

Oklahoma Builder

**Oklahoma State Home
Builders Association**



January/February 2011

Ring in the New Year

Saying Goodbye to 2010

**Acme Brick
Supports Operation
FINALLY HOME**

**Builder Profile
Vesta Homes**

PROUDLY SERVING **VESTA HOMES**



FULL-SERVICE LUMBER YARD
7401 South Sooner Road
Oklahoma City
405.321.2255

FULL-SERVICE LUMBER YARD
12500 North Santa Fe
Oklahoma City
405.348.6810

We're There

Reaching 42 states and 75 major US markets, we're there to provide you with solutions that perform.

Ask for material planning and we'll manage your job site deliveries according to your schedule.

Ask for millwork and we'll have the right window, door or interior trim solution.

Ask for roofing and we'll provide the materials and applicable underlayment your project requires.

Ask for ProBuild and we're there.
www.probuild.com

©2010 ProBuild. All Rights Reserved.

Traditional Drywall LLC

Chad Hicks
Cell: 405-850-6709

PO Box 619
Washington, OK 73093
Fax: 405-288-0729
ChadHicks70@gmail.com
ChadHicks@windstream.net



**Oklahoma State Home
Builders Association**

917 N.E. 63 Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-843-5579 • 800-256-9980

Executive Editor

Mike Means • mikem@oshba.org

OSHBA Executive Committee

President: Michael Herndon
VP/Treasurer: Brandon Perkins
VP/Secretary: Jeff Click
Immediate Past President: Tom French
National Director: David Ritchie
Alt. National Director: Bud Blakley
National Representative: Phil Rhees

Committee Chairs

Budget & Audit: Brandon Perkins
Builders Certification: Tony Foust
Build PAC: Brandon Perkins, Jeff Click
Insurance: Dave Sanders

Associates Council

Chair: Casey Felix
Vice Chair: Terry Jennings
Treasurer: Vanessa Shadix
Secretary: Donna Cullins
Immediate Past Chair: Jose Laboy
National Director: Barbara Franks

Associates Committee Chairs

Table Top: Donna Cullins
Auction: Vanessa Shadix
Golf: Steve Sayers

Published By PrintComm



Managing Editor Stacey Tetloff
Graphic Designer Jason Gabel
Publication Coordinator John Bitters
Advertising Sales Manager Brenda Poe

Advertising Sales

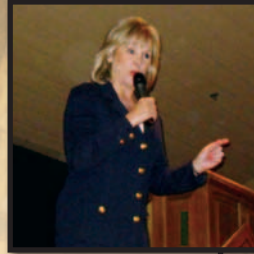
Marsha Suwinski: (800) 935-1592, ext. 106
marshas@wildblue.net

Jeff Pinwar: (800) 935-1592, ext. 118
jpinwar@printcomm.com

Brenda Poe: (800) 935-1592, ext. 115
bpoe@printcomm.com

contents

Volume 46 Number 1



10

features

8 **Builder Profile**

When fate intervened, Jim Schuff embarked on a career in building dreams at Vesta Homes.

9 **Acme Brick Lends a Hand to Disabled Veterans**

Acme Brick Company has committed to provide brick at below cost for 100 homes in conjunction with Operation FINALLY HOME

10 **Reduce Structural Framing Costs, Retain Quality**

Tips on how to streamline construction and reduce needed materials, while retaining the quality of the finished home.

12 **Aircraft Pilot and Passenger Protection Act**

This new law, which took effect Oct. 1, protects the lives of airplane passengers, pilots, and those who live and work around airports.

departments

4 **President's First Word**

*2010 President Tom French
Extends His Thanks*

*Incoming President Mike
Herndon Extends an Invitation*

5 **Associate's Council Chair Report**

*Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You*

6 **State Rep's Report**

*The Future of the Mortgage
Interest Reduction*

13 **Oklahoma Professional Women in Building**

*Outgoing Chair Kimmi
Houston Reflects on 2010*

*Incoming Chair Barbara Franks
Looks Forward to the 2011*

15 **By All Means Peace at Last**



President's First Word

Mike Herndon

Extend an Invitation

Since this is my first article as your new President I would like to thank all of you for allowing me this opportunity. I feel very blessed to be a part of an association with so many good people. I've been privileged to be involved under such quality leadership. I know I cannot fill their shoes but am looking forward to doing my part.

I believe I am the first to serve in this position from the Southern Oklahoma area (think Ardmore, although I live in Kingston). As a mostly rural builder I have a different perspective in some areas that I hope will be beneficial to many. One thing that has stood out in this association compared to other associations I've been involved with is the people truly care for one another and have a true commitment to better our industry. Each committee has had the ability to listen to each idea, put their differences aside

and come up with the best solution for the project ahead. I commend each of you for this talent.

In the Future ...

In my involvement at NAHB meetings I've come to the conclusion we have one of the better associations in the country. Through your continued hard work and skills, (Lord Willing) I know and am optimistic our future will only be better.

For the work ahead I challenge each of you to invite someone to your next meeting. Personal invitation is still the best means to grow. We need your continued support in growing our membership and will be one of the top goals of the coming year. I hope to get to know each of you better and hope each of you have prosperous 2011. **OB**

The Year Is Almost Over



by Tom French

Well it happened last week, I got that friendly e-mail from Mike to get my article in for the magazine. This e-mail had another phrase that the previous ones this year did not, it said "This is your last column as president." Wow! I can't believe the year is almost over. I think this article is going to be to thank those who have helped make this year the success it has been.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your president this past year. I have had a fun time and with the help of Mike and Kathy, it has been an easy year. As I'm sure you all know, Mike keeps the ship afloat, and with out him, we wouldn't be where we are today. Mike, thanks for all you have done this year to help the association and me as president, and Kathy, thank you for keeping me in check.

Many Thanks

I would like to thank the following people for your efforts in all we have done this year.

A big thank you to Donna Cullins, Steve Sullivan, Aaron LeClaire, Jose Laboy and all the associates for help with the summer conventions. The silent auction was a huge success at our convention, thanks to Vanessa Shaddix and Gina Cox. We raised a record amount of money due to the hard work of these two.

Terry Jennings did a great job with our Golf Tournament at the convention, everyone had a great time. Thanks Terry

Kimmi Houston and the ladies of OPWB helped with the name tags at our day at the Capitol this spring, thanks ladies!

Mark Dale, thank you for being our super spokesman with our legislators, everyone loves to hear from you!

Kevin Raborg and Brenda Marlow, thanks for getting our fall board meeting at the "O" club in Stillwater, Even though I'm a Sooner, I must say that it is an awesome and impressive venue that OSU has.

Barbara Franks, thanks so much for setting up our sporting clay tournament that we had after our fall board. Everyone had a great time at this, and no one was shot! Thank you..

Todd Booze, thanks for a great Green Building Summit, you have done a super job with this the last two years, and we all appreciate your efforts. Thank you to Curtis McCarty for stepping up and being on the uniform code council, and trying to keep the cities with codes that we all can live with. All of the builders benefit from the work you do!

On the subject of building green and building code compliance homes, I can't leave out Tony Foust, for picking up the ball on our Certified Builders Program this year, Thanks for all your work on our CBP program!

Carrol Hartzog, thanks for keeping us in the news in a good way! Your publicity of our organization is second to none, great job this year as always.

And last but not least Thanks to my fellow senior officers Michael Herndon, and Brandon Perkons for being there when we had tough decisions to make, and to Jeff Click as my trusted advisor. Thank you guys!

I hope I haven't missed anyone, If I left you out by mistake, please let me know and next month, I will get a huge column just to talk about you!!!

As you can see, with all these talented people we have had working hard for OSHBA this last year, my job has been easy!

Thank you for letting me serve the association as your president this last year, you are in good hands with the new leadership coming on. **OB**



Associate's Council Chair Report

Jose Laboy

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You



Zoom ... That was the sound of this year going right past me. It's unbelievable that my term will be ending in a month. It has been a great ride, though. It's been a real privilege leading a fine group of people from around the great state of Oklahoma. What a pleasure it has been working with the members of the associates' council, state board, staff and, most importantly, the membership. For those of you who see the value in being a member and remaining committed to the success of the OSHBA, even through difficult times, I applaud you for your continued support.

Discovering Opportunities

My job at CenterPoint Energy requires that I travel once a month on average. On those trips, I make time to visit with people in the housing industry to gauge the health of the market. The astonishing thing is, even in the worst markets, some are thriving. They are the gems. They stand out and excel because they are different. They offer something no

one else does. Times are tough for some, but opportunities are there ready to be discovered for all.

Why We Do What We Do

One of the most rewarding aspects of being on the associates' council is that I get to deliver the scholarship check to the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton. Each year I stop in to see what the students are working on. This year they are putting the finishing touches on a house they built from the ground up. They were excited and full of pride in their accomplishment. I took the opportunity to ask why they chose to do what they do and become a student in the building trade. They said it made them feel good knowing they were doing something that made families safe and comfortable. I was in a bit of shock. I certainly didn't expect it from such young students but I got the sense they all had a purpose. What is your purpose? Why do you do what you do? **OB**

WAGONER ELECTRIC INC.

Commercial • Residential • Service
Licensed, Bonded & Insured

Keith Wagoner
Cell: 405-503-3063
Phone: 405-769-7050

License # 34932

WILLARDS
WHOLESALE ROOFING CO., INC
• Since 1965 •

Gerry & Carol, Michael & Dax Cavener, Owners
WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC

Rooftop Delivery • A Full Selection of Roofing Materials
• Residential & Commercial • Roof Systems

3100 S. Bryant • Del City, OK

(405) 235-1601

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

OAK HILLS SECURITIES INC.

Oak Hills Securities, Inc. Brokers
Oklahoma Energy Efficient Tax Credits

Oak Hills Securities, Inc.
13905 Quail Pointe Drive, Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73134

405.286.9759
Member FINRA/SIPC



State Rep's Report
Phil Rhees

The Future of the Mortgage Interest Deduction

As I sit here at the computer racking my brain for the topic of my article this month ... BAM! Up pops a story on Foxnews.com that the U.S. Deficit Commission has recommended eliminating the mortgage interest deduction from the tax code. (Thank you, God, for giving me an issue I can really sink my teeth into!) As I've reported earlier, this is not really a surprise. NAHB has expected this recommendation from the Commission for some time, and it is why the NAHB Board

voted to reserve \$4.5 million in 2011 and 2012 to fight it. By the time you read this article, I will have been to the Winter Executive Board meeting in Washington, DC where I hope I will be able to gather more information. Suffice it to say, ladies and gentlemen, the elimination of the mortgage tax credit will absolutely devastate what remains of the housing market in America. It's hard for me to imagine many of our elected representatives supporting this effort, and I will explain why.

Americans overwhelmingly oppose any action by Congress to tamper with the mortgage interest deduction, according to a new nationwide survey of likely voters commissioned by NAHB. Nearly 80% support retaining federal tax incentives to promote homeownership, which have been in the tax code since the introduction of federal income taxes in 1913.

The poll results show strong national voter support for keeping the mortgage interest deduction that cuts across gender, age, partisan, ideological, educational and regional lines. Obviously, voters have a very strong connection to the home mortgage interest deduction and are not likely to respond well to efforts to reduce or eliminate it. Public Opinion Strategies conducted the survey on Sept. 9 through 12 to assess the public's attitude toward the mortgage interest deduction and the importance of homeownership. Among the poll's key findings:

- 79% of all respondents - both owners and renters - believe the federal government should provide tax incentives to promote homeownership.
- An even greater percentage of renters, 82%, favor providing tax incentives to promote homeownership.
- Even when told that getting rid of the mortgage interest deduction would help ease the federal budget deficit, 72% of voters opposed any proposal to abolish it. This strong consensus cuts across partisan lines and homeowner status; 76% of Republicans, 75% of Independents and 64% of Democrats oppose eliminating the deduction. Meanwhile, 75% of homeowners and 55% of renters also oppose doing away with the home mortgage interest deduction.

These are very interesting numbers, gang. The issue of eliminating the mortgage interest deduction seems to come up about every 10 years or so, and we usually have little difficulty defeating it. Unfortunately, the recent passage of the Health Care Bill proved that no matter how much public opposition an issue has, it can still be rammed through Congress. Stay tuned!

(Poll statistics above taken from *Nation's Building News*.)

OB



ONB Bank
Member Central Bancompany

See Barbara Franks for competitive
 construction loans in your area

ONB Bank
 623 S. Main Street
 Stillwater, OK 74074

405-707-8039

www.onbbank.com



Governor-Elect Mary Fallin Visits Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa

In one of her first public appearances since being elected Oklahoma's first female governor, Mary Fallin spoke to members of the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa (HBA) at the General Membership Meeting on November 9. The newly elected governor shared her vision for Oklahoma's future, answered questions from the audience and also took time to pose for photos.

"Mary Fallin recognizes the significance of the building industry to Oklahoma's economy," said Paul Kane, Executive Vice President/CEO of the HBA. "We are privileged to be one of her first engagements after winning the election, and look forward to hearing her plan and working together with her over the next few years to forward both the local building industry and the state."

More than 200 members were in attendance for the meeting. Residential construction has been slowing steadily in Tulsa since the building peak in 2005; however, the market has remained relatively stable compared to the rest of the country. National economists have also labeled Tulsa as one of the areas expected to lead the nation's recovery from the housing downturn. But faced with a 7 percent lag in starts compared to last year, many businesses are fighting for survival. The industry continues to work to combat low consumer confidence and educate potential buyers of the value of homeownership and the benefits of investing in a new home or remodeling project, with a goal to attract consumers back into the marketplace.

About Mary Fallin

Governor-Elect Mary Fallin is a lifelong conservative with more than 20 years of public service. Before entering office, Mary was a regional manager of a national hotel chain. She was honored as a manager of the year for her leadership and managerial performance. In 1990, Mary was first elected as a state representative and was named "Legislator of the Year" for her work in the Oklahoma House. She went on to become the first woman and the first Republican lieutenant governor in 1995, a position which she held for 12 years. During her time as lieutenant governor, Mary waged an aggressive campaign to bring more jobs to Oklahoma—recruiting businesses, promoting economic development, spearheading the "Right to Work" campaign and leading the charge to reform the state's costly workers' compensation system. In her campaign for governor, Mary has named job growth, education and improving the quality of life here in Oklahoma as priorities. **OB**



Pictured in the photo with Gov.-Elect Fallin are Paul and Gary Soderstrom, President of the Tulsa HBA.



Jim Schuff

Vesta Homes

by Stacey Tetloff

When Jim Schuff started college at the University of Oklahoma, he decided to study architecture. About three-quarters into his degree, though, he changed his major to mortuary science.

After graduation, he enjoyed a career as a licensed funeral director and embalmer. Fate would soon intervene, and Schuff would embark on another career transition.

Making a Change

Schuff and his wife decided to purchase their first home. They were pre-qualified and were about to purchase from a friend. When that deal didn't work out, Schuff turned to another friend for some help. This friend was a builder, and he suggested building a home.

During the process, Schuff's friend offered him a job with his building company. Schuff enjoyed working as a funeral director, so he turned the offer down. After meeting up again for a lunch meeting, however, Schuff decided to take on the challenge of working for his friend.

That was in 1995, and Schuff has been with Vesta Homes ever since. "I had always been interested in construction, and had a background in architecture," explained Schuff, "and he was looking for someone to come and work with him to take over the business when he retired."

Handing the keys over to new homeowners and seeing their excitement is one of Schuff's favorite parts of his decision to make a career change. "The entire building process is rewarding. I enjoy all of the different aspects of

building, from the drawing and design to working with subcontractors and watching the framing to customizing each home to meet every homeowner's needs," he said. Schuff is invested in giving Vesta Homes customers everything they have ever wanted in their new homes.

Staying Ahead of the Changes

To be able to do that, Schuff notes the importance of staying up on changes to the industry. "Education is one of the biggest challenges to our industry," Schuff said. "There are changes everyday and there is always something new to learn. There's even code changes between the different municipalities, and builders have to know it all." Schuff looks to get education from as many places as possible, including by participating in the Certified Professional Builder program.

Sometimes learning comes on the job, but Schuff credits the builders associations in Oklahoma, at the state and local levels, with providing a lot of the necessary training and education courses builders need to be successful. "We have picked up a lot of valuable information from the HBA education courses, from soil treatment to Energy Star products, and it's been an extreme asset by providing us with valuable tools," Schuff explained. He also talked about the advantages of the International Builders Show, being held this year in Orlando, FL. "It's three or four days of attending classes and learning new techniques and hearing about new products. It's so helpful to our customers because we are able to bring back the latest and greatest in both products and techniques he said.

It Takes More Than Builders

In addition to education, the importance of building relationships with subcontractors cannot be ignored. The builders associations give Schuff and Vesta Homes another way to communicate with subcontractors and suppliers. "This business takes more than just builders. It takes the input of suppliers and subs to make a business successful, and their involvement in the HBAs is vital," Schuff explained.

An emphasis on building strong relationships with subcontractors and suppliers is one of the keys to the success of Vesta Homes. Schuff noted that several of their suppliers and subcontractors have been with the company as long as he has been there. "That's a valuable part of the business and our success," he said, "and we strive to keep our subs busy so they'll continue to stay with us."

Another key to Vesta Homes' success is its product. The company builds a variety of products from starter homes to upper-end, smaller homes. The need has always been there. Vesta Homes is also able to set itself apart by adapting some of the upper-end features clients have seen in larger homes for their own projects.

Working Together

Schuff's belief in the importance of the home builders associations to the home building industry has driven him to get involved. In 2011, he will serve as the President of the Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association. Prior to this year, he has served on a variety of committees and

in different offices, including as Parade of Homes Chairman and SW Showcase of Homes Chairman. In addition, in 2005 he was the President of the Southwest HBA, has spent 10 years on the Board of Directors with the Central Oklahoma Builders Association, and has built a Feature Home for the SWHBA.

Giving back to the community is important to Schuff and his family. He is a seventh grade boys Sunday school teacher at his church and enjoys being able to spend time with his family. "Outside of church and the home builders associations, my wife Robyn and I are very involved in our children's schools and activities.

Robyn also volunteers her time to help Schuff and support the home builders associations. "She does whatever she can to take the pressure off of me," Schuff said. "From wrapping gifts for the charity Christmas party sponsored by the HBA to dropping off or picking up permits for the company to handling the closing of a home, she is great support and invaluable to me and Vesta Homes."

Schuff also gets support at work from his brother, Jason. Jason has been with the company for approximately 10 years. He is also very involved with the home builders associations, and is a Certified Professional Builder as well. "He works hand in hand with me and is so vital to our success," Schuff said.

With the support of his family and the home builders associations, Schuff can continue to provide his customers with the same knowledge and expertise to build their dream homes. **OB**

Acme Brick Company to Provide Brick for 100 Homes for Disabled Veterans

Acme Brick Company has committed to provide brick at below cost for 100 homes in conjunction with Operation FINALLY HOME, a nationwide program to provide housing for returning, disabled veterans. Operation FINALLY HOME is an outgrowth of a program originally conceived by the Bay Area Builders' Association (BABA) under the leadership of Dan Wallrath. Because of his pioneering efforts on behalf of America's war wounded, Wallrath has been named as one of 10 finalists for CNN's Hero of the Year award. The winner will be announced during a global telecast on Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 25.

Dennis Knautz, commenting on FINALLY HOME said, "A major part of Acme's corporate mission is to be positively involved in those communities that we serve. I can't think of a better way to fulfill that mission than by supporting these individuals who have sacrificed so much and risked everything for our country."

Acme, the largest U.S. owned brick company, celebrated its 119th birthday on April 17, 2010. Acme is a member of the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies headed by famed investor Warren Buffett.

For more information, contact Ron Taylor/Ashley & Taylor Public Relations (817) 377-1042 or cell (817) 874-8206. For electronic copies of press releases or images, please phone or e-mail taylorpr@spindle.net. **OB**



Dan Wallrath, President of Operation FINALLY HOME (l.) acknowledges a commitment to provide brick for 100 homes for disabled veterans from Dennis Knautz, president and CEO of Acme Brick Company. Pictured in the background is Baby Clay, certified as the world's largest brick at 9,300 lbs. by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Three Ways to Reduce Structural Framing Costs without Sacrificing Quality



by Pete Hess

Have you ever had a favorite restaurant, hotel or store that started out pretty good, but over time began to slide as they cut costs? The prices didn't go down, but the quality and service did? It's a downward spiral in many businesses where cutting corners to save a few bucks might help profits in the short term, but over time leads to unhappy customers.

In homebuilding, since buyers are making a large and emotionally charged purchase, lowering quality can mean business suicide. Yet, builders are under huge pressure to manage costs and maintain home affordability.

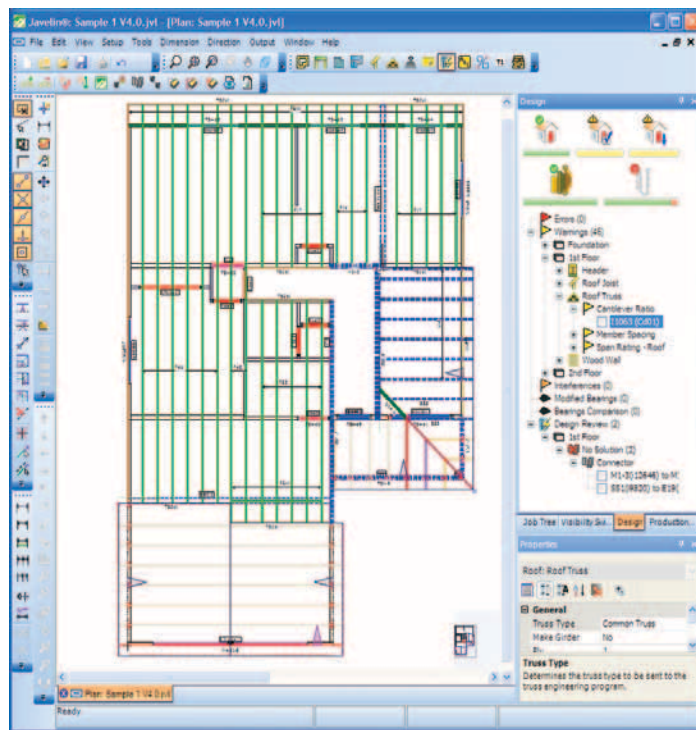
For the structural frame, following are three ways to streamline construction and potentially reduce materials needed, while retaining the finished home's quality.

- Develop a detailed framing plan with design software.
- Use advanced framing practices.
- Build with engineered wood and dimensional lumber in selected locations.

Since framing and trusses are the largest single construction cost in new homes (see "Breaking Down House Price and Construction Costs," NAHB, March 5, 2010), such practices play an important role in managing total expenses.

Develop a Detailed Framing Plan with Design Software

To help simplify frame construction, some wood product suppliers offer specialized structural frame design software through their dealers. Designers can use these tools to convert basic architectural drawings into plans showing the specific placement and dimensions of each stud, joist, beam, etc. Designers and builders can see the frame in 3D from any angle inside and out, and work out any conflicts before starting construction. It's taking the old saying "measure



twice, cut once" to a new level to help reduce framing errors and costly on-site plan changes.

Some design tools like iLevel® Javelin® design software also allow for accurate vertical load tracking throughout the frame. As a result, designers can specify structural members in the right locations and amounts, thereby helping reduce materials needed while still providing a strong frame.

Dealers using such software can prepare framing layouts suited to local construction practices and builder preferences.



This can help further eliminate unnecessary materials by providing custom solutions.

Use Advanced Framing Practices

Although advanced framing/optimum value engineering (OVE) has been around for years, it is still not widely adopted. Yet, the methods are proven to be structurally sound, and can help reduce materials use and improve the way the framing and insulation work together for better energy efficiency. For example, iLevel built a 2 by 6 at 24 inch-on-center demonstration wall using such techniques and achieved an 86 percent increase in insulation volume and 58 percent increase in the wall's overall R-value compared to a traditional 2 by 4 wall at 16 inches on center. The 2 by 6 wall also used 8 percent less wood (on a volume basis) than a typical 2 by 4 wall.

In addition to potentially helping reduce costs by using fewer materials, advanced framing techniques can help lower dumpster fees since less wood is needed overall and because scrap can be used in places such as ladder blocking.

Some advanced framing methods to consider for reducing materials use are:

- **24-inch on-center spacing using 2 by 6 studs:** Larger studs provide stability necessary to offset the wider spacing, while reducing the number of framing members.
- **Two-stud corners:** Also called a "California corner," using two studs placed perpendicular to one another instead of three studs back-to-back eliminates one stud at each corner.
- **Ladder blocking at wall intersections:** A series of horizontal members between studs provides a stable connection at points where interior walls meet exterior walls and eliminates extraneous studs. Builders can use short lumber pieces that otherwise might end up as scrap.
- **In-line framing:** Aligning 24-inch on-center studs with floor and ceiling joists provides a way for loads to transfer directly from member to member. This in turn can allow use of a single, instead of multiple top plates.

Design software can help builders adapt to advanced framing by showing in detail how each member should be placed. It can also provide peace of mind that loads are adequately accounted for and that the home will stand strong.

Build with Engineered Wood and Dimension Lumber in Selected Locations


Builders are increasingly using engineered wood products for a variety of framing needs since such materials are consistently strong, straight and warp-resistant. At the same

time, materials like laminated strand lumber (LSL) and parallel strand lumber (PSL) have a premium price for their increased performance. One method to balance performance and cost is to use engineered wood in select locations and dimension lumber in other parts of the frame.

In projects where the budget won't allow for engineered wood in all walls, for example, a good approach is to use LSL studs for the most critical areas, such as kitchens and baths. In these rooms, smooth and solid LSL walls can provide a solid attachment point for cabinets, as well as a smooth surface for tile. Dimension lumber can then be used for other interior and exterior walls.

There are also now more framing material choices; it's not an either/or decision between engineered studs and commodity lumber. Manufacturers are producing specialty lumber that is lower cost than LSL, yet helps create higher-quality walls than standard lumber. For example, iLevel offers a range of products with advanced milling practices and strict grading standards to create straighter studs than conventional lumber. Manufacturers typically give such products a brand name and labels to differentiate them from standard lumber.

Beyond these three ways to reduce framing costs, your dealer or wood product manufacturer may be able to provide additional ideas based on your specific needs. Some manufacturers have framing experts on staff who can review plans and potentially find additional ways to eliminate materials and still meet code requirements. Contact them to learn what services are available.

Pete Hess is a Region Manager for iLevel by Weyerhaeuser. iLevel offers a range of specialty structural framing materials and software, including TimberStrand® LSL, Parallam® PSL, TJI® joists, and iLevel Edge Gold™ floor panels. For more information, visit www.iLevel.com or 888-453-8358. 



New Law Protecting Lives Around Airports Takes Effect



A new law, the Aircraft Pilot and Passenger Protection Act, became effective Oct. 1, that will protect the lives of airplane passengers and pilots as well as those that live and work around a public-use airport in Oklahoma. The law will ensure that development around an airport is compatible with airplane takeoffs and landings.

The new law also applies to military airports, such as Tinker Air Force Base, by preventing incompatible land use around those airports.

"Protecting the integrity and safety of military aircraft operations and airspace used by the military for training has been critical to Oklahoma's success insofar as preventing base closures or transfers of significant missions," Director of Aeronautics Victor Bird said.

The act does not apply to privately owned airports that are for private use only or to publicly owned airports in cities with populations of more than 500,000.

Additionally, any person that wants to build a structure for an incompatible use within 500 feet of an airport runway centerline or in the runway protection zone would have to obtain a permit first from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. Homes, schools, child care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes and churches would all be considered incompatible with airport operations, including the landing and takeoff of aircraft.

Under the act, any person that wants to build any structure that is in excess of 150 feet above an airport's elevation and within three miles of the airport must also first obtain a permit from the Aeronautics Commission. Alterations to existing structures within that three-mile radius also need a permit if the height of the resulting structure exceeds 150 feet.

Bird noted that between 1995 and 2005, the most recent statistics available, more than one airport a week was closed in the U.S. due, in large part, to encroaching development. He stressed that the act was designed not to stop development around airports but to ensure that it was compatible with airport operations, and to protect the flying public as well as those who live and work near a public-use airport.

"This is in no way an anti-development law," Bird stressed. "We love the fact that businesses want to either build or expand in our state; we just don't want them to do it so close to our airports where their structures could become hazards to air navigation. Development and airports can mutually coexist."

Bird explained that the Federal Aviation Administration does not regulate development near public-use airports but instead leaves those kinds of decisions to local officials. He said the act does not take away any zoning authority from municipalities but rather complements it by providing another layer of protection.

According to state officials, there are currently 140 public-use airports in Oklahoma.

The mission of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is to ensure that the needs of commerce and communities across the state are met by the state's 113 public airports that comprise the Oklahoma Airport System, and to foster the viability and growth of the state's aviation and aerospace industry. **OB**

PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING INC.

Bob Jones, Owner

1600 S. Eastern Ave.
Moore, OK 73160

State Lic # 33637

(405) 799-2798

(405) 799-1643

thebestproplumbing@yahoo.com

The Leak Stops Here



GLASS & MIRROR
COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

3730 N. MacArthur • OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73122

COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL
GLASS & MIRROR

Bus.: (405) 789-1485
FAX: (405) 789-1772

Our Second Year



It is amazing to me that 2010 is almost over. What an interesting year this has been for our industry. We are facing challenges that haven't been addressed since the last depression. At least in Oklahoma, we don't seem to be as hard hit as some areas, but it has still been very difficult for many. I am ready for everything to turn around and for our industry to thrive once more!

One for All and All for One

I have been attending IBS meetings and NAHB Fall/Spring Board meetings for several years and it has been interesting to see the changes that have come about in the past few years. I was in San Diego at Fall Board when the economy started to fall apart—and I learned so much about NAHB and gained a whole new respect for what our leadership does for all members. It was a great place to witness the prestige NAHB has on Capitol Hill. We were constantly informed on what was happening and what we needed to do individually, to let our lawmakers know where we stood.

As our challenges continue, it is great to know that we are a part of one of the most respected and powerful trade associations in the nation. NAHB leadership diligently continues to monitor and address issues that affect us, and they keep us informed. We need to each do our part – if you have not signed up for **Builder's Link** you need to do so

and follow through each time we get an e-mail requesting our help. We are all in this together and we need to all work together to get things turned around. If you would like more information about Builder's Link, you can reach me at 405.377.2650 or e-mail me at: barbara_franks@onbbank.com.

Looking to 2011

I am excited to be installed as the Chair of the Oklahoma Professional Women in Building for 2011 and looking forward to more great things from our members. This will begin the second year of our Oklahoma chapter and we have already come a long way. We owe a big THANKS to Kimmi Houston for leading us this past year! Our focus will continue to be education for OSHBA members, getting more women involved in the legislative process, and being involved throughout the state as we are needed. We continue to look for members that would like to join us in our passion for this industry.

Please join me at IBS in Orlando, Florida when our own Kimmi Houston will be installed as chair of NAHB Professional Women in Building. It will be held on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We need our Oklahoma delegation there to support her, so please attend if you can. Please contact me anytime you need OPWB's help or support. May you have a blessed and prosperous 2011! **OB**

The Year in Review



by Kimi Houston

My goodness ... how time has flown over the past year! The Oklahoma Professional Women in Building Council has much to attribute to their successes in 2010! Here is our year in review ...

OPWB, after receiving our national charter from NAHB in late 2009, celebrated the 1st Annual Installation of Officers on January 9, 2010. What a grand and historic night it was!

Then, it was business at best! We had established our council with 6 charter members ... Kimmi Houston, Vanessa Shadix, Mary Beth Smith, Gina Cox, Michelle Griffin and Lark Dale. And, we had established our operating account with a beginning balance of \$1!

Soon, we added a few "At Large Members" from around the state to our council such as Dawnette Brady (Bartlesville), Barbara Franks (Stillwater), Meegan Holman (Noble), Laura Gose (Stillwater), Casey Felix (Enid), Hannah Robson (Tulsa), Lyle Phillips (Enid) and Joyce Davenport (Ardmore).

By September, we brought on 37 more members with the addition of all of the Central Oklahoma Women's Council joining the council! And in October, we welcomed five new members, Jack Werner (OKC), Sonja Weaver (OKC), John Baker (OKC), Marilyn Fincher (OKC) and Gala Lowry (OKC) at our educational classes. We are now at 56 members. Woo hoo!

Our operating account has grown too! With our NAHB awards, memberships and education, we have added nearly \$2500 to the account. Offsetting that by \$1400 (we awarded educational scholarships to members attending our sponsored classes), we donated to BuildPAC, we donated "in-kind" contributions for political purposes and we sponsored our first member to attend "Train-the-Trainer," adding to our list of attributes a teacher for NAHB right here in Oklahoma!!

2010 has seen many projects from OPWB! We increased our presence at the Capitol on Legislative Day. We implemented the name badges and lanyards to enunciate our presence, and established our honorary PAC pins to show appreciation.

Continued on page 14

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 13

Our first educational opportunities came to fruition with the Business Management and CAPS I class in February and later the CAPS II class in October. We celebrated our first graduates earning their Certified Aging in Place Specialist designation (John Baker, Lyle Phillips, Kimmi Houston, Kim Houston, Jack Werner, Sonja Weaver and David Castro)! We created scholarships enabling members to attend our educational classes at a discounted rate ... and new members to utilize too!.

We had our first seminar at State Convention in which we had over 30 attend, plus we donated the sales proceeds to PAC! We sponsored and coordinated our 2nd Sporting Clay Event/PAC Fundraiser raising over \$2500. We "paid it forward" by aiding and developing funeral services in tribute to a deceased council member, and we co-sponsored an event for US Congressional Candidate James Lankford.

With all the opportunities given by OSHBA this year and for the work that we have done, OPWB is in position to enter into national competition again! (Last year, many will remember, we nearly won every award offered by NAHB!)

We have submitted 10 entries into competition as well as three nominees for national recognition:

Legislative Category

2nd Annual Oklahoma PAC Sporting Clay Tournament

Legislative Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol

OPWB Sponsors Candidate for US Congress (Lankford Event)

Membership Recruitment Category

Member Prospect Packet

Creating Our Own Scholarships (for our CAPS classes)

OPWB On the Road (visits across Oklahoma)

Community Outreach Category

Educating Oklahoma (CAPS I, CAPS II, Bus Mgmt)

OPWB, Paying It Forward (Relief/Funeral Services for member)

Member Benefits Category

New Member Packet

The Seven Women Project (Karen McCullough Seminar/Book)

National Woman of the Year Competition

Kimmi Houston

National Member of the Year Competition

Vanessa Shadix

National At Large Member of the Year Competition

Barbara Franks

It is with great honor and pride that we do what we do! Thank you so much OSHBA ... for giving us these opportunities! Wish us LUCK!

What's in Our Future?

Barbara Franks will take the helm as the incoming chair... and it will be smooth sailing with her! She is an incredible woman and outstanding leader! It is with great pride that I turn it over to her! She will be fantastic!


Look to Barbara's article ... she will tell you all of her plans for the new year!! And rest assured, they are great ones!

Where Am I Going?

As we look to 2011, OPWB will have their first Past Chair! That's me! I will be moving on to another great responsibility ... and privilege!

I have been part of the national arena for over seven years. I currently serve on two national committees in addition to the Professional Women in Building Council. In that time, I have grown to love the purpose of NAHB and the work. I truly believe that the PAC funds to which you and I contribute, NAHB uses intelligently and appropriately to pass laws and position others to keep you and I in business! I want to continue helping with that! And as a woman, I want to help other female business owners to find the leader within! My passion for making a difference, has led me to further my work with NAHB by serving as the 2011 National Chair for the NAHB Professional Women in Building.

It is with great honor and pride that I assume the position with the spotlight on our state! I love Oklahoma ... and I love Home Building! Please join me Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011 in Orlando, Florida for the 2011 Installation of Officers and reception! It will be held in the Head Quarter Hotel from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and the theme will be OKLAHOMA! I will be sending out invitations to my entire Oklahoma family and hope that you will come! I am honored to have Whirlpool sponsoring the evening, and Joe Robson installing me into the position!

In closing, to all my 2010 officers, thanks for believing in me ... it's been a great year and I love you all! To OSHBA, the Board of Directors and everyone else, thank you for the opportunity and the creation of some great memories! I hope to make you proud! God Bless! 

FOWLER FLOORWORLD

Carpet • Wood • Ceramic • Laminates • Area Rugs • Vinyl

Scott Akin
Owner

109 Industrial Blvd.
Moore, OK 73160

(405) 793-8659

Cell (405) 210-1292

sakin@carpetworldok.com

www.floorstoresok.com



By All Means: Executive Officer's Report

Mike Means

Peace at Last

Recently I gave a lecture on peace. We all want peace in our lives. And I am not talking about world peace like some beauty pageant contestant. I am talking about a little peace from the hectic rat race we call life for our little corner. Now that the elections are behind us perhaps we can count on a little peace from robo-calls and campaign television ads. No push polling or candidates knocking on the door, just a moment of peace, that's the ticket! Ah, take a deep breath and relax. Peace at last.

Time's Up!

Time's up! It is the Christmas holiday season! People to see, places to go, presents to buy, food to prepare; there will be no peace for me...or for you. I know there are some folks who love this stuff, but the pace of the holidays can leave us longing for some more peace....and quiet. Ah, the children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; and mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled down for a long winter's nap. Finally, perhaps, just a little peace.

Time's up! Back to work. No peace for you...or for me. It's the beginning of a New Year with new challenges. Having a new Governor and many new legislators means keeping track of new initiatives that may help or hurt our industry. New leadership for the State means there will be many new faces and many new ideas. Sometimes new faces bring back old ideas. Either way, it means being present to explain how our industry works. So it's back to bills, bills, bills...busy, busy, busy.

Opportunities and Reflections

A new year means new opportunities to grow your business. It is also a time to reflect on the past year and review what worked, what didn't, and what to try differently. Many folks find this reflection to be a time of peace. For many more, it can be a little disconcerting. The desire is for peace, confidence to face a new day, but not knowing what the future brings causes a little anxiety.

I read recently where peace isn't the absence of hostility or conflict. Instead, peace is found in unity of purpose and joy. This year I have been blessed with a study of the Book of Isaiah. It is found in the Old Testament of the Bible. The nation of Israel was faced with the threat of destruction from without but also from godless leadership and worship from within. Isaiah had been given a vision from God and shared it with the people that if they had a right relationship with God, they could experience peace in the midst of all their pressures.

In applying this to my life, I realize that if my priorities are right – God, family, being a good employee (or employer) – then in the midst of all the turmoil I face I can have peace. No matter what comes out of Washington DC, the State Capitol, or the nightly news, I can have peace.

Isaiah shared something else with the people as well. They would be able to have peace because God Himself was going to send a Son, who would be called the Prince of Peace.

So as we consider the obstacles and challenges, when our day gets interrupted by that phone call, when we think that things are out of control, then think upon what God has done for us. He sent us the true Prince of Peace so we can experience a peace that passes all understanding. That is my wish for you as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas and get ready for another new year. **OB**



Need Inspiration?

Let our specialists light the way.

Impeccable lighting requires expert advice. At Hunzicker Lighting Gallery, our Lighting Specialists have at least 10 years of industry experience. Let them guide you through the vast selection housed in our exquisite showroom. Hunzicker Lighting Gallery is open to builders, decorators, and the public. Whether you're building or remodeling, you'll find inspiration in our eclectic, exhilarating decor.

Our showroom is located just east of Broadway Extension on NE 122nd. Stop by today, and let us highlight the perfect solution for your needs.

HUNZICKER
LIGHTING GALLERY

Stylish | Affordable | Brilliant

501 NE 122nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK
405.751.3994



hunzickerlighting.com



Continually charging forward with bright ideas concerning energy-saving efforts & issues.

design market

KICHLER
LIGHTING

Helping the Troy Aikman Foundation is just one of the reasons to build your homes with Acme Brick.



To increase your potential homebuyers' preference for the Acme brand, we partner with one of America's most recognized and trusted spokespersons, Troy Aikman. Acme also

makes a contribution to the Troy Aikman Foundation for children for each Acme Brick home purchased this year.

Quality conscious homebuyers know that there are other good reasons to look for the Acme Brick logo on new homes.

Buyers know that Acme's beautiful colors from nature won't fade like concrete simulated brick, and that our transferable Homebuyers'

Limited Guarantee covers both materials and labor for 100 years. These buyers now have the added assurance of the Good Housekeeping Seal.*

We've also made selecting the right Acme Brick easier than ever for your customers. By using Acme's innovative software, Design Online, homebuyers can view various home exteriors and interactively change brick, mortar, roof and trim colors to find the combination that they



prefer. Design Online is a free download at brick.com.



This year, your potential customers will receive more than 100 million advertising impressions about Acme's partnership with Troy and with the Troy Aikman Foundation via television, billboards, and point-of-sale materials. If you aren't already a member of the Acme/Aikman team, we invite you to join us today. Please contact your local Acme representative for details and for model home point-of-sale displays.

When you build a home with Acme Brick, you're giving your homebuyer the longest lasting, most trouble-free exterior available.

Your potential buyers are looking for the Acme logo. We hope that you will too.

*A survey by Fairfield Research found that 95% of American women believe that the Seal denotes a product's quality.

