

# The Home Front

December 2019  
Onward & Upward



## LEADERSHIP

Meet Your 2019  
Board of Directors  
& HCHBA Staff

Brandon Austin  
President

Jesse Miller  
Board Member

John Kidda  
Board Member

Jordan Mattar  
Board Member

Jeff Pell  
Board Member

Lisa Kaczmarczyk  
Board Member

Randy Blake - Ex-Officio  
Past President

Patricia Pembridge  
Executive Office

*From Our Families to Yours,  
We Wish Everyone a  
Very Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year!*



# Members Bulletin Board

**1. Professional Women in Building (PWB)'s Collection of Electric Throw Blankets for those in need of some extra warmth this season has been successful so far (almost at our goal of 20) BUT we still will be collecting until the end of this month.**

***We want to say a HUGE Thank You to the following members***

***who have donated so far:***

***Jeff's Plumbing & Repair***

***High Country Insurance***

***Precision Cabinets***

***Watauga Heating & Cooling***

***\*Interested in joining PWB? Contact Dawn Wilson at stxdawn@yahoo.com, cell 828-773-7965 OR our office for more information***

**2. Interested in getting more involved with the Association? We are still looking for board members to fill spots for 3 members stepping down due to their terms being up. If interested in finding out more, please contact one of our board members or our office 297-6566**

**3. Membership Meetings for 2020 have been changed from Monthly to Quarterly to try and accommodate everyone's busy schedules. Mark Your Calendars with the following meeting dates: Feb 17th, May 18th, August 17th and November 16th. You will be receiving a letter in the mail along with a Calendar of Events for 2020. \*\*See Next Page with Copy of Calendar of Events\*\***

**3. Need a place to hold a company meeting or retreat: The Board of Directors is happy to announce that members can now use our banquet hall space for company meetings, lunches, trainings, etc... during normal working hours. A sponsorship/donation will be required and the facility must be cleaned and put back in the way it was found after use. For more information contact our office: 828-297-6566**

## 2020 Calendar of Events

DATE	DAY OF	EVENT TITLE	START TIME
02.17	Monday	HBA Quarterly Membership Meeting	5:30PM
05.18	Monday	HBA Quarterly Membership Meeting	5:30PM
05.19	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM
05.29	Friday	25th Annual HCHBA Golf Tournament at Sugar Mnt	12:00 Noon
08.17	Monday	HBA Quarterly Membership Meeting	6:30PM?
08.11	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM
09.15	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM
Sept/Oct		Community Project	
10.13	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM
11.03	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM
11.16	Monday	HBA Quarterly Membership Meeting	5:30PM
11.17	Tuesday	8 HR Continued Education Training for Licensed GC's	8:00AM

# **TRADE UP**

## **Internship/Pre-Apprenticeship Program**

**Ask Us How You Can Participate!!!!**

### **What is the Trade Up Program?**

The Trade Up Program is an internship program designed to bring new talent into the construction and fabrication trades. Trade Up is focused on, but not limited to, the following trade professions: carpentry, masonry, electrical, welding and general construction.

### **Who is Trade Up?**

Trade Up is a community initiative that is volunteer driven. Partnerships with Watauga High School, Caldwell Community College, NC Works, Watauga County Economic Development Commission and High Country Home Builders Association make this program possible. You are part of Trade Up by participating as a Business Member!

### **Can the Trade Up Program benefit my business?**

If maintaining or growing your business relies upon hiring and retaining skilled labor, The Trade Up Program can help put the next generation of employees at your fingertips. Trade Up identifies students age 16-19 with an interest in the construction/fabrication trades and helps fast-track their career path.

### **What specifically will the Trade Up program do for my business?**

- Locate and screen interns with a genuine interest in learning trade skills and starting a career in one of those fields.
- Align interns with employers in their fields of interest.
- Provide 40 hours of classroom training to the intern covering safety, basic job skills, and employer expectations before a foot is stepped on the job-site.
- Provide to the intern 8 hours of customized training each week for the entire 6 week program.
- Trade up will schedule periodic follow-up meetings with employers and interns to be sure expectations are being met.

### **What does it cost to be part of this program?**

There is no cost to be involved in the Trade Up program other than the wages earned by the intern. The standardized wage rate is \$9/hr. This rate is used by all businesses participating in the Trade Up Program. The expectation is that the intern will complete 6 weeks of on the job training, working 32hours/ wk. (192 total hours).

## 'Building the Dream' Event Examines Affordability Problem

Government officials and community stakeholders came together at NAHB's recent kickoff of its ["Building the Dream"](#) series in Minneapolis to highlight how this crisis is being addressed at the local and state level to help bridge the gap for homeownership.

Stay tuned to NAHB's Election 2020 webpage for more information, including videos and photos, as well as upcoming event details.

## Preventing Fatigue on the Jobsite

Fatigue is a hidden but common hazard in all workplaces. In safety-critical positions, the consequences of being tired can be catastrophic. For example, mistakes on construction sites, like when climbing or working on ladders or driving trucks, can easily lead to injuries or even death.

Learn about steps your company can take to reduce [fatigue-related accidents](#) and injuries.

## NFIP Extended Through Dec. 20

To prevent a government shutdown, Congress has approved a continuing resolution that will keep the government funded for another month through Dec. 20. President Trump signed the bill into law.

The government funding package means that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), will also be [extended through Dec. 20](#).

## NAHB Members Win DOE Awards

More than a dozen NAHB members were recently recognized by the [Department of Energy's](#) Housing Innovation Awards at EEBA's High Performance Home Summit in October.

Each year, the DOE recognizes builders in various categories for leading the industry in building zero energy ready homes, or homes that are verified to meet federal standards on energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and durability.

## Cost of Lots Hits Record High

Single-family lot prices reached [a record high](#) in 2018, with half of all lots selling at or above \$49,500, according to NAHB's analysis of Census Bureau data

New England has the most expensive single-family lots, with a median price of \$140,000. The East South-Central Division (Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky) has the lowest median value at \$38,000 per lot.

## U.S. Construction Employment On the Rise

The construction industry gained 10,000 jobs in October, according to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly half of those job gains (4,600) were in Florida. New York, meanwhile, lost 3,000 construction jobs last month.

The [construction sector data](#) includes both residential and non-residential construction. Forty-eight states reported construction sector jobs data.

Twenty-eight states had an increase for the month, 18 states reported a decline

compared to September, and Maine and Missouri were unchanged.

Year-over-year, the U.S added 148,000 construction sector jobs, a 2% increase compared to October 2018.

Texas added 51,400 jobs, the largest yearly gains of any state, while Louisiana lost 9,700 jobs, the largest decline. In percentage terms, Nevada had the highest annual growth rate in the construction sector at 13.1%. Louisiana reported the largest annual decline percentage-wise at 6.4%.

## FEMA Delays Risk Rating 2.0

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it is deferring implementation of its new flood insurance risk rating system to Oct. 1, 2021.

FEMA, which oversees and implements the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), has initiated a long-term effort to transform the program to make it more consumer friendly and better reflect the actual risks properties face.

FEMA is deferring the implementation of the initiative, commonly referred to as [Risk Rating 2.0](#), so that it can review the proposed rating structure as part of an effort to protect policyholders and minimize unintentional negative effects of the transition.

## Big Builders Gain Market Share

The top 20 builders produced 29% of all the homes constructed in the country in 2018, according to data from BUILDER magazine. That share is a notable gain from 2017, when the [largest 20 builders](#) were responsible for 26.8% of all completions. In 2000, these firms built 16.6% of U.S. homes.

Large builders have grown by entering new markets, expanding their operations in existing markets, and acquiring smaller firms and their land.

Large builders can also leverage their size to access credit markets to acquire land and to achieve economies of scale in the purchase of building materials.

Local and regional builders are still responsible for the majority of new home starts.