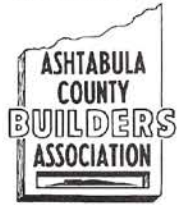


INTEGRITY



## BUILDERS PLAN

April, 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. Dan Huffman of Wachovia Securities for giving us a report on the markets at this time. It was not all bad news after all. I would also like to thank Mr. Dave French, Mr. Herb Housel, and Mr. Wayne Wagemon for allowing us to setup a table at their recent customer appreciation dinner to let us promote the Ashtabula County Builders Association. Mr. Paul Crease of Production & Construction Inc. has resigned from the board of directors and his loss will be missed. His input and dedication were of great help. Spring is in the air and with its' coming construction activity normally increases as well as the criminal influence at job sites. This month's program will try to give our builder members some insight into what can be done to prevent this. I hope everyone is seeing a little light at the end of the tunnel. As always your Builders Association is there for you in these turbulent times. I look forward seeing you all at the April general meeting. Thank you for your support!

Rick

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 9th	Bill Herzog & Sgt. Kemmerle Loss Prevention Elks Club
May 14th	Project Breeze 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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## **BUILDERS CHALLENGE**

At the January meeting a challenge was given to the membership. The challenge was that anyone getting more new members to join the Builders Association than Ron Kister of *Kister Construction* in 2009 would receive \$250.00 from him personally. The Board of the Builders applauds Ron's Challenge and we are willing to help in your recruiting efforts. The Builders' will pick up the cost of your guest's meal (one meal per potential member company please) when they attend one of our regular monthly meetings. To qualify, the applicant that you sponsor must be approved as a new member by the board and pay their dues in full for the upcoming year. The Board would like to see Ron pay dearly for his challenge and we would also like to see our membership grow as a benefit of Ron's Challenge. Good luck to all those who are going to attempt to get

\$250.00 from Mr. Ron Kister.

All reservations for monthly meetings should be directed to Michelle at 997-1866 or through our website at [www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org](http://www.ashtabulacountybuildersassociation.org)

## **THANK YOU VALLEY BUILDING CENTER**

Thank you to Dave French, Herb Housel and Wayne Wagamon for allowing the Builders Association to have a table at your annual customer appreciation dinner.

## **THANK YOU**

A special thank you to **Paul Crease**, Production and Construction, for all your years of service on the Board of Trustees and membership to the Ashtabula County Builders Association. You will be missed!

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

2009

#### **Officers**

Rick Miller, President

Bill Romanko, Secretary

Rich Vanek, Treasurer

Frank Curtin, Immediate Past President

#### **Trustees**

Bill Claycomb

Joe Oros

Doug Spencer

Terry Strong

Dan Theiss

Tim Vogel

#### **Director**

Michelle Laveck

### **Richard R. Locke**

Friday, March 27, 2009

ASHTABULA — Richard R. Locke, age 66, of Crabtree Circle, Ashtabula, died Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at the Ashtabula County Medical Center surrounded by his family.

Richard was born Jan. 17, 1943, in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Remley and Lula Locke.

Graduating from Ashtabula High School in 1961, he started working in the construction field that year and in 1978, he started Locke Construction Company.

He loved cooking for his family, playing golf and attending every sport and band activity that his grandsons were in. His favorite saying was "Life is Good".

Richard is survived by his wife, Brenda; two daughters, Kim (Pete) Fleming and Kelly (Bob) Cevera, both of Ashtabula; his five grandsons, Tyler, Ryan and Peter Fleming and Bobby and Kyle Cevera; two brothers, Joe (Joann) Locke and Bob (Ann) Locke, both of Mentor, Ohio; three sisters, Pat Craigo of Warren, Ohio, Sue (Mike) Bowen and Ann (Dean) Blanton, both of Roaming Shores; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Fred and Steve Locke.





# **Appalachian Regional Commission Informational Meeting**

**Hosted by**

**Congressman Steve LaTourette, Ashtabula County  
Commissioners  
& Ashtabula Growth Partnership**

**Monday, April 6, 2009  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Ashtabula County Commissioners' Office  
Meeting Room, Old Courthouse, Second Floor  
25 West Jefferson Street  
Jefferson, OH**

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of multi-state Appalachian region to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

On October 8, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008, which reauthorizes the Appalachian Regional Commission for five years, through September 30, 2012. This Act added more than 10 new counties to the Appalachian Region, including Ashtabula County.

Membership in the ARC makes a county eligible for federal funding not available to non-ARC counties, and can be used with great success to leverage other funding for all sorts of projects, from infrastructure to health care to tourism to economic development.

At this meeting, members of Governor Ted Strickland's Office of Appalachia will be present to explain how the ARC works and what programs are available for local communities.

Local officials are encouraged to attend, and the meeting is open to the public.



## **Housing Production Still Is Weakening**

The housing sector, which began to weaken more than two years prior to the onset of national recession at the end of 2007, still is a major negative for the U.S. economy. The housing production component of GDP (residential fixed investment) suffered a severe setback in the final quarter of 2008 and will post an even weaker performance in the first quarter of this year.

Employment in residential construction naturally continues to trail down systematically as housing production continues to weaken, and falling house prices continue to take heavy tolls on household wealth, consumer spending, mortgage credit quality and the national and global financial systems.

The ongoing contractions in residential fixed investment and residential construction employment have reflected serious imbalances between supply on the market and effective demand for both home owner and rental housing units.

There still are very large numbers of vacant housing units on and off the market, but massive cutbacks in new housing production along with prospects for near-term stabilization of home buyer demand should be improving the supply-demand balance before long.

## **The Economic Recession Now Is Truly Global**

The recession increasingly is global in scope and nature, and a rare decline in world real GDP now is a virtual certainty for 2009.

Trade flows are contracting substantially for both developed and emerging economies, and the U.S. now is registering sharp declines in both exports and imports.

Our nominal trade deficit has been falling since last July, partly reflecting lower prices of imports — especially energy. However, the trade sector most likely will make a negative contribution to U.S. real GDP growth in the first quarter of this year, as in the fourth quarter of 2008, due partly to the rise in the dollar since mid-2008.

## **Inflation Concerns Are Giving Way to Deflation Fears**

The global economic recession and growing slack in labor markets have totally defused earlier inflation concerns in financial markets and at our central bank, and the specter of potentially destructive deflation has crept onto the radar screen.

The [Producer Price Index](#) for finished goods moved down substantially during the last five months of 2008, and year-over-year changes for January and February were solidly in the red zone. Producer prices at earlier intermediate and crude stages of production have been throwing off large negatives in recent months, and those downward pressures will make their way into the finished goods measure as the year rolls along.

The [Consumer Price Index](#) (CPI) has been decelerating markedly since mid-2008 and year-over-year changes for the December-February period were negligible.

The core CPI (excluding prices of food and direct energy) has shown year-over-year gains of less than 2% for the past three months, and the chain-core version allowing for substitution with the market basket of goods and services has been just over 1% — not far from price stability.

## **The Financial System Still Is Functioning Poorly**

The national and global financial market crisis has rightfully earned the title of “Great Recession” for the current economic situation.

Daunting problems in the financial systems pose formidable impediments to near-term economic stability and recovery both here and abroad, despite enactment of large fiscal stimulus packages in the U.S. and elsewhere. This reality was emphasized in a recent meeting of the finance ministers of the G-20 countries in England.

It’s true that extraordinary efforts by the [Federal Reserve](#) and foreign central banks have improved the functioning of interbank markets and some short-term credit markets — particularly commercial paper — since the virtual freeze last fall. But our banking system apparently remains seriously undercapitalized despite major injections of TARP funds.

Banks and other major financial institutions still are weighed down by “toxic” mortgage assets, mortgage foreclosure problems still are mounting, and quality spreads in mortgage securities and bond markets, corporate and municipal, are extremely wide.

Under these conditions, private credit markets still are in serious states of disrepair.

## **The Federal Reserve Pulls Out the Stops**

The flagging economy, threat of deflation and persistent problems in the financial sector have spurred the Fed to pull out the policy stops.

The Fed has dropped the federal funds rate from a cyclical high of 5.25% in the second quarter of 2007 to the 0.0-0.25% range that’s prevailed since the end of 2008, effectively exhausting the major tool of monetary policy.

The Fed also has thrown open the discount window to both banks and primary securities dealers and has waded into both the commercial paper market and the home mortgage market by substantially expanding its balance sheet operations in order to improve credit flows and reduce costs of credit in these markets.

The Fed delivered a lot more support to credit markets at the conclusion of the March 17-18 meeting of the [Federal Open Market Committee](#). As expected, the FOMC held the target range for the federal funds rate at 0.0 to 0.25% and committed to hold it there for an “extended period.”

NAHB assumes that this rate will prevail through the end of next year.

Two major unexpected policy moves were announced on March 18. First, the FOMC decided to purchase and hold up to an additional \$750 billion of agency mortgage-backed securities and an additional \$100 billion of housing agency debt, on top of the \$500 billion and \$100 billion of agency mortgage-backed security and debt committed to earlier — bringing the overall total for this year to a whopping \$1.45 trillion.

The Fed said these moves were taken to provide “greater support to mortgage lending and housing markets.”

The second surprise from the FOMC was a decision to purchase up to \$300 billion of longer-term Treasury securities over the next six months, “to help improve conditions in private credit markets.” This essentially amounts to a decision by the Fed to “peg” Treasury rates, apparently in the two- to 10-year range, with the expectation that downward pressure will be put on rates of comparable maturity in private credit markets.