

ATHENS AREA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME XXXX NUMBER 12



ATHENS AREA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

2009-2010 OFFICERS

President – Jason Dickens

Vice President – Brad Stephens

Treasurer – Tony Bryant

Associate Vice Pres. – Dana Kerr

Executive Officer – Jean B. Channell

Administrative Assistant – Lisa Teall

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Email: aahba@bellsouth.net

Visit us at 1651 Meriweather Drive
in Jennings Mill Country Club



*Merry
Christmas and
Happy New
Year from
AAHBA!*

NEWS FLASH

Santa makes a hit at AAHBA!

Santa arrived promptly at 4:00 on December 10, 2009 for his first annual visit to AAHBA! He was ready to visit with all of the good little boys and girls. One by one they hopped upon his knee and told Santa of their Christmas wishes. In return, Santa got lots of hugs and even a song by J.R. Dickens. Cookies and coloring were made available as extra treats until the knee of Santa was free again.

We had toys for our “Toys for Tots” program stacked under the Christmas Tree. Our visiting Marines took the toys to distribute them as Christmas gifts to needy children in our local community.

Click on the following link and then click on the Santa picture for the whole show! <http://aahba.phanfare.com/>

Thanks to everyone who helped bring Santa and our United States Marines to AAHBA and made this event happen.

- Ms. Jean for heading everything up
- Karen Griffin for scheduling Santa and the photographer, and also helping to decorate the office
- Susan Bogardus arranged a visit from The United States Marines
- Lisa Teall processed photos & produced the slide show
- Photography by Megan Feeley with Mcginnis Leathers Photography meganpagefeeley@gmail.com 404-964-1713



COME JOIN US

NO MEETING
IN DECEMBER



JANUARY
MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Holiday Inn Express
Downtown Athens

SPONSORS

ABC Supply Company

Time to Give Thanks at the Nominator Monthly Meeting

President Jason Dickens opened the meeting by asking Nelson McGinnis to say the prayer and pledge of allegiance. Following the prayer, Jason introduced our meal sponsor, Walton EMC. Jason said "You can always count on Walton EMC to support our association, they are very active and participate in whatever in going on in AAHBA.

The "Team" at Walton EMC put on quite a presentation educating us on their various services.

Walton EMC is a customer-owned electric company with 118,000 electric meters spanning 10 counties: Barrow, Clarke, Oconee, Greene, Morgan, Walton, Newton, Rockdale, Dekalb, and Gwinnett.

EMC employees talked to the AAHBA members about additional products and services demonstrating Walton EMC is more than electricity. Marathon Water Heaters, Solar Water Heating Systems, and Surge Protection are among the added value products and services that Walton offers.

In addition to the electrical company, Walton EMC owns Walton EMC Natural Gas. Any residential or commercial customer on Atlanta Gas Light lines may choose Walton EMC as a natural gas provider. Walton EMC Natural Gas offers competitive rates and great customer service over the phone or face to face at one of our local offices.

Last but not least, Walton EMC, Jackson EMC and Greystone Power own a security and home technology company named EMC Security. For \$16.95 a month, EMC Security can monitor your home. Schedule a meeting with an EMC Security representative to discuss your security needs. Purchase a system designed for your home and never have to sign a contract.

Invest in that new home theater system for the family. Enjoy theater quality movies at home. Talk to Ralph Collier about your Home Technology needs.

Without our meal sponsors, these monthly meetings where we are able to network and have fellowship with others in the building industry would not be possible.

Alan Cannon talked with us about membership and asked for suggestions and ideas that could increase awareness for AAHBA and to promote our association through membership. Please e-mail any suggestions to gac_aahba@bellsouth.net or call 706-543-5760.

Susan Bogardus spoke to us on behalf of The Salvation Army. Our very generous membership accepted "Angles" to bring gifts to many children. Everyone brought their gifts by the AAHBA office for pick up on December 10th. As our members brought their gifts to the office they told of the



Jason thanks Ralph Collier, one of the many "Team Members" of Walton EMC for sponsoring our monthly meeting meal.



More of the Walton EMC's Team are setting up for the meeting, Jennifer Broun and Cindy Haddon.



Welcome new member, Kevin Mitchell with Install All. Visit www.installallpros.com



Brian Patton is "In The Money" as the lucky winner of the "Hidden Hammer" drawing

great experience that they had involving their family in the spirit of Christmas for others. Children also learned of budgets and shopping and acknowledged how fortunate they were to be able to share with someone else.

On the subject of the 2010 Home & Garden Show, Susan Bogardus also gave an update. We are looking forward to another "sold out" year for AAHBA. This show will be highly publicized in the Athens Banner Herald, billboard and radio as well as being promoted by our AAHBA member publications, "homeimprovement" and "HomeWorks." This is a great forum to promote your business to the public. Susan also reminded everyone that there are other types of sponsorships available other than purchasing a booth. You can help sponsor the Preview Party, the Exhibitors Lounge, Seminars, etc

Karen Griffin told us at the monthly membership meeting, that she got about fifteen leads from this event last year and that it kept her busy in 2009.

Last year Mike Thompson with American Pest Control had a few words to say about the Show and what it means for him to be a part of it. "Customers!" is what he had to say. He also told everyone there is no place that you can spend that kind of money to get that kind of business! Don't forget AAHBA members, your membership entitles you to discounts on your booth. If anyone is interested in participating in the show, Susan or the staff at AAHBA will be happy to help.

Jason encouraged everyone to reach into their pockets or fill out a pledge form to help raise money for a good cause. A big thank you to everyone who donated money to the "Lance Witt Fund."

Lance was Born on July 14, 2003, Lance was diagnosed with End Stage Cardiomyopathy. He had his second heart surgery April 17, 2009. This surgery didn't go as planned and

his heart function never recovered. After a month in a half at the hospital his kidneys started failing and there were no other options but to proceed with heart transplant. Lance waited only five days for his miracle. Doctors at Children's Health Care of Atlanta performed a life-saving heart transplant on June 29, 2009. He then needed another surgery the day after his transplant because his aorta was constricted. After this delicate surgery was over he suffered with many problems and stayed in the hospital for a total of 92 days. He finally got strong enough where they felt comfortable enough to send him home. He went home on August 1, 2009

where he continues to grow stronger everyday.

Our 7th Annual Awards Event will be held on January 19th at our next monthly membership meeting. It will be at the Holiday Inn Express downtown Athens. Congratulations to all of our nominees!

The raffle included some great prizes from Walton EMC. Many of us left with prizes that included a grill set, super bright flashlights, and a Sony DVD player!

Bryan Patton was the lucky winner of the "Hidden Hammer" prize of \$25.00!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following new member was approved for membership at the November Board of Directors Meeting. Please help us welcome them to our Association!

**Mr. Chris Nichols
Cowser and Avery**
P.O. Box 627
Athens, GA 30606
706-543-7700

**Mr. Kevin Mitchell
Install All**
105 Old Epps Bridge Road, Suite F
Athens, GA 30606
706-850-7739

Homeless Shelter

Ferguson Enterprises represented AAHBA in November by providing the Homeless Shelter meal.

Thank you, Jimmy Brooks, Mandy Wilkins and everyone at Ferguson Enterprises, for your service. We always appreciate our members that are willing to do good deeds on our behalf.

“When you become detached mentally from yourself and concentrate on helping other people with their difficulties, you will be able to cope with your own more effectively. Somehow, the act of self-giving is a personal power-releasing factor.”

— Norman Vincent Peale

Coming Soon... 2010 Directories

With the New Year coming, that can only mean one thing. The new 2010 Membership Directory will be printed and available to all the membership. How can you get one?

We will have them available at the monthly meetings for members to pick up. Also, members can come by the AAHBA office anytime to get a directory, or we will be happy to deliver them to your office.

These directories can be your industry phone books. Keep one in your truck, one in your office and one at home to make sure that you can always find the services you need to make your business successful. *



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The Membership will be voting on Builder and Associate of the Year. Be on the lookout for your ballot which will be e-mailed for your vote soon.

Builder and Associate of the Year Bio's

Builder of the Year Nominees

Alan Cannon

Alan started Cannon Residential Services in the fall of 2000 as a small remodeling and repair company. It has since grown to a company offering full service remodeling and renovation capabilities excluding swimming pools. Cannon Residential Services has worked hard to earn a quality reputation in the area and all employees live by the company motto "We Measure by the Golden Rule".

Alan has been involved with a variety of projects, mostly residential in nature as well as some commercial interior build-outs for Athens Tech. (IT building) and Coldwell Banker Upchurch Realty Braselton Sales Office. The company strength remains in residential clientele and repeat customers.

Alan has been married for 28 years and has two children ages 27 and 25. He is an active member of Athens First United Methodist church and also supports several charities in Athens.

Early in Alan's career as a remodeling contractor one of his jobs was the renovation of the Project Safe women's shelter. This has been an ongoing project for Alan with between six to ten thousand dollars per year in repairs, upkeep and improvements donated to the organization.

Having been involved with AAHBA for seven or eight years and a new board member, he has also donated his time to take a leading role as chairman of the membership committee. When recently interviewed to be a board member, he also indicated that he would be taking his involvement with AAHBA to another level and aspired to progress into leadership with AAHBA to promote our industry.

Dickens Builders, Jason & Matt Dickens

Jason and Matt Dickens have been in Business with Dickens Builders for 13 years. A family business, they have worked hard to establish a reputation of giving their clients a top quality product. They have been involved or built in many of this areas neighborhoods. These include Christian Lake, Bridlegate, Founders Grove, Hickory Lake, Boulder Springs, Power Ridge, and Mallard Lakes. Their newest development is Harperfield Subdivision, which will be opening in 2010.

Matt and his wife, Stacy, have two sons, McKay Dickens and Ben Hardigree. Jason and his wife, Stephanie, have four children, Jake, Luke, Abby and JR. Matt and Jason have been members of AAHBA since 1997. Matt has served on the Board of Directors since 2000 and Jason joined the board in 2004. Jason is currently serving as AAHBA president as well as HBAG secretary.

Matt and Jason are both graduates of the University of Georgia, Matt in 1989 and Jason in 1996. They are both very involved in the community. These involvements include the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce and the Oconee FFA Alumni Association. They support the Oconee County Little League, the Oconee County High School and North Oconee High School and the American Cancer Society-Oconee County Chapter. They have also been involved with Leadership Oconee and have served on the Oconee County Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Matt and his family are members of Hebron Christian Church in Oconee County, and Jason and his family attend Briarwood Baptist Church, also in Oconee County.

Fiske Hopkins

Fiske, raised in Thomaston GA was involved in the family business Reddick Construction Company (Commercial General Contractors) at an early age. He and his wife Katie, currently live in Athens and at only 28 years old, he has accomplished a lot in business as well as community service.

F C Hopkins Construction Inc, has been in operation for 7 years. Projects include Custom Renovations all over Five Points, The Verandas (21 unit Student Development), Lake Keowee South Carolina Mountain/Lake homes, Current job - 530 W. Cloverhurst Ave. major renovation (Doc Eldridge's old house), Current job - 550 Gunston Farm - Jackson EMC Right Choice Program (Equestrian home and facility)

His community service involvement includes, adopt a family program (multiple years of service), active member of First United Methodist Church and multiple church sponsored philanthropic events. Fiske is a contributor to MDA, Empty Stocking Fund, Boy Scouts of America and Habitat for Humanity

Other civic and professional involvement include his being a member of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Athens Young Professionals, and Gamma Trusties (Kappa Alpha Fraternity advisors). Fiske has been a guest speaker for Housing and Consumer Economics students UGA and apprenticeship program for FACS UGA.

Fiske has been a member of AAHBA for 3 years and is a newly appointed board member.

Brad Stephens

Brad Stephens began his building career with John Willis Homes in Athens 8 years ago. He graduated from UGA in 2001 with a Bachelor's Degree in Real Estate and started Beacon Property Management in 2003. He began Manor Holdings, LLC with Matt Richardson in 2006 as a firm concentrating on student housing development. He has completed the L.E.A.D. Athens Program through the Chamber of Commerce, and has volunteered at the Homeless Shelter.

Brad joined AAHBA in 2003 and shortly thereafter became a member of the Board of Directors. He has served as Vice President for the past 2 years, and has always participated in the Home & Garden Show. He has been actively involved on numerous other AAHBA committees as well. Brad has served as AAHBA representative to the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce PAC. He is currently serving on the Athens Clarke County Water Conservation Committee and is the current AAHBA Vice President.

His projects include Park Avenue at Normaltown, Princeton Court Townhomes, Beech Creek Preserve, Beacon Hill, The Enclave, Madison Heights. He has also built in Settler's Ridge, Rocky Branch Farms, Georgia Club, Oak Grove, and various in-fill lots in the Athens area.

Associate of the Year Nominees

Susan C. Bogardus

Susan Bogardus is a First Vice President and Commercial Lender with First American Bank and Trust. Susan has been a member of AAHBA since 1996 and has served on the Associate Council since 1999. She served as Chairman of the Associate Council in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, as Vice-Chair in 1999-2000 and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1999-2002. She has served as the Home & Garden Show Chairman for six years and is serving as chair again for the 2010 show. She serves as the greeter at monthly meetings and golf tournaments and has worked at the Associate Appreciation BBQs making sides, serving, and making to-go plates. She also volunteers at the homeless shelter regularly. Susan has also reached the Life Spike Level for sponsoring memberships in the Association. Susan was honored as Associate of the Year in 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. She also received the Professional of the Year award in 2007 and 2008.

In addition to her outstanding work in the banking community and AAHBA, Susan is active in several civic and community organizations including serving as an active member of the Athens Habitat for Humanity Board of Trustees, the Athens Area Association of Realtors, and is also a member of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Georgia. Susan also is on the Housing and Demographics Research Center Board of Advisors and The Salvation Army Board of Directors. Susan was recently appointed to the Athens Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Susan is married to Dale Bogardus and they have one son, Chatham.

Joe Couch

Joe Couch of ABC Supply has been with the company since it's conception. He opened the local branch in 2006.

He has been married for thirty-seven years. Joe and his wife Lanice have two sons, Trey and Drew and two beautiful granddaughters. They are Makayla who was two in October and Emily who will be two in January.

Joe has been an active participating member of AAHBA for 3 years and has contributed much time and energy to AAHBA. He is currently serving on the Membership Committee and is Vice Chairman of the Associate Council. He also is a member of the Golf Committee which has had two very successful tournaments this year. He is a member of the AAHBA Board of Directors.

Habitat for Humanity has benefited from Joe through ABC Supply by providing roofing materials for the last "Habitat Build" which is a great help in our local community.

Jerry Craig

Jerry Craig is an Associate Broker with Prudential Blanton Properties. He has been a licensed REALTOR since 1997 and obtained his broker's license in 2005. He earned the GRI (Graduate of Realtor Institute) designation in 1999, and the ABR (Accredited Buyer Representative) in 2000. Jerry was awarded the "Honor Society" Award in 2001, 2002, and 2008. He also received The "Leading Edge Society," award which is given to the top 14% of Prudential agents nationally, in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Jerry is an active Life Member of the Athens Area Association of Realtor's Million Dollar Club. He was also awarded an 'Outstanding Realtor' Award by Athens Area Homebuilder's Association in 2005.

Jerry has served on the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and currently the Chairman of the Grievance Committee for the Athens Area Association of Realtors. He will be serving on the Board Of Directors for 2010. He has been a member of AAHBA since 2001. He has served as chairman of the Associate Council for AAHBA 2006 - 2007 served as vice-chair 2005-2006, and served on the Board of Directors for AAHBA 2005 - 2007. Also, Jerry has previously chaired the spring and fall golf tournaments for AAHBA.

Jerry has served dinner annually at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter on behalf of AAHBA, and previously chaired a fund raising team for the American Heart Association. Also, he is an active member of the Touchdown Club of Athens. Jerry has been married to his wife Jennifer since 2002, and he has a two year old son Jerry Thomas Craig III and a nine month old daughter Elizabeth Grace Craig.

Dana Kerr

Dana Kerr is the Financial Services Representative for Mike Dekle's State Farm office. He has been with Mike's office for the past 6 1/2 years. He helps clients by providing personal and commercial insurance and also financial services that are offered by the State Farm Companies. Dana's efforts have helped Mike's office achieve Chairman's Circle designation and Targets of Excellence recognition. Chairman's Circle is awarded to the top 1% of all State Farm agencies, and Targets of Excellence recognizes the work an agency provides to its clients in financial services. Dana is currently in the State Farm Agent's Pool, and plans on opening his own office in the near future.

A resident of Athens since 1991, Dana met his wife Jodi while they were both attending the University of Georgia. They have two girls; Andi who is almost five, and Alli who is two and a half.

Dana has been an active participant of AAHBA for 4 years and contributes his time and energy in the promotion of our industry.

He has been a member of the Associate Council since 2006, where he served as Associate Council Vice Chairman in 2008-2009 and Chairman of the Associate Council in 2009-2010. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Dana has chaired the spring and fall golf tournaments, and has served on the Golf Tournament Committee 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. He has also served on the Budget Committee 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

There is still time to get in your Directory Ad!

The time is NOW to get your ad in the Directory. The new 2010 Directory is the perfect place to advertise your business to other members. We always encourage members to do business with other members and the Directory is a way to help you do that. Just consider it your AAHBA Yellow Pages. It has a Buyer's Guide to help you find members that offer any service you can imagine. It also provides a way for our members to fine YOU!

If you are interested in advertising, make sure to call the AAHBA office at 706-543-5760 and let us know exactly what you want. We can also help with ad design. *

MEMBER ADVANTAGE

One of the most valuable benefits of NAHB membership is information – www.nahb.org gives member access to the latest housing industry information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's fast, easy, and free! By being a member of AAHBA, you are also a member of the Home Builders Association of Georgia as well as the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). NAHB offers members exclusive access to insider information. Members-only content includes tips on how to manage your business and gain up-to-date information on issues impacting residential building. Members can view online publications, sign up for e-newsletters, and learn about upcoming members-only educational seminars, symposiums, networking opportunities, news from councils and committees, and much more.

Reduce your business costs by taking advantage of discounts through the Member Advantage Program. NAHB members enjoy discounts from 5 to 69 percent on travel, office supplies, business services, and more from recognized brand names like AT&T Wireless, Pitney Bowes, Dell, Viking, Williams Scotsman, and Airborne Express. *

***For details, go to
www.memberadvantage.nahb.org***

Planning for 2010

Although it seems like just yesterday that we were finishing up the 2009 Home & Garden Show, we are now planning for the 2010 show. We are working with our Chairman, Susan Bogardus of First American Bank & Trust and her committee, to get the word out and make sure this year is as successful as last years SOLD OUT show!

Call now to reserve a booth / booths at for the 2010 show (706)543-5760 or see the attached Home & Garden Show brochure. It is not too early to confirm your spot – the booths are filling up fast! *



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"Builders, as well as vendors, should make every effort to be at next year's show. The contacts you make are invaluable in furthering your business."

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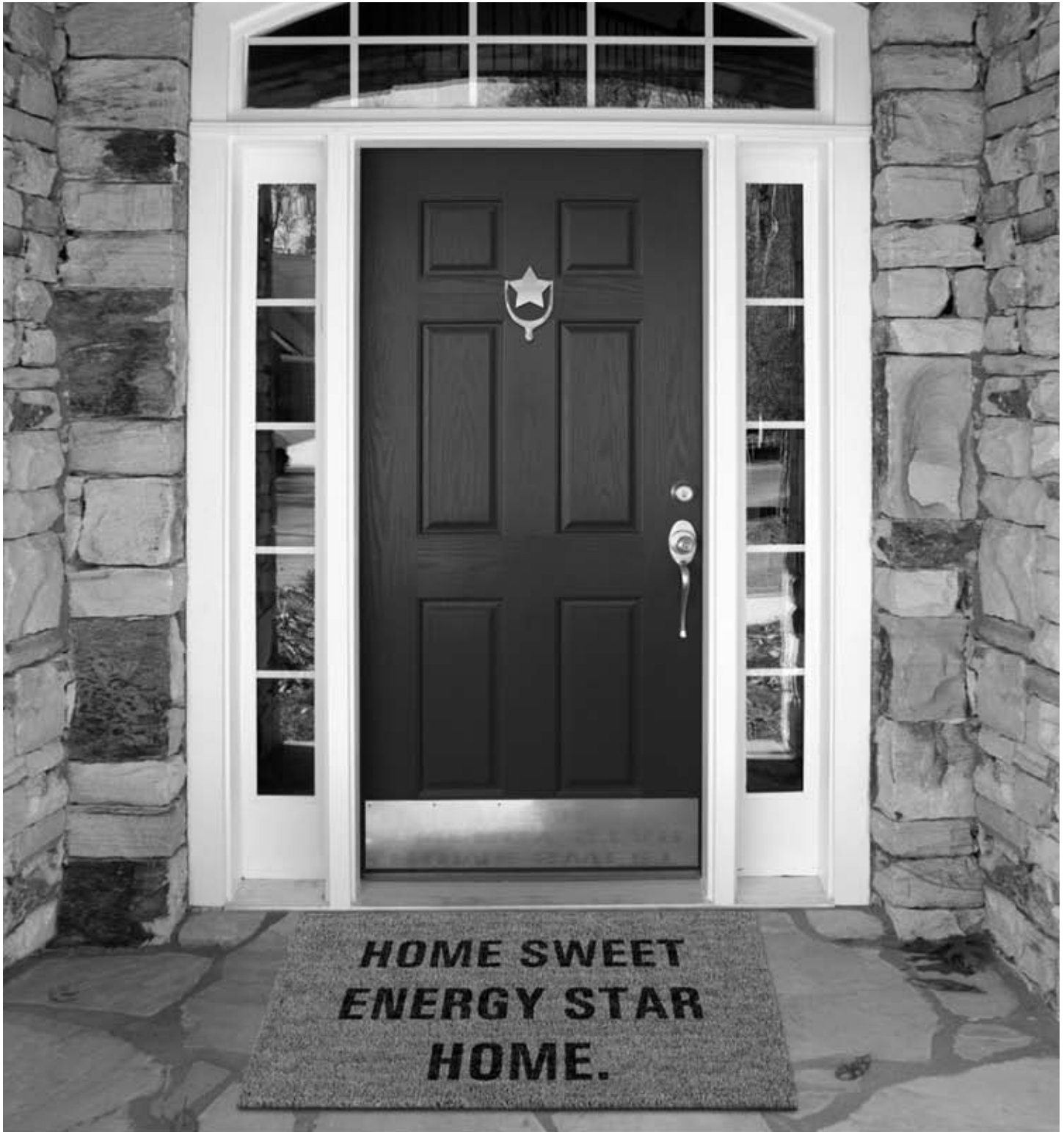
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C A L E N D A R

DECEMBER

| | |
|--|----|
| Associate Council 12:00 Noon Association Office | 3 |
| Board of Directors Meeting 12:00 Noon Association Office | 8 |
| Santa Photo Opportunity 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Association Office | 10 |

NO MONTHLY MEETING
IN DECEMBER



JANUARY

| | |
|--|----|
| Associate Council 12:00 Noon Association Office | 7 |
| Board of Directors Meeting 10:30 A.M. Holiday Inn Express Downtown Athens | 19 |
| Monthly Meeting & Awards Presentation 11:30 A.M. Holiday Inn Express Downtown Athens | 19 |

If you have any questions concerning the above meetings or activities, please call the Association office at 543-5760.

Hidden Hammer

There is a Hidden Hammer located in the Newsletter. The size of the Hidden Hammer is much smaller than this one. If you find it, please fill out this form and fax it to 706-549-7203 or mail it to PO Box 1903, Athens, GA 30603 before the next Monthly Meeting. We will have a drawing during the Monthly Meeting for the winner of \$25.*

Name _____

Company Name _____

Location of Hammer (page #, etc.) _____

*** You must be present at the January Monthly Meeting during the drawing to win the \$25.**



This is the actual picture you are looking for, just much smaller.