

North Central News

The Newsletter of the North Central WV Home Builders Association



December 2020

NAHB Continues to Emphasize Job Site Safety

From the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, NAHB has been working to keep America's home builders and trades partners safe and on the job. That effort is now being redoubled as the country faces a worrying spike in cases, hospitalizations and deaths from the virus.

Early efforts focused on the safety of workers on construction sites. NAHB, in cooperation with the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC), adapted CDC guidance into a Coronavirus [Preparedness and Response Plan](#) for Construction

tailored specifically to home building job sites. That plan was published on NAHB.org on March 25 in English and Spanish. NAHB has been monitoring changes in official guidance and has updated the plan three times, with the most recent version published on Oct. 29.

The plan was immediately adopted by many in the home building industry, with



A worker on a site in Wisconsin reviews the clearly posted NAHB coronavirus safety materials.

HBAs adding local guidance and distributing the materials to members, many of whom posted the information on job sites and used them to train workers and trades partners.

The materials provided the basis for the nationwide COVID-19 Jobsite Safety Stand Down held on April 16 and a video toolbox talk. They have also been used by HBAs in their efforts to keep job sites open.

IRS Rules on PPP and Expense Deductions

Businesses that get their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans forgiven will not qualify for some valuable deductions, according to [IRS guidance](#). "Companies that have "a reasonable expectation that the government won't require them to pay back the money can't deduct the business expenses paid for by the loan."

There is a bipartisan effort in Congress to overturn the IRS' guidance. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-Mass.) support legislative changes that would allow businesses to deduct expenses paid for with PPP money.

NAHB Focuses on Mental Health

NAHB has launched a new effort focused on mental wellbeing in the construction industry with an emphasis on helping association members support [healthy work environments](#) and be more proactive in looking at their own health and wellness.

Construction workers are particularly susceptible to mental health issues and suicide. More construction workers die by suicide each day than all workplace-related fatalities combined, with a rate of 43.5 suicides per 100,000 workers.

Single-Family Starts Pace Best Since 2007

Led by solid gains in single-family production, overall housing starts increased 4.9% in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.53 million units, according to a report from HUD and the Census Bureau.

The October reading of 1.53 million starts is the number of housing units builders would begin if development kept this pace for the next 12 months. The pace of [single-family starts](#) was the best since the spring of 2007.

The Pros and Cons Of Solar Panels

Homes with solar photovoltaic panels (PV) can appeal to some new home buyers because of reduced electric bills and a lessened environmental impact. The decision to proceed with such a major investment, however, raises a question about the return on investment.

Home Innovation Research Labs recently [completed a study](#) analyzing the cost effectiveness of rooftop solar PV across five different markets: Phoenix; Tampa, Fla; Boston; Kansas City, Mo.; and Seattle.

Register Now For Virtual IBSx

The 2021 NAHB International Builders' Show® (IBS) has transitioned to a virtual-only event. The exclusive IBS opportunities that attendees have come to expect from the in-person event will still take place, connecting home building professionals together, online, during the IBSx Virtual Experience (IBSx), Feb. 9-12, 2021.

[Visit BuildersShow.com](#) to register.

NAHB Prepared to Work With Biden White House

After a long and contentious election season, former Vice President Joe Biden will become the 46th president of the United States.

It appears that Republicans will retain control of the upper chamber. The tally currently stands at 50 Republican Senate seats to 48 Democratic seats, with two Georgia Senate races headed to a Jan. 5 runoff. And while the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives remains in Democratic hands, House Republicans recaptured some of the suburban seats they lost in 2018.

BUILD-PAC Wins 95% of Races

The election cycle was expected to be competitive in 2020, so members stepped up their support this year for BUILD-PAC, NAHB's political action committee dedicated to electing the most qualified pro-housing, pro-business candidates.

During the 2019-2020 election cycle, BUILD-PAC contributed to 355 U.S. congressional candidates and played in over 100 competitive races. As of Nov. 23, 95% of the candidates [BUILD-PAC supported](#) won their races.

NAHB also endorsed 159 candidates for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives who have shown a commitment to policies that promote homeownership and rental housing opportunities for all Americans. NAHB supported the candidates it endorsed with an intensive voter mobilization effort.

As the 117th Congress is seated in January 2021, and with Democrats regaining control of the White House, NAHB's near-term priorities remain passing another coronavirus relief package and providing relief from recent highs in lumber prices.

Longer-term efforts will focus on ensuring a strong economy and creating a regulatory environment that supports new home production so that housing continues to be the brightest spot in the economic recovery.

Read [NAHB's election summary](#) for more detail about the new political environment.

Legal Action Fund Provides Grants

NAHB's Legal Action Committee recently recommended that the Board of Directors fund \$56,000 in [Legal Action Fund](#) grants to members and HBAs for legal efforts that will have a national impact on the home building industry. Examples include:

The Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh was awarded \$10,000 in its challenge of state rules that impose greater limits on the number of people on residential job sites than on commercial sites.

An NAHB member from the Kansas City HBA received \$11,000 to support their challenge to growth controls imposed by the municipality.

An NAHB member from the Rochester HBA in New York received \$10,000 for their efforts to defend a legal victory they achieved in a lower court regarding a challenge to local zoning conditions.

Awesome Experience!

A letter from Nancy Spiker, NCWVHBA President

I would like to take this time to thank the members of North Central WV Home Builders Association for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your President for the past two years. I have learned so much and have made new friends and acquaintances that I will cherish forever.

The experience of helping to lead an organization such as North Central is something that will serve me well in all aspects of life. I feel that I am a stronger person both professionally and personally for having had this experience; and I can't thank each of you enough for all of the support and guidance given to me during my tenure.

As I hand the gavel over to your new President, Chris Bailey, I am confident that North Central will be in very capable hands.

Again, thank you for your support and may God Bless you, your families, and your businesses.

Did You Know.....

From our NCWVHBA President:

"I show American Saddlebred horses. I show under the banner of [Burin Stables](#) in Ohio. Showing horses is my passion and every spare moment is spent showing and honing my riding skills.

The horse pictured is a 3-gaited American Saddlebred named Ana Katerina. After a successful first season with Ana, we will receive championships from the 3 major show associations in Ohio and Pennsylvania."



NCWVHBA Membership Report

Our renewing members are the backbone of our Association... It is for that reason we would like to thank the following members for renewing:

Michael Mazelon, [Royal Glass LLC](#)
Dan Adams, [Advanced Heating and Cooling](#)
Rick Hess, [Lowes of Clarksburg](#)
Cobenn Bolden, [The Hot Tub Store](#)

Thank you!!

Leadership List

President

Nancy Spiker

1st Vice-President

Chris Bailey

2nd Vice-President

Christine Pauley

Associate Vice-President

Tom Board

Secretary

Terri Boone

Treasurer

Lisa Novak

State Area Vice-President

Steve Spiker

National Director

Aaron Dickerson

Alt. National Director

Steve Spiker

National Director

Kent Pauley

Alt. National Director

Christine Pauley

ncwvhba.org

Calendar of Events

7 Dec 2020, NCWVHBA Annual
Christmas Toy Fund Shopping

Location: Walmart, Clarksburg

18-20 Feb 2021, HBAWV State
Winter Board Meeting

Location:Marriott in Charleston,
WV

12-14 Mar 2021, NCWVHBA
Annual Home Show (tentative)

16-17 Apr 2021,HBAWV State
Spring Board Meeting

Location: Virtual meeting

22 – 24 Jul 2021, HBAWV State
Summer Board Meeting

Location:Canaan Valley Resort &
Conference Center in Davis, WV

Save with NAHB Member Discounts

www.nahb.org/ma

POC: Terri Boone (304) 599-0880
ncwvhba@gmail.com

Building the Dream Series Looks at Housing Affordability

Over the past year, NAHB's "Building the Dream" series, in partnership with The Hill, has explored various factors contributing to the housing affordability crisis. Although the crisis had been a longstanding issue prior to COVID-19, the current pandemic has altered the situation in many cases, including delays in supply chains, labor shortages and increased interest in the suburbs, that have had a further impact on the cost of housing. The Hill's Editor-at-Large Steve Clemons explored the current conditions of housing affordability with policymakers and industry leaders during the series' final event.

Having access to safe, affordable housing has been a paramount concern during the pandemic for both home owners and renters. While forbearance and rental assistance have provided short-term relief in the immediate wake of COVID-19, additional assistance is still needed to prevent families from slipping into poverty, as well as longer-term solutions to address overall affordability.

"There are millions of people in this country who are very vulnerable to any setback in terms of what they can do to stay in a safe, affordable, accessible home," Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs,

shared during the recent event. "We first need to deal with eviction, but we absolutely need a housing policy that will encourage partnerships in building more housing ... Housing has gotten so expensive in metropolitan areas but so cheap in many ways in other places still, and we've got to find ways to encourage growth in those areas."

NAHB and The Hill kicked off the "Building the Dream" series in Minneapolis in November 2019, and the series continued throughout 2020. Full replays of all of the [events in the series](#), including this most recent segment, are available on NAHB.org.

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