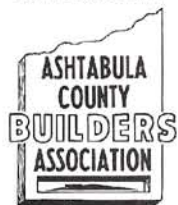


INTEGRITY



BUILDERS PLAN

February, 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 12th	Expo Elks Club
March 12th	Dan Hoffman Wachovia Securities Elks Club
April 9th	TBA Elks Club
May 14th	TBA Elks Club
June 11th	Steak Fry Elks Club
July 9th	Golf Outing TBA
August 13th	Summer Social TBA

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.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Greetings to all! I would like to thank our membership for the nice turnout at the January meeting and Mr. David Flaut for his insight on how are economies got into the shape it's in. We would also like to thank Ms. Rhonda Rich and Mr. Ron Kister for bringing potential member guests to the meeting. This did result in three new members being added to our roles. The new members joining us are Mr. Scott Lester of Action Plumbing, Mr. Jim Carney of Roto Rotor, and Mr. David Chah of RD Real Estate Ventures Inc. Mr. Kister also issued a challenge to the membership to bring in more new members than him. To back this up he is offering \$250.00 to the winner. The New Products Expo for this month is a good way for our members to share new developments and keep us on the cutting edge to better serve our clientele. If you would like to display your products contact Mr. Frank Curtin of Eastdale Overhead Door. I look forward to seeing you there!

Rick

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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

BUILDER'S EXPO

FEBRUARY 12th
General Meeting
at
Elks

Please contact Frank Curtin,
Eastdale Overhead Door,
at (440)964-3667
for more information.

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

Senators Recommend Expanding Energy Tax Incentives

As part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the lagging U.S. economy, [Sens. Olympia Snowe](#) (R-Maine) and [Dianne Feinstein](#) (D-Calif.) recommended in a Jan. 6 letter to President-elect Barack Obama significant expansions in two important energy tax incentives that promote energy-efficient construction.

"It is paramount that stimulus funding be utilized for capital improvements," the legislators wrote, "and our nation's building stock offers one of the greatest opportunities to see an immediate and long-term return on this investment."

Among other energy tax incentives, the present tax code provides a \$2,000 credit to builders of qualified energy-efficient homes and a \$1.80-per-square-foot deduction for installation of certain energy-efficient features in commercial buildings, including multifamily properties four or more stories above grade. The former — the [Section 45L](#) new energy-efficient home tax credit — expires at the end of 2009, while the latter — the [Section 179D](#) energy-efficient commercial building deduction — sunsets at the end of 2013.

The senators propose to increase the impact of these incentives by extending the tax credit for three years and increasing the credit amount to \$5,000. They also propose increasing the deduction from \$1.80 per square foot to \$3 per square foot through the end of 2011.

"By investing in highly efficient homes, the U.S. can lower home owners' monthly energy bills for the life of the home and allow them to invest in their own and their children's future," the lawmakers argue.

NAHB has supported extending and expanding these important incentives to improve the energy efficiency of the nation's housing stock and applauds the senators' recommendations and leadership on this issue.

Builders Converge on Capitol Hill to Urge Housing Stimulus

Less than 24 hours after members of the 111th Congress were sworn into office, NAHB launched an all-out effort to make housing a centerpiece of the massive economic stimulus package that lawmakers are expected to complete by mid-February.

More than 80 builders from across the country converged on Capitol Hill on Jan. 7 to meet with the congressional leadership and key members of the banking and tax writing committees to convey the message that a housing stimulus is urgently needed and that restoring demand for housing is the fastest and most effective way of reviving the economy.

The key ingredients to the recovery plan call for Congress to support enhancements to the home buyer tax credit, to provide below-market interest rates on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages and to continue foreclosure prevention measures such as those advocated by [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation](#) Chairman Sheila Bair.

Underscoring the urgency of the situation, in a briefing to builders before their meetings with lawmakers, NAHB Chairman Sandy Dunn said: "Our industry stands at a crossroads and our efforts here today are vital to the housing industry's ability to weather this storm and come out the other side healthy and in a position to grow."

Dunn urged builders to share their personal stories with their congressmen. "Tell them how many of you have had to lay off family members and long-time employees. Congress must understand that housing is central to the economic crisis, that housing has led our nation out of past recessions and that it can do so again."

NAHB President and CEO Jerry Howard stressed that NAHB, as leader of the [Fix Housing First](#) coalition — which consists of more than 600 organizations, home building companies and manufacturers — was marching to Capitol Hill to show a united front.

"The message we are sending to Congress — there are no large builders, no small builders, no low-income builders, no suppliers and no manufacturers," he said. "We're all in this together and we are all focused on the stimulus package. We are talking to our members of Congress about a proposal crafted over the past several months that will fix both the supply and demand side of housing."

"Over the next year, the stimulus plan will increase economic activity in every state as vacant homes are absorbed, households are able to relocate to new jobs, home values are stabilized and local property tax revenues return to their pre-recessionary levels," said NAHB Chief Economist Dave Crowe.

This year alone, Crowe said the plan would result in 200,000 additional new home sales, 1 million more existing home sales and a boost in expected housing starts from 649,000 to 908,000, on par with last year's level.

In addition, the plan this year would create more than 539,000 jobs, generating \$26 billion in wages and salaries, \$21 billion in business income and \$28 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

"The excess housing inventory in today's market is the result of unprecedented foreclosures, not overbuilding. That's why we support Sheila Bair's foreclosure relief plan and any common-sense proposal to alleviate the foreclosure problem," Howard said.

NATION'S BUILDING NEWS

The Official Online Weekly Newspaper of NAHB

Sponsored by McGraw-Hill Construction and Freddie Mae

To underscore this point, he said that single-family housing starts as of November 2008 were at 441,000, the lowest level on record and a decline of 76% from the peak of January 2006. In addition, an increasing share of new single-family homes were being built under contract for the owner and not speculatively.

Under Bair's plan, the federal government would provide \$24 billion in loan guarantees that could help as many as 1.5 million home owners modify their existing mortgages and avoid foreclosure.

Putting the situation in starker terms, Crowe said that barring any significant federal action, 4 million strapped borrowers could lose their homes this year. "There are at least 1.5 million excess empty homes on the market today. That does not include homes people live in and want to sell," he said.

In order to stabilize the marketplace and put a floor under declining home values, NAHB and the Fix Housing First coalition are calling on Congress to pass short-term, targeted incentives that spur demand and encourage Americans to buy homes.

Specifically, a temporary, expanded home buyer tax credit is needed to reduce excess inventory and encourage fence sitters to enter the market. The Fix Housing First legislative proposal calls on Congress to enact a stimulus plan that would reduce mortgage interest rates to as low as 2.99% on 30-year fixed-rate conventional loans purchased between Jan. 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. The interest rate would be 3.99% for contracts that close between July 1, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009.

At the same time, lawmakers need to make the current \$7,500 home buyer tax credit much bigger and better, eliminating its current recapture provision and making it available to all purchasers. The coalition is calling for a credit amounting to 10% of the home's price, capped at 3.5% of local FHA loan limits. This would range between \$10,000 and \$22,000.

The key is basing the credit amount on prices in each locality.

"Obviously, you don't need a \$22,000 credit in Bozeman, Mont. but a \$22,000 credit will just get you into the marketplace in California," said Howard.

Given the severity of the housing and economic downturn and short time frame for Congress to craft its stimulus package, Howard told builders that it was imperative for them to find out where their representatives and senators stand on the Fix Housing First stimulus proposals.

"We need a yes or no answer: Are you with us or not? Helping Wall Street and unions in Detroit doesn't do anything when Main Street is left holding the bag. Let's fix housing first," he said.

The tax credit and interest rate buy-down are not new ideas, Howard added. "Congress enacted a similar housing solution in the mid-1970s when the nation was in recession. The plan led us out of recession then, and it can do it again."

Bolstering the visits to Capitol Hill, more than 20,000 telephone calls and e-mails in support of the Fix Housing First proposal were received by the Congress from members of NAHB and the coalition.