

Promote professionalism, education and ethics within the remodeling industry throughout the Fox Cities

Committed to providing innovative vision and exemplary leadership in support of industry excellence

MISSION

VISION



MEETING NEWS

General Membership Meeting Board of Directors Election and Holiday Party

Wednesday December 15, 2010

Gathering: 6:00 pm – Dinner and Networking: 6:30 pm – Live Music 7:30 pm

Liberty Hall Banquet & Conference Center

800 Eisenhower Drive
Kimberly, WI 54136

Happy Holidays! At this month's meeting enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Fox Valley NARI Chapter members and meet their business partners, friends and family as we celebrate the Holiday Season and New Year! As always this dinner meeting is open to all members, their business partners and guests. As part of the celebration, two guests per business member will be complimentary instead of just one. Additional guests will be the standard \$20 per person. We will gather with beverages in hand to mix, mingle, network and give cheer! Once again this year we will have live entertainment to fill the air with the sounds of the holidays. The Easy Pieces Band will entertain with easy listen and dancing music spanning popular selections from a variety of classic and contemporary artists. And since it is the season, hopefully everyone has been good this year so Santa will leave us some special gifts as well.

During the meeting there will be one important item of business . election of the 2011 Board of Directors. These will be the members leading the organization on your behalf for the next year. Your vote in selecting the best leadership team is important. Candidates thus far for the 2011 board and officer positions are:

President: Craig LeBeau

Vice President: Ryan Petersen

Treasurer: Diane Welhouse

Secretary: Nick Arnoldussen

Directors (3): Becky Herring; Tod Raehl, CR; Bud Louison

Volunteers and nominations are still open and can be submitted up until the election begins. Please consider running for any position. If you have any questions please contact President, Paul Welhouse.

Advanced reservations are required for this meeting. Please RSVP online at www.remodelfoxvalley.com your attendance and that of any other business partners or guests no later than the end of business on Monday December 13. Payment can also be paid upon registration at the meeting. Checks can be made out to Fox Valley NARI. Paul Welhouse can be reached at 920-841-2643 or by email at paulw@welhouseconstruction.com

FOX VALLEY NARI CHAPTER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*The voice of the
remodeling industry*

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- ♦ NARI on the Hill: Letters to Congress, 12/2/2010
- ♦ NARI, CEDIA form Remodeling & Home Technologies Council, 11/3/2010
- ♦ NARI Offers Tips to Natural Disaster Victims to Avoid Home Repair Scams, 10/27/2010

NARI Green: www.greenremodeling.org

The purpose of Greenremodeling.org is to establish a body of knowledge for Remodeling Professionals and for Green-minded Homeowners; and to support professional growth in the field of green remodeling and encourage the homeowner to become educated about green homes. The goal is to become the web's most knowledgeable green remodeling information source.

NARI's core purpose is to advance and promote the remodeling industry's professionalism, product and vital public purpose. To learn more and what your membership can do for you visit: www.remodeltoday.com



The Fox Valley NARI Chapter Board of Directors wishes all our members a very happy and safe Holiday Season! May the New Year bring upon you good fortune and prosperity!

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PRESIDENT'S INSIGHT

Paul Welhouse



Fellow Members,

Here it is again, the countdown to the end of another year. It is a time most of us do some personal and professional reflections. If you do this well, it means an honest look in the mirror to celebrate the wins of where we have been and what has been done as well as evaluate the challenges of what needs to be done in the coming year.

Reflecting in the Fox Valley NARI Chapter mirror here is what I see. In terms of wins, we continue to climb the mountain reorganizing and revitalizing an organization that was treading on folding two years ago. Our biggest accomplishment this year was the development of a strategic plan. We have a solid working document leading us in the right path. Following the plan and the path resulted in 28% growth in membership this year from 36 to 46 members. In terms of retention, we lost 7 members mostly due to the economy and unfortunately business closures. We grew our annual clay shoot and golf outing fundraisers taking our financial savings over \$32,000. In an effort to provide educational value we held Lead Safe Renovator Training and obtained some very informative speakers for our general membership meetings, including a great line up of presenters started for 2011. We developed our first committee, The Awards Committee, and overhauled the Level Best Awards program for this year. In addition we continue to get the operations of the organization cleaned up from financials, to tax compliance and overall policies and procedures. And may I point out we did this with major Board turnover losing and gaining three members of the Board and losing our general membership meeting facility. All major factors that forced us to focus on the urgent verses accomplishing even more of our strategic plan as intended. All in all, I applaud the efforts of our volunteer Board and thank them for their time and effort to once again push our Chapter forward.

So where do we go from here? In the past two years one thing I have learned is the tough economy poses unique challenges for nonprofit boards. The Fox Valley NARI is no exception. Although we have on one hand what seems like a nice bank account, reality is we are operating close to the line financially. Our strategic plan calls for more marketing and creating greater awareness of the Chapter, continuing membership growth and retention, increasing educational and professional development for our members all depending on an increase of annual raised funds to support these aspirations as our current funds will not. Besides funds we need human resources. Our Board is voluntary and carrying not only the leadership, but overall operations of the Chapter. This is causing the Board to forsake their strategic role and delve into the minutiae. Until we obtain and retain a minimum of 50 members hiring staff to support the operations is unrealistic financially. It will be critical for more members to get involved over the next year to support and refuel those who have been undertaking responsibilities and challenges of moving this organization forward. We need to add strength and depth of volunteers to meet current challenges and future opportunities. The Fox Valley NARI Chapter has great potential to bring value to the community, your business and to you personally and professionally. If do you some personal and business reflecting in the next few weeks, I encourage you to reflect on what you can do in support of your Chapter and fellow members and insert those reflections into your 2011 plan.

With the election of the 2011 Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors I will move into the Immediate Past President role of the Chapter. It has been my pleasure to work with our dedicated and professional members in moving this Chapter forward. I will bring my reflections to the new Board to help provide continuity from the recent past into the future. As Immediate Past President I plan to continue to be an active and supporting member of the Fox Valley NARI. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with all our members at our fundraising events, general membership meetings and through future business engagements.

Wishing you and your families the happiest of holidays and best wishes for a prosperous new year!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the December General Membership Meeting.

Paul Welhouse
President

Fox Valley NARI Chapter 2011 Board of Directors Elections – It's Not Too Late To Run!

Make the most of your NARI membership by being involved. Chapter Board elections are fast approaching and will be held at the December 15th General Membership Meeting at Liberty Hall. We are looking for members to run for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Directors. All positions are available and open! Together these leaders manage the affairs of the Chapter under the Chapter policy and bylaws. They determine policy and procedure, publications, programs, and more. Here is a summary of each positions individual responsibility:

President . presides at all meetings of the membership and board; official spokesperson of the Chapter; creates board meeting agenda; writes monthly Presidents Insight for newsletter, informs membership of any pertinent information; addresses any membership concerns; oversees strategic planning and direction; delegates other roles and responsibilities to members and/or members of the board; other responsibilities as needed.

Vice President . performs all duties in the absence of the President; oversees membership recruitment and retention efforts; leads golf outing committee; other responsibilities as assigned.

Treasurer . has charge and custody of the funds and securities of the chapter; accounts receivable, accounts payable; annual filing of state and federal tax as applicable; prepares annual budget; reports on financials; manages membership renewals and membership database; must have full working knowledge of QuickBooks; other responsibilities as assigned.

Secretary . keeps, archives and presents electronic minutes at board meetings; other responsibilities as assigned.

Director . assists in leading, advising and supporting the Officers and Chapter as a whole; lead and/or monitor assigned committees; change agent and proactive member of the Chapter; other responsibilities as assigned.

As a board member we also ask your participation on at least one committee and to support the General Membership Meetings. Board members need to devote time to learn about NARI and the Fox Valley Chapter to share our mission and values to the community acting as a spokesperson and membership recruiter. The Fox Valley NARI Chapter has no paid staff and is fully volunteer run.

The Fox Valley NARI Chapter needs your knowledge and skills to drive our chapter forward! As a growing organization we need strong leadership and board members willing to roll up their sleeves and help continue our development and execute our mission. The Board meets monthly at 5:30 pm on a day based on new board members schedules.

If you have any questions about the Board of Directors regarding time commitment, responsibilities or anything else, please either seek out a current board member at the next General Membership Meeting or feel free to contact any one via the contact information listed in the newsletter on page 2. Please seriously consider nominating someone or volunteering yourself! Our Chapter success and future depends on you! To nominate someone or get your name on the December ballot please call or email President, Paul Welhouse. All nominations and self-nominations must be submitted no later than end of business on Monday December 13.

If you are unable to run for Office or the Board, there are plenty other ways you can offer your services to help the Fox Valley NARI! Please ask any board member how!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Special thank you to the following members who have renewed their membership



- ◆ Appleton Housing Authority
- ◆ Faith Technologies, Inc.
- ◆ Valley Planing Mill, Inc.
- ◆ WASCO
- ◆ Keith Petersen Plumbing, Inc.
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- ◆ Mosquito Creek, LLC Home Renovations & Outdoor Living

Fox Valley NARI membership is at 46 members! Be sure to partner with and patronize your fellow members. A full list of members can be found at www.remodelfoxvalley.com.

Awards Committee Updates Level Best Awards Program

Level Best Awards is the Fox Valley NARI Chapter's version of the NARI CotY Awards. Annually contractor members are asked to showcase their work over the past 18 months. One winner is selected from each category and is announced at our February General Membership Meeting. In addition, winners are featured in the March issue of the Fox Cities Magazine in time for the start of the remodeling season and are also featured on the Chapter website www.remodelfoxvalley.com home page.

Due to membership feedback over the past couple years, the program needed some adjustments. The Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors established its first committee, the Awards Committee, being chaired by Becky Herring to review the Level Best Awards program. Using the membership feedback the following changes have been made effective this year:

- Overall program mirrors NARI CotY program.
- Judging process better explained including sample judges score sheet
- Category expansion with improved category definitions
- New entry forms requiring homeowner signature, contractor's notarized signature, promotional agreement, photographer release and list of companies that provided product and/or service to the project.
- New rules associated with, but not limited to the following. **BE SURE TO READ THE ENTRIE ENTRY PACKET THOROUGHLY:**
 - ✓ Eligibility
 - ✓ Entry forms
 - ✓ Entry presentation
 - ✓ Definition of project total cost
 - ✓ Project completion date
 - ✓ Photographs including duplicate set on a CD

For \$75 per entry, you have the opportunity to be viewed in the Fox Cities Magazine with over 50,000 readers and on our website where perspective customers can learn about your talents! Visit www.remodelfoxvalley.com to see previous year winners and obtain a complete 2011 Level Best Awards entry packet. The entry packet contains a complete guide for a successful entry including contest rules, categories and entry forms. **Deadline for entry is January 10, 2011 at 5:00 pm.** We look forward to receiving your entry for the 2011 Level Best Awards.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 15	General Membership Meeting, Liberty Hall Election of 2011 Officers and Holiday Party	6:00 pm
December 25	Christmas	
December 28	Board of Directors Meeting, Plum Hill Café	5:30 pm
December 31	New Year's Eve	
January 1, 2011	New Year's Day . Happy New Year	
January 10	Level Best Awards Entry Deadline	5:00 pm
January 19	General Membership Meeting, Liberty Hall Energy Star	6:00 pm
February 16	General Membership Meeting, Liberty Hall Level Best Awards Night	6:00 pm
February 19	6 th Annual Sporting Clay Outing at J & H Game Farm	
March 16	General Membership Meeting, Liberty Hall US Department of Labor/OSHA . Safety Regulations Residential Construction	6:00 pm



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



NARI Certification Programs

If you are a full-time, professional remodeling contractor with five years experience you are eligible for NARI certification. A homeowner who hires a home improvement contractor with a NARI certification is hiring an individual who has made a strong commitment to not only his or her own professionalism, but that of the remodeling industry and to his or her business. For the homeowner, it's comforting to know that their remodeling contractor has a long-term commitment to his or her profession and the home improvement industry. For the remodeler, certification sets them apart in the market and offers a unique selling proposition. Certification is a challenging process requiring extensive knowledge of the remodeling industry and a commitment to professional conduct. Are you ready for the challenge? Here's how:

To start go to www.nari.org, Education, Certification Programs, Step-by-Step section. There you can review the nine different certification options and determine which is right for you. Download and submit the application. After acceptable review by the NARI Certification Board of your hands-on experience, industry training, involvement in continuing education, technical skills, practices in business management, as well as association and community service, you will receive your certification materials. At this point you committed to intensive study on a broad range of critical home improvement industry issues. Most certification candidates participate in a formal study group and spend eight to twelve weeks studying in preparation for a one day written exam. The exam is a comprehensive written examination covering critical subject areas such as sound business management practices, knowledge of building codes and construction law, plans and specification, proper and safe use of tools and equipment, safety, standards of practice, math, and several special skill areas. Once awarded your certification, NARI certified remodeling professionals must meet annual recertification requirements involving continuing education and participation in industry related programs.



Go Green with NARI

Green remodeling is one of the hottest (and hotly debated) topics in the industry. NARI has rolled out a green remodeling education program. NARI's green remodeling program is multi-faceted, focusing on energy efficiency and conservation, indoor air quality, efficient use of resources, recycling of

demolition material and renewable energy sources, among other topics. The program will run for 12 weeks with a 2-hour class weekly. Each class will address specific topics such as building science application, green remodeling guidelines, solar applications, appliance selection and marketing a green business. This class can be the first step in moving your company into the business of green remodeling. The course is designed to provide you with a solid foundation in Green Remodeling and allow you to start practicing today. The primary texts will be included as part of the course materials along with a CD-ROM that contains links to additional references and resource materials as well as links to green product suppliers. Course size will be limited to 20 people to enable active participation by all attendees. **New series begins Thursday, January 13, 2011 4:00 to 6:00 pm CT.**

\$495 - Members

\$695 - Non-Members

E-mail info@nari.org to be put on the waiting list. All applications should be faxed or mailed to the NARI office: NARI, 780 Lee St., Suite 200, Des Plaines, IL 60016, Fax (847) 298-9225.

There are more education opportunities available at the NARI Learning Center www.nari.org/learning or www.nari.org/education. Be sure to visit NARI Radio and the NARI Learning Center for on demand podcasts and webinars plus their new Additional Education Opportunities sighting several organizations and resources!

