

ATHENS AREA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2011

VOLUME XLII NUMBER II



ATHENS AREA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

2010-2011 OFFICERS

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Vice President – Alan Cannon

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Visit us at 1651 Meriweather Drive
in Jennings Mill Country Club



*Exclusive
Invitation*

See page 4

Home Show in Full Swing

The 16th Annual Home & Garden Show is almost here! Make sure you have your booth to showcase your products and services and post it on your website or Facebook page so that your customers can find you. We'll have everything from gardens to kitchens on display and even seminars set up for you to attend for free with the purchase of your Home & Garden Show ticket

This year we will again be having an art contest for local students in the community. We will also have our 4th Annual Athens Cast Iron Cooking Competition sponsored by Publix, Athens Refrigeration & Appliance, Electrolux, Pro Granite, and The Rolling Pin.

A chef will be present for a couple of cooking demonstrations. We will also have a few competitions to see who can make the best chili.

Don't forget, as an AAHBA Member or Exhibitor, YOU are invited to the Preview Party for the "Privileged First" look at all of the exhibits on the evening of Friday February 25th from 7:00PM -9:00 PM, before the show opens to the public on Saturday morning February 26th. ✨



COME JOIN US!



FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

February 15, 2011
Holiday Inn Express
Downtown Athens

SPONSORS

Walton EMC Natural Gas



MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

March 15, 2011
Holiday Inn Express
Downtown Athens

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and Lafarge

January Meeting

Vice President Alan Cannon filled in for President Brad Stephens who was attending a Clarke County meeting on behalf of AAHBA. Alan opened the January meeting by asking Norm Grayson to step forward to lead us in the pledge of allegiance and prayer. As always and without hesitation Norm, in his usual style did the honors.

Mike McCleary with Fortson Bentley & Griffin, P.C. and Tim Watson with Oconee State Bank were the January meeting, lunch and raffle sponsors. In great appreciation for their support and participation in so much that AAHBA does, Alan presented a certificate of appreciation to each at the end of the meeting.

Mike and Tim briefly addressed the membership, Alan made his announcements and we were off to the raffle drawings after the wonderful meal provided by our Sponsors.

The raffle was on! There were a lot of prizes donated by Fortson Bentley & Griffin and Oconee State Bank. Judy Adams with Bank of America and Cindy Haddon representing Walton EMC were the Hidden Hammer winners at the end of the meeting. *

Fortson Bentley & Griffin, P.C. www.fbglaw.com

Oconee State Bank www.oconeestatebank.com



Alan Cannon presents the AAHBA certificate of Appreciation to Tim Watson with Oconee State Bank



Checking the raffle tickets for the RIGHT number to win a raffle prize



Michael McCleary of Fortson Bentley & Griffin, receives the AAHBA certificate of appreciation from Alan Cannon



Hidden Hammer winner Michael McCleary – Fortson Bentley & Griffin, P.C.



Hidden Hammer winner Judy Adams – Bank of America Home Loans

Big Changes for Merging AAHBA Members

Congratulations to Webber Coleman Woodworks

Dan Webber and Bill Claxton also took a moment to update everyone on their new venture. They were excited to announce the recent merger of, The Cabinet Man and Coleman Cabinets. Dan and Bill are certain that their new partnership will yield the continuing quality of work, that AAHBA members have come to depend on. Their new name is Webber Coleman Woodworks.



Dan and Jessica Webber

Lakeview Electric Buys All Bright Electric

Athens, GA – John Hadden, owner of Lakeview Electric, has announced his company's purchase of All Bright Electric. Lakeview and All Bright will continue to operate as separate brands, according to Hadden, since the businesses have different specialties. Lakeview specializes in new construction and All Bright's focus is on service and repair. Todd Caudill, the former owner of All Bright Electric, will remain on staff as chief electrician.

"We're very excited to join these two great companies," Hadden said. "All Bright has built a great reputation in the Athens/Clarke and Oconee County area as one of the most trusted residential electrical contractors. We plan to continue All Bright's focus on customer service, only now, All Bright will have access to Lakeview's resources and buying power which will translate to an even higher level of service for our customers."

Caudill adds, "Being a business owner and an electrician can often feel like two separate jobs, so stepping out of the ownership role and focusing on being an electrician will allow me to serve my customers better. I am very excited about my new role."

All Bright Electric serves Athens/Clarke, Oconee and contiguous counties.

www.mylakeviewelectric.com



Builder Rodney Jones makes contact with Bill and Dan. Is Webber Coleman Woodworks getting an order for cabinets??!!



Exclusive Invitation!

Preview Party for AAHBA Members and Home & Garden Show Exhibitors

The Athens Home & Garden Show is coming up and it's one of AAHBA's largest fundraisers. The show features displays of products and services needed to make your home and environment better. For an exhibitor, it is a great opportunity to reach out to the area and boost your customer base. This prestigious show is very well known and is held at the Classic Center in downtown Athens, welcoming the coming of spring.

On February 25, 2011, we will host the "Invitation Only" Preview Party, including all AAHBA Members and exhibitors. This is your "exclusive" opportunity to get a first-hand at all of the products and to enjoy the company of fellow members, and also to see which booths win the booth awards.

On February 26 & 27, 2011, the show is open to the public and welcomes over 4,000 people through the aisles. Throughout the weekend, seminars are teaching the show attendees how to do everything from pruning an azalea to updating interior décor.

If you don't have a product or service to showcase to the public, this is not a problem. There are lots of opportunities to support the show and get some visibility. We have sponsorships for the Preview Party, the Seminars and for an Exhibitor's Lounge that provides treats for the exhibitors while they are resting their feet.

Contact Jean at the AAHBA office at (706) 543-5760 for answers to all of your Home & Garden Show questions. *

AAHBA Serves the Community

Athens Homeless Shelter

AAHBA provides the meal at the Homeless Shelter every second Tuesday of each month. Christy Jenkins with Chastain, Jenkins and Leathers, Real Estate Sales and Property Management will be serving the Homeless Shelter meal in February.

We need a volunteer for the March 8th meal. If you are available to help with this date, please contact the AAHBA at (706) 543-5760.

CLJ serves the homeless shelter in February



Project Safe

Joe Couch with ABC Supply will deliver the meal donated by Carrabbas to Project Safe on Monday February 28th.

Project Safe provides a program for job training. Christina, the volunteer coordinator says, "The meals make such a big different to the program participants and their children. We couldn't do programs like this without the help of the community, and we appreciate it so much".



Owner Shadi and Manager Jeremy of Carrabbas

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*The following new members were approved for membership
by the AAHBA Board of Directors.*

Please help us welcome them to our Association:

Mr. Peter Wood

Servpro of Athens

4035-ADanielsville Rd

Athens GA 30601

706-549-3366 Business

peter@servproofathens.com

www.servproofathens.com

Sponsor: Melanie Griffin



More on the 2011 Home & Garden Show

There are only a few booths left at this point, if you would like to make plans to exhibit in this super show, it's not too late to get in! See www.aaaha.com and click on the "Home Show" tab in "red" for the application to exhibit.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those of you who have made donations to sponsor the Preview Party and Exhibitors Lounge, for the 2011 Home & Garden Show. We have had a great response but could really use your help further to meet our goal for a "Quality" event.

If you can help with a sponsorship in "ANY" amount, please contact the AAHBA office at 706-543-5760.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you in advance for all that our members do for the association. *



President Brad Stephens, Executive Officer Jean Channell, and HBAG Treasurer Jason Dickens attended the Home Builders Association of Georgia Legislative Luncheon and Board of Directors Meeting on February 2nd in Atlanta. District 113 Representative Hank Huckaby from Watkinsville attended the luncheon.

Representative Hank Huckaby & AAHBA President Brad Stephens



AAHBA to Host EarthCraft Training Classes

Southface Energy Institute and AAHBA will be providing three EarthCraft training classes. The dates and times will be:

March 21, 2011 8:00am - 5pm EarthCraft Builder Information

March 22, 2011 8:00am - 5pm EarthCraft Trade Contractor Information

March 23, 2011 8:30am -12pm EarthCraft Realtor Information

These training classes will be held at the AAHBA office and the cost is:

AAHBA Members – Builder and Trade - \$50.00

AAHBA Members – Realtor \$25.00

Non Member Builder and Trade – \$100.00

Non Member Realtor – \$50.00

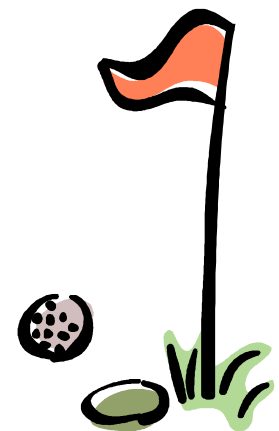
The EarthCraft trainings qualify for continuing education credits for Builders and for Realtors.

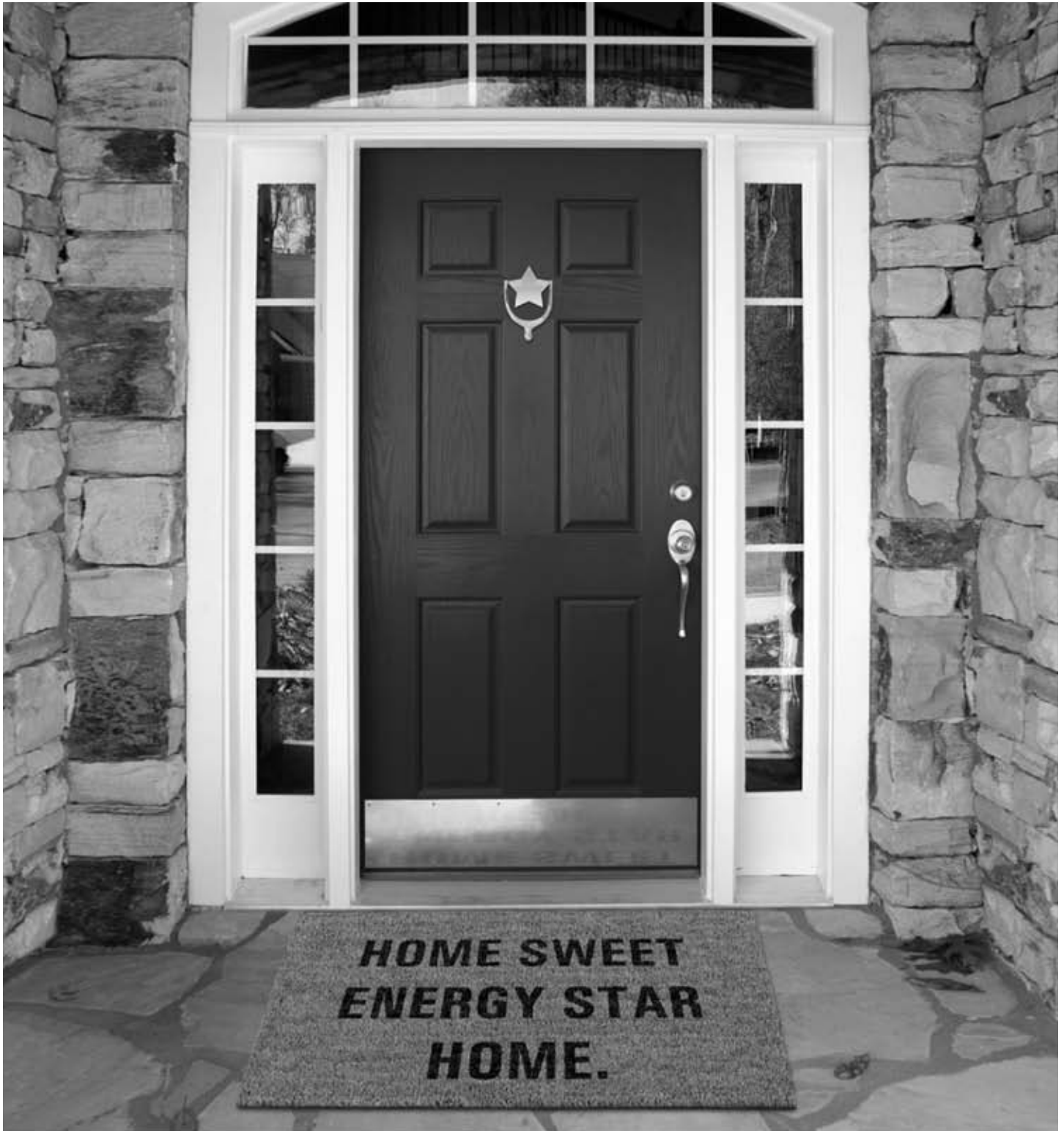
Lunch will be provided.

For additional information or questions, call Jean at the AAHBA Office at 706/543-5760.

24th Hard Hat Classic Coming Soon

Our Annual Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011. Entry Fees are \$100 per person, which includes: green fees, golf cart, beverage cart, lunch, scoring party and prizes. The tournament is being held at Lane Creek Golf Course with lunch at 11:00am and the shotgun start at 12:00pm. Entry forms will be sent out soon.





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Continuing Education Requirements Clarified

Below is an article from the Home Builders Association of Georgia regarding the Continuing Education Requirements for Builders with a **Residential Basic License or Residential-Light Commercial License**. If you have any questions, please call AAHBA at 706-543-5760 or email us at aahba@bellsouth.net. You may check the status of your license at the link to the bottom left of this email.

The Athens Area Home Builder's Association will be offering one or two 3-credit courses this Spring. As soon as it is scheduled, we will let you know by email. If you have a suggestion for a topic or instructor, please call AAHBA at 706-543-5760 or email aahba@bellsouth.net

The State Licensing Board for Residential and General Contractors has adopted rules for continuing education for residential builders in Georgia. The new rules can be found at:

[CE Rules](#)

The following is a brief overview of the rules:

How many hours of continuing education are required?

Beginning with the 2012 renewal cycle, an applicant for renewal of a residential license must have completed three (3) hours of continuing education each year for a Residential Basic license and six (6) hours of continuing education each year for a Residential Light Commercial license.

A year is defined as July 1 to June 30. For example, a Residential Basic License holder must complete 3 hours of continuing education between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 and another 3 hours between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 for continuing education renewal requirements. This would be a total of 6 continuing education hours from July 1, 2010 to July 30, 2012.

A Residential Commercial License holder must complete 6 hours of continuing education between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 and another 6 hours between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012 for continuing education renewal requirements. This would be a total of 12 continuing education hours from July 1, 2010 to July 30, 2012.

An applicant for renewal of a license will be required to provide a signed statement or affirmative response if renewing online, under oath, that all applicable continuing education requirements have been met.

Source: Rule 553-12-.02; Rule 553-12-.04.

What records do I need to keep?

All licensees are required to maintain records confirming attendance at and completion of continuing education, including the following information:

- (a) School or organization conducting the program;
- (b) Location of the program;
- (c) Title of program or description of content;
- (d) Program outline;
- (e) Dates attended;
- (f) Hours claimed; and
- (g) Evidence of satisfactory completion.

The records described above must be maintained by each licensee and *each program provider* for two (2) years following the end of the biennium and must be submitted to the Board upon request.

Evidence of satisfactory completion must be in the form of certificates of completion, attendance records, examination, transcripts, or other independently verifiable evidence acceptable to the Board.

Source: Rule 553-12-.04.

What happens if I do not complete my continuing education requirements?

Compliance with all continuing education requirements is a condition for license renewal. Failure to complete all hours of mandatory continuing education will serve as grounds to deny the renewal of a license and may also result in disciplinary action being taken against a licensee.

The Board will verify on a test basis information submitted by applicants for license renewals. In cases where the Board determines that the requirement is not met, the Board may grant an additional period of time in which the deficiencies may be cured.

Source: Rule 553- 12-.02; Rule 553-12-.04.

Are there exceptions?

The Residential Division of the Contractor Licensing Board may relax or suspend the requirements of continuing education for reasons of individual hardship or health of the applicant.

Source: Rule 553- 12-.02.

What subjects have been approved by the Board for CE credits?

The overriding consideration in determining whether a specific program qualifies as acceptable continuing education is that it must be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competence of an individual licensed to practice as a residential contractor by this State.

The following general subject matters have been deemed acceptable by the Board:

- (a) Building and related codes;
- (b) Functional fields of business (e.g., finance, marketing, personnel relations, business management, and organization);
- (c) Legal, legislative or regulatory updates;
- (d) Workplace safety;
- (e) Workers compensation; and
- (f) Building techniques and technology.

Source: Rule 553-12-.03.

What about subjects that do not fall within these categories?

Subjects *other than those described above* will be approved by the Board if the applicant or program provider can demonstrate to the Residential Division that the subjects contribute directly to the professional competence of an individual licensed to practice as a residential contractor by this State.

The responsibility for substantiating that a particular program is acceptable and meets the requirements rests upon the applicant or program provider.

Applications for approval of subjects other than those listed above must be submitted to the Residential Division. The applications must include the name of the program provider, the instructor(s) for the program, the location of the program, a description of the program's content, how the proposed program satisfies the requirements of subsection (1) of Rule 553-12-.03, and a program outline.

The Residential Division must approve the application before the provider may offer the class for continuing education credit.

Click the following link to access the

Continuing Education Program Application and Approval Form: <http://sos.georgia.gov/acrobat/PLB/49%20Continuing%20Education%20Program%20Application%20&%20Approval%20Form.pdf>

Source: Rule 553-12-.03.

What are the general requirements for holding a CE program?

1. An outline of the program must be prepared in advance by the program director and retained by the license holder;
2. The program must be conducted by a person whose formal training and experience qualify him as a competent instructor;
3. Hours of continuing professional education must be calculated in one-half continuing professional education credit hour increments;
4. A record of registration and attendance through the entire program must be maintained, a copy of which is retained by the student and program provider; and
5. The program provider must provide the Residential Division with an electronic roster of license holders who have completed any course and the number of hours completed.

Source: Rule 553-12-.03.

What kind of courses will qualify?

Continuing education hours may be obtained via classroom courses and/or online or correspondence courses. Online and correspondence courses, however, may not exceed 50% of the continuing education hours required.

Source: Rule 553-12-.03.

Does a program held at a lunch meeting of a local association qualify?

Yes, assuming the general requirements outlined above are met.

The following programs will qualify if the general requirements are met:

1. Professional development programs of recognized national, state and local trade associations;
2. Technical sessions at meetings of recognized national, state and local trade associations and their chapters;
3. University or college courses;
4. Noncredit courses from a college or university; and
5. Dinner, luncheon and breakfast meetings of recognized trade associations.

Source: Rule 553-12-.03.

Please call AAHBA if you have any questions. We will also be answering questions at the next General Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn Express, Downtown Athens.

HBAG Health Plan Launches

Dear HBAG Members,

The Home Builders Association of Georgia is pleased to announce the introduction of the HBAG Health Plan. Over the past two years we have worked to develop a program which offers meaningful health insurance choices as well as competitive pricing to our members. The HBAG Health Plan is offered through an entity known as a Multiple Employer Welfare Association (MEWA), which allows individual companies to join together and aggregate their purchasing power into a unified self-insured health program.

Under this program, small to mid-size employers will be able to offer their employees health insurance similar to the benefits and rates typically only available to large employers. Your health insurance premiums and rate changes will be influenced by the experience of the overall HBAG Health Plan group, a key factor in effectively managing your long term health insurance costs. The program is offered through the not-for-profit HBAG Health Plan Trust and managed by the Trust's Board of Trustees.

The HBAG Health Plan will look and operate much like commercial health insurance programs you may see in the general market. There will be six plan designs to begin with, ranging from high end programs with reduced co-pays and deductibles to more economical, high deductible alternatives. It provides physician access through the First Health Network (A Coventry Health Care Company), one of the country's largest physician networks. The plan will also include a pharmacy benefit through Medco, optional dental coverage through Guardian, and access to other benefit alternatives such as group life insurance through Principal Financial Group.

The HBAG Health Plan is administered by QualCare of New Jersey, a national third party health plan administrator (TPA), which currently administers close to a million lives in various health plans, including very successful MEWA health plans. Health Cooperative Strategies (HCS) will oversee the placement and implementation process throughout the state.

Click [HERE](#) to download the insurance information package. The marketing material describes in greater detail the HBAG Health Plan, our provider partners, and enrollment application forms. **If you would like to discuss this program in greater detail and obtain a rate quote, please contact HCS at 1-888-393-7590, or email to sales@healthcooperativestrategies.com.** If you are currently working with a licensed insurance agent who is a member of HBAG, have them contact HCS directly at the same number above to discuss how they can work with our HBAG Health Plan. Agents are required to be a member of HBAG, and first priority will go to those who are currently members.

We are very excited about the HBAG Health Plan and the opportunity to offer such an important benefit to our members. We know that quality, affordable health insurance is a critical piece of your and your employee's financial future. We hope that the HBAG Health Plan will be able to fill this role for you for many years to come!

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These AAHBA Member to Member Discounts **will be displayed often** to remind you of your benefits.

Please contact AAHBA to add your company to this list. Call 706-543-5760
 E-mail: gac_aahba@bellsouth.net

Also find these in the New 2011 AAHBA Membership Directory.



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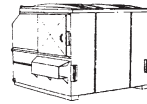
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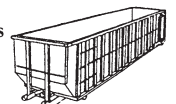


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MISSION STATEMENT: The Athens Area Home Builders Association, chartered in 1957, is a not for profit trade association representing and uniting the building industry in Clarke, Oconee, Madison and Oglethorpe counties. As the voice of the industry, we strive to create and promote a favorable climate for quality, affordable construction to assure a positive economic future for the communities we serve.

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, call our office with the location at 706-543-5760, fax it to 706-549-7203 or e-mail it to gac_aahba@bellsouth.net 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 next Monthly Meeting during the drawing to win the \$25.**



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

C A L E N D A R

FEBRUARY

- Associate Council Meeting 3
12:00 Noon
Association Office
- Board of Directors Meeting 15
10:30 AM
Holiday Inn Express,
Downtown Athens
- Regular Monthly Meeting and 15
Annual Awards Presentation
11:30 Registration • 12:00 Lunch
Holiday Inn Express,
Downtown Athens

MARCH

- Associate Council Meeting 3
12:00 Noon
Association Office
- Board of Directors Meeting 15
10:30 AM
Holiday Inn Express,
Downtown Athens
- Regular Monthly Meeting 15
11:30 Registration
12:00 Lunch
Holiday Inn Express,
Downtown Athens

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