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com;
2. Click on User Information Center;
3. Click on Facilities & Training Locations;
4. Locate the desired facility. Click on the information icon;
5. Directions are displayed in the lower right section of the screen.

How to cancel a class

To cancel a class:

1. Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com;
2. On the left side of the home page, select Personal Learning Center;
3. Locate the class;
4. Click on Cancel.

To change your screen display size:

For maximum visibility

1. From the START icon, select Settings;
2. Select Control Panel;
3. Select Display, then the Settings tab;
4. In the Screen Area, move the gauge to 1024 x 768 pixels.

How to print certificates

To print a certificate for a class you have completed:

1. Go to www.bwclearningcenter.com;
2. On the left side of the home page, click on Personal Learning Center;
3. Click on the Transcript tab;
4. Locate the course you have completed, click on certificate;
5. Print it.