



NDAB NEWS

Monthly News from the North Dakota Association of Builders November 2017



Eric Brenden

Presidents Message

At a time when countless college graduates are finding they are underemployed and saddled with crushing student debt, it is time for educators and policymakers to reexamine the widely held belief that a college degree represents the only road to success. October was NAHB careers in construction month, so I think it is worth reiterating and reemphasizing the great jobs that are available in the construction industry.

The building trades offer a great career path. Regrettably, fewer students are seeking careers in the construction industry because many parents and guidance counselors are steering them toward a college pathway rather than a vocational route. This is particularly unfortunate, given the shortage of skilled workers in the residential construction industry and the fact that carpenters, electricians, framers, roofers and others in the field earn good salaries and express high job satisfaction. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics Survey data and analysis by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the 2014 median annual wage of most positions in the residential building sector was \$39,500 – 10 percent above the U.S. median annual wage of \$35,540.

The labor shortages can be attributed in part to the fact that many skilled residential construction workers were forced to seek employment elsewhere during the Great Recession, when more than 1.4 million jobs were lost as builders across the nation were forced to shutter their doors or lay off workers. Many trades retrained their construction workers and they are not returning to the housing sector.

With the nationwide housing recovery now picking up steam, it is imperative that America trains more workers and leaders in the construction industry. The number of open construction sector jobs in March was 147,000, the third-highest monthly total since the Great Recession ended, according to the latest BLS data.

To meet the housing needs of a growing population, attitudes must change. Parents, teachers, counselors and students need to understand and believe that a vocational education is just as worthwhile as a conventional four-year college and that both routes offer satisfying career paths and financial gains. Academic institutions can aid in this effort by funding and promoting more two- and four-year programs that cater to students interested in construction management and the building trades.

Eric Brenden, NDAB President 2017



Kim Schneider
CEO

How to Reduce Winter Energy Bills

Aside from those who play the part of Ebenezer Scrooge in a Christmas Carol, no one should be forced to wear a night cap to bed because their home is too cold. But as the fall and winter months bring chilly temps to many parts of the country, some will do whatever it takes to offset rising energy bills.

Wearing your heaviest winter parka, gloves and a stocking cap around the house at all times is one method. There are also several other less-cumbersome ways — ranging from small ad-

justments to major modifications — to stay warm and use less energy. Here are some basic tips to stay comfortable and keep costs down this winter:

Hello? Anyone home?

If there are generally long periods of time throughout the day when no one is home, adjust your thermostat accordingly to limit the amount of wasted heat. This can be done manually each day if you have a good memory and you're the last one out the door. If not, consider the benefits of installing a smart thermostat that will automatically monitor interior temps, keeping your house cozy when it counts and saving energy when everyone's away.

The selection of smart thermostats is continually expanding. Many smart thermostats feature online calculators that show approximately how much users will save based on their region, size of home and heating type. In many cases, the investment results in significant savings over time.

Mind the Gaps

By sealing air leaks in a home, an average household can cut 10 percent of their monthly energy bill. Use caulk to seal any cracks or small openings on non-moving surfaces such as where window frames meet the house structure. Check your weatherstripping in exterior door frames and replace any that is deteriorated or cracked.

Sealing windows and doors will help, but the worst culprits are may be utility cut-throughs for pipes (plumping penetrations), gaps around recessed lights, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Do-it-yourselfers can buy material that expands to fill the gaps and prevent air from escaping.

Going Beyond D-I-Y

The best way to know exactly what will reduce your home's overall energy consumption is to hire a professional energy auditor to evaluate your home and identify any inefficiencies. In addition to showing you where to tape, caulk and seal, the auditor might also suggest improvements that would require a professional. Adding attic insulation, upgrading to an energy-efficient HVAC system, or installing high-performance windows are sizeable investments, but they can have a dramatic impact on your home's air quality, energy efficiency and overall comfort.

For more information, please contact your local association.

Kim Schneider, NDAB Chief Executive Officer

Back your PAC ... your PAC backs you! NDAB-PAC is the North Dakota Association of Builders' Political Action Committee. It is a non-partisan political action committee that provides support for candidates who are friends of the building industry. Contact NDAB at (800) 326-4746, (701) 222-2401 or info@ndbuild.com to contribute or learn more!

Around the State

Bismarck Mandan Homebuilders Assoc.

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- The Fall Parade of Homes showcased 33 homes by 25 builders, a number that rivals the year prior.
- The Fall Awards Mixer was held at the Ramada. Guests experienced a throwback to 90s rock.
- Conversations continue with the City of Bismarck and stakeholders regarding the direction of special assessments in the city's future.
- The BMHBA is hosting building officials for a roundtable to review the summer construction season and discuss the 2018 building year.

Dickinson Area Builders Assoc.

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- The City of Dickinson presented at our October GMM on the Renaissance Zone Development Plan Expansion. The approved changes allowed the City of Dickinson to expand the Renaissance Zone from 25 blocks to 38 blocks. The expansion of the zone is part of the City's overall downtown revitalization program. It was a great presentation and we would like to thank Walter Hadley and Steve Josephson for presenting to our members!
- The DABA annual Christmas Party and Awards Banquet is December 15th at the Elks! We are planning for a fun night of networking, awards, and a silent auction that will benefit two local non-profit organizations. More information will be available soon!
- The DABA Home Show is April 7th and 8th and booth spaces are still available! This year we are following in Bismarck's footsteps and doing a treasure hunt for the kids!

Home Builders Assoc. of Fargo-Moorhead

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- The HBA of F-M New Year Celebration & City Night will be Jan. 25.
- The HBA organized and hosted the Fall Parade of Homes and Remodeled Home Tour which featured 54 new homes, plus a selection of renovation projects. Luxurious Featured Homes raised \$2,130 during the event for Home Builders Care of F-M Foundation.
- The HBA partnered with Fargo and West Fargo Public Schools to showcase building industry careers to over 170 students. The tours were of a newly constructed home and a renovation project that were part of the Fall Parade of Homes and Remodeled Home Tour.
- A Candidate Forum for Dilworth's City Council race was held for the November election.
- The HBA of F-M hosted a Hard Hat Happy Hour at Floor to Ceiling Carpet One, which over 100 members attended.

Forx Builders Association

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- The FBA hosted the 24th Annual Golf Outing. We hosted a total of 144 golfers at King's Walk Golf Course. A big thank you is extended to our Event Sponsor, Marvin Windows; Brat Lunch Sponsor, First State Banks; and all of our hole and door prize sponsors.
- The 3rd Annual Chili-Cook off tournament was scheduled for October 14th. The FBA will also be hosting its 1st Annual Bean Bag Toss Tournament along with it. We are very excited about this event and hope to see many faces there! Please call the office if you are interested in having a Chili or Bean Bag team

Minot Association of Builders

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- Hard Hat Happy Hour took place on October 10th at Army's 2.0 Lounge and Bottle Shop. Attendees took part in Builder Bingo and enjoyed comradery.

- MAB is in the process of organizing a City Leaders Luncheon with the Minot City Manager, City Engineer, Public Works Director and the Park District Director. City Manager, Tom Barry, will lead the discussion and give an update on Minot happenings with time afterward to mingle and ask questions.
- The Builders Banquet is December 5th at the Grand Hotel in Minot. City Manager, Tom Barry, is the keynote speaker. Registration will open soon.
- Preparations have started for the 2018 Home and Garden Show! Vendor registration began on October 16th with many booths already spoken for by MAB members. MAB is looking forward to a great event!

Williston Area Builders Association

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- WABA recently delivered a proposal to the City of Williston to assist the City with recent changes in the Building Department. The proposal serves as a starting point to help foster a more collaborative relationship between the City and the builders.
- Our October Meeting is October 17th and is hosted and sponsored by South Ridge and Fair Hills Apartments. City Administrator David Tuan will be speaking to the membership about the changes in the Building Department, the collaboration with WABA and more.
- Our Annual Awards & Membership Meeting will be held on November 21st and is co-hosted and sponsored by McCody Concrete and Windsong Custom Homes. We will be presenting the awards to the 2017 BEAM and BAOTY winners and welcoming our 2018 Board of Directors.
- The McKenzie County Builders Association (MCBA), a sub-chapter of WABA, located in Watford City, established their board of directors and held their first BOD meeting in September. The new chapter is very excited to get started in Watford City and is actively recruiting new members.