

**LOCAL EVENTS****Anchorage**

- 2015 AHBA Home Show, March 27-29 at the Sullivan Arena
- Spring Preview of Homes, April 18th & 19th in Anchorage and Eagle River

For more information, visit:

[www.ahba.net](http://www.ahba.net)

**Northern SEABIA**

- 2015 Home and Outdoor Living Expo, March 13-15 at Centennial Hall in Juneau

For more information, visit

[www.seabia.com](http://www.seabia.com)

**Interior Alaska Building Association**

- IABA Home Show, March 20-22 at the Carlson Center
- March 26th General Membership Meeting at Alaskan Granite's new shop featuring Speaker; Clem Clouten
- Thrill of the Grill - TBA

For more information, visit:

[www.interioralaskabuilders.com](http://www.interioralaskabuilders.com)

## Juneau Board Meeting and Legislative Fly-in February 9-11

Report by  
President Chuck Homan

The Alaska State Home Building Association board of directors made its annual visit to Juneau February 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> to hold its winter board meeting and meet with the legislators.

Governor Bill Walker and ASHBA board of directors met together on February 10th. The Governor talked to us about the need to be building energy efficient housing and bring down the cost of heating homes. With high cost of heating it can create financial hardships on the owners. We expressed the difficulty of getting value on appraisals for building energy efficient homes and asked if he could help us address the issue with the appraisal community. Statewide building codes, contractor licensing enforcement, natural gas pipeline, transportation and the shortage of affordable land in some areas of the state were also brought up to the Governor. The Governor listened to our concerns and then asked us what is the solution and what can he do to address the concern? A priority for the Governor is delivering low cost natural gas to the interior.

Heidi Drygas Commissioner of the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development made a presentation to the board during lunch. She informed us that there will be no cuts in the contractor licensing enforcement section of the Department of Labor. The department has had the most success enforcing contractor licensing when violators are reported to the department. The Commissioner encouraged us to report violators using the department's complaint form available at the Departments web site <http://labor.state.ak.us/lss/forms/COMPLFM2.pdf>.

State of Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing Director Sara Chambers spoke to the board. The changes to contractor licensing passed by the legislator last session (raising the bonding



requirements and deleting the exemption to contractor licensing) has generated a tremendous amount of calls to the department slowing down the processing of license renewal applications.

ASHBA's main legislative priority for 2015 is House Bill 81 sponsored by Representative Cathy Tilton. The bill adds additional language to existing state law contractor licensing regarding the owner builder exemption that limits an owner to building one home every two years. The bill will prohibit homes built by unlicensed contractors from advertising homes for sale until two years after the date of completion. This is to address a major problem in the industry where many owner builders are advertising the home for sale during construction. In the case of financial or other hardship an owner is allowed to advertise the property for sale by notifying the State.

Other legislative items ASHBA supported: 1. Funding of \$1 million for AHFC Home Energy Rebate Program included in the Governors capitol budget. 2. Support adoption of a state building code for housing. There is no bill for a state building code at this time, this was to inform the legislator of our position on the issue. 3. Support a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope. 4. Support expansion of transportation infrastructure. 5. Support funding of \$1 million for Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) included in AHFC Governors capitol budget. CCHRC research has paid great dividends to the State by developing new ideas on building safe, energy efficient and cost effective housing in Alaska. In rural areas where energy and building cost are high, CCHRC expertise in construction have cut expenses to the government. (continued on Page 2)

**LOCAL EVENTS****MatSu Home Builders Association**

- **35th Annual Spring Home Show, April 10-12 at Menard Sport Complex**
- **2015 Spring Preview of Homes, April 11 & 12**

For more information, visit:

[www.matsuhomebuilders.com](http://www.matsuhomebuilders.com)

**Southern SEABIA**

- **The SSEABIA annual membership meeting will be March 27th, 5:00 at the Plaza Mall at 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213A.**

For more information, visit:

[www.sealaskabuilders.com](http://www.sealaskabuilders.com)

**Kenai Peninsula Builders Association**

- **General Membership Meetings March 12 and April 16, 6:30 PM at Mykel's**
- **36th Annual Home Show, March 28-29, "Be Inspired!"**
- **9th Annual Wine Tasting, May 30 at the Kenai Visitors Center**

For more information, visit:

[www.kenaipeninsula.builders.com](http://www.kenaipeninsula.builders.com)

**Report by President Chuck Homan - continued**

The board of directors met for a debriefing the day following our meeting with the legislators. John Bitney, lobbyist for the Alaska State Home Building Association, lead the discussion. It proved to be a very informative meeting as we shared information gained from our visits. Legislators were receptive of our priorities and most appeared supportive of HB 81. The low State revenue has placed all spending under scrutiny by the Legislators. Representative Cathy Tilton attended the meeting and urged us to communicate our message to our membership.

The Alaska State Home Building Association board of directors represents members from the six local home building associations in Alaska comprised of 680 members.

Items addressed during the board meeting were membership retention & recruitment, education, finances and legislative issues. Businesses in the home building industry operating in rural Alaska are encouraged to join a local association of their choosing.

Please contact your State Representative and Senator and let them know that you support the Alaska State Home Building Associations legislative priorities.

Chuck Homan II, President  
Alaska State Home Building Association



February 9, 2015 Juneau Board Meeting



Rep. Cathy Tilton Addressing the Board Members

**Legislative Committee Report - Andre Spinelli and Richard Green**

There are six weeks remaining until Day 90 (April 19th). The House Finance Committee is completing work on the FY16 Operating Budget. Budget cuts will impact every state agency and many programs. A great deal of time is being spent on bills to regulate the legalization and commercialization of marijuana due to the initiative that passed.

Governor Walker and the Legislature continue to learn more about how to communicate and work together. Relationships between the two have been strained recently over the natural gas pipe-

line project and Medicaid expansion discussions. Budget - the House Finance Committee proposed eliminating the entire \$3 million for the Construction Academy program within the Dept. of Labor. This was one of the cuts that generated more public testimony than many of the other cuts. Russ McDougall from the Southeast HBA provided good testimony to the Committee the benefits of vocational training for young people. House Finance is expected to take up amendments to the budget early next week, and there will be discussion about restoring this funding.

## Membership Committee Report - Carolyn Foelsch and Jim Dunlap

The 2015 Membership Committee has put Retention of current members at the top of their list of goals for this year. It's vitally important that all of the Locals reach out to current members to be sure that they know the value of belonging and being involved. Each Local will be reviewing the information and tips that NAHB offers for strong retention results and will be bringing their suggestions for success to the next Membership Meeting. We almost have every Local HBA involved in the Touch System Program that NAHB administers. The goal is to have 100% participation. The ASHBA contributes 50% of the cost for the service and it's an excellent way for every member to be 'touched'.

Another wonderful program that Builder and Remodeler members can benefit from is the ASHBA Member Rebate Program. Many of the nation's leading housing manufacturers are rewarding the loyalty of those purchasing their products. By participating in the program, ASHBA builders and remodelers receive a rebate on products purchased regardless of the volume. ASHBA also receives a check for the member's participation. To sign up for the program, go to <http://www.hbarebates.com/ashba.html>.

There are two Membership Drives that ASHBA is participating this year. One is being staged by the NAHB for cash prizes during the

months of May and either September or October. Each Local HBA competes against other HBA's in their size category and the winner is determined based on percentage growth of new Builder and Associate members during their participation month. In addition, members of participating HBA's can earn double Spike credits for members they recruit if they participate in only one drive (May, September or October). Participants earn triple Spike credits if they participate in both (May and choice of either September or October).

The second Membership Drive is the ASHBA Member Retention Drive. The goal this year is to have the highest retention % of current members between January 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Local who comes out on top will be awarded 40K Alaska Airline miles. In addition, the Local (not including Fairbanks) who has the most members attending the ASHBA Conference in November will also win 40K Alaska Airline miles. Many thanks go out to Jim Dunlap and Paul Michelsohn for donating the miles. And, once again, thanks goes out to Ryan Strong from First National Bank for stepping up to offer the coveted ASHBA jackets for members who recruit 4 members or more between January 1st and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Legislative Committee Report - Continued

HB81 -Once the House Finance Committee completes work on the operating budget, it will begin hearings on bills in committee. HB81 is awaiting a hearing, and will hopefully be on the schedule after the budget is done.

Some opposition to HB81 has been expressed, and is focused on the approval process for owner-builders to advertise a home for sale. Currently the bill says the owner-builder must demonstrate to the department's "satisfaction" that the home can be advertised for sale for legitimate reasons.

Capital Budget - Hearings on the Capital Budget have not begun, but indications are that items in the Governor's budget will face heavy scrutiny. In particular, there have been statements that the AHFC programs - Energy Rebate, Weatherization, CCHRC, and -, housing grants will be looked at closely. The next three weeks are a critical period for advocacy to keep these programs included in the budget.

## 2015 Legislative Agenda

- ⇒ Contractor License Enforcement
- ⇒ Real Estate Appraisal Impacts from the Frank-Dodd Act
- ⇒ State-wide Building Code
- ⇒ Department of Labor Updates
- ⇒ Updates to Continuing Education Requirements
- ⇒ Fair OSHA Inspection Program
- ⇒ Property Tax Abatement and Deferral on Newly Developed Subdivisions
- ⇒ Workers Comp Insurance Reform
- ⇒ International Code Council Participation
- ⇒ Medicaid Waivers Program Reform for Modifications

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Our mission is to provide an organization wherein building contractors and persons engaged in a trade, industry or profession related to housing may meet to discuss various problems of common interest, particularly those related to labor, production and finance. To maintain high standards in the building industry, to support building contractors in efforts to rectify conditions of an unsatisfactory nature, to encourage those methods of contracting work which reduce the building contractors risks and to encourage sound business methods. We are an aggressive, service oriented Association run by and for the membership.**

## FOLLOW US

**On the web at:**

[buildersofalaska.com](http://buildersofalaska.com)

**On Facebook at:**

**Alaska State Home Building Association**



## Finance Committee Report - Ryan Strong and Aaron Welterlen

The Finance Committee met and discussed the association's annual budget. A considerable amount of discussion centered on how to grow ASHBA's revenue, with special focus on non-dues revenue that could be generated through the use of our gaming permit. It was decided that we will pursue a raffle this year to bring in approximately 6% of total revenue. We will also continue our efforts to place our gaming permit with a pull-tab operator. Any assistance that board members or general members could provide in this area would do wonders for the ongoing finances of our association. In addition, as a result of increasing costs to the association, and that fact that a dues increase has not been implemented for many years, the committee recommended to the board that a dues increase be considered.

### NAHB Build-PAC in Alaska

#### Did you know?

Alaska's 2014 fundraising goal for national Build-PAC was \$9,057.78 and ASHBA members actually raised \$32,480.00! Alaska was 358.95% of their goal and were 4th at NAHB percentage-wise! In 2014, NAHB Build-PAC raised \$2.6 million and dispersed \$2.4 million to support pro-housing congressional delegates.

### Alaska State Build-PAC

#### Did you know?

ASHBA raised funds to make over \$12,000.00 in contributions to support 2014 pro-housing legislative candidates that also supported economic development in our state.

**Alaska State Home Building Association**  
**P.O. Box 91444**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99509**  
**Robin E. Ward, Executive Officer**  
**907-644-4190**

We are on the Web at  
[www.buildersofalaska.com](http://www.buildersofalaska.com)  
 and Facebook

## 2015 Board of Directors

Jeff Twait, Kenai - Past President  
 Chuck Homan, Anchorage -President  
 Andre Spinelli, Anchorage -Vice-President & Leg Co-Chair  
 Carolyn Foelsch, Fairbanks - Associate Vice Pres. & Membership Co-Chair  
 Aaron Welterlen, Fairbanks - Treasurer & Finance Co-Chair  
 Jim Dunlap, Anchorage - Secretary & Membership Co-Chair  
 Jack Hebert, Fairbanks - NAHB State Rep.  
 Clai Porter, Anchorage - NAHB Build-Pac Trustee  
 Wes Keller, Anchorage - NAHB Associate Director  
 Terry Duszynski, Fairbanks - State Build-PAC Chair  
 Richard Green, Fairbanks - Director & Leg Co-Chair  
 Brian Barney, Fairbanks—Alternate Director  
 Alan Wilson, Juneau - Director  
 Russ McDougal, Juneau - Director  
 James Young, Juneau - Alternate Director  
 Randall Nelson, Kenai - Director  
 Jake Denbrock, Kenai - Alternate Director  
 Garnet Dima, Ketchikan - Director  
 Kelley Roth, Ketchikan - Director  
 Guy Mickel, Ketchikan - Director  
 Chas Edwardson, Ketchikan - Alternate Director  
 Shiela Morrison, MatSu - Director  
 Richard Carr, MatSu - Director  
 Kevin Saiki, MatSu - Alternate Director  
 Mike Buller, Anchorage - Director  
 Ryan Strong, Anchorage - Director & Finance Co-Chair  
 Paul Michelsohn, Anchorage - Director  
 Doug Lipinski, Anchorage - Alternate Director

### LOCAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Jessica Laine, Fairbanks    Laura Baker, Juneau  
 Cindy Rombach, Kenai    Sarah Collins, MatSu  
 Nikki Giordano, Anchorage



**Alaska State  
 Home Building Association**