Official Publication of the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors, Inc.





May 2021

Vol. 25, Issue 5

www.wahigroup.com





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Good Day All!

During the pandemic, we all learned a little something about ourselves, WAHI included. WAHI stepped back and took a look at our purpose as the leading inspection association when it comes to educating inspectors in Wisconsin. Education has always been our focus and now we are looking to expand that. What we need is your support!

The pandemic forced WAHI to enter the world of online education. The goal: Continue to provide the best "home grown," Wisconsin-focused education to our members and build a library of online course offerings. The hurdle: A lack of support of our efforts thus far.

Many of our chapters have been streaming their meetings on Facebook Live, via Zoom and/or our WAHI YouTube Channel. Unfortunately, the number of members taking advantage of those options has been dismal.

WAHI has always supported our members, we are now asking for your support in return. Reach out to your local chapter leadership, find out what online option they're using and earn your CE credits THROUGH WAHI! The cost is minimal, \$20 per online meeting (2 CE credits).

Our online competition (national home inspection associations) was taken into consideration when we discussed fees. If you pay your yearly WAHI dues and earn your 20 credits per year through WAHI, your cost is less than membership and "free" credits with a national organization. And better yet, not only is WAHI education Wisconsinfocused, your chapter meetings are **regionally**-focused.

The two national associations that come to mind for me are valuable organizations to be a part of. They are a great support tool for inspectors across the country. It's just that the subject matter WAHI provides is more applicable to what you encounter every day, the national organizations have to keep their education broad to appeal to the masses.

Attending chapter meetings and seminars in-person is always the best option - you get the added bonus of being a part of (or eavesdropping on) conversations on everyday experiences that can help keep you out of trouble. But, if you aren't yet comfortable or simple can't attend in-person, check out the online option. The more support you give, will in turn give WAHI greater opportunity for improvement!

Now for sports! The Brewers are showing signs of having the best starting rotation in the major leagues - they just have the get (and stay) healthy!

Be safe out there! Ric Thompson, WAHI President



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 19

Social at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:30 pm

Sconni's Alehouse & Eatery, 1239 Schofield Ave, Schofield, WI 54467

Education: To Be Announced

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter President, Mike Carson 715.212.4051



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 5

Check-in by 5:15 pm. & Meeting/Dinner/Education to follow

Meeting may be recorded and available online also - see your email for further details. In-person at Hangar 54 Grill (in CV airport), 3800 Starr Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Education: Jason Janc, Gibson Water Care

Jason will address water quality.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Dan Kegley at 715.497.3458



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 18

Social at 5:30 pm & Roundtable/Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:00 pm

Waverly Beach, N8870 Fire Lane 2, Menasha, WI 54952

Education: To Be Announced

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Scott Hansen at 920.716.3025



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 11 In-person and Zoom

Check-in starts at 5:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner/Education at 5:30 pm

Maple Tree Supper Club, 3010 US-51, McFarland, WI 53558

Education: Affiliate member Bob Stigsell, Advanced Health & Safety

Bob will share information on many environmental hazards Advanced can address for your

clients - radon, asbestos, mold, lead paint, etc.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Ron Miller at 608.235.9836



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 11

Check-in at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, & Meeting/Education at 6:30 pm

The Pallas Restaurant, 1657 S 108th St, Milwaukee

Education: To Be Announced

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Ryan Eigenfeld at 414.795.9018

WAHI NEWS

This is a brief recap of activity in the past month and a preview of what lay ahead. If anyone would ever like further information on something mentioned in this piece, just let me know - julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766.

April 2021

- **April Board Meeting Minutes:** The WAHI Board of Directors met on Friday, March 5th in Neenah. The minutes have been posted on the website within the Members Only tab.
- WAHI Election: See page 6 in this newsletter for 2021-2023 election results State Board of Directors and Chapters.

May 2021 and Beyond

- Meeting with WRA: President Ric Thompson, Legislative Co-Chair Ken Smith, Lobbyist Kathi Kilgore and I will meet with the WRA on Friday, April 30 to discuss how we can work together to help home inspectors and realtors navigate the new requirements.
- **Legislative Changes:** Remember June 1st is the date that home inspectors MUST use the term and classification of Defect when a condition aligns with the new definition already in place. June 1st is also the date the prescribed Summary Page goes into effect.
- **Membership Renewal:** July 1st is the start of the new membership year. See your email for renewal information and submit your payment by July 1st to avoid the "dreaded" late fee!
- Affiliate Membership Drive/Contest: Please do not lose sight of this important effort. Without question, the Coronavirus has impacted our chapter meetings which are so instrumental in formulating relationships between our Home Inspector and Affiliate members. See details on page 5 in this newsletter. Due to the Coronavirus, we will extend the contest to the Fall 2021 seminar.
- COVID-19 Safety Practices: Please remember that regardless of your position on the virus, to be respectful of the position your buyer, the seller and/or agents involved may have. We are not out of the woods on this yet and we must continue to be mindful and respectful of those your job impacts.
- WAHI Fall 2021 Education House and Training Seminar: Mark those calendars for Friday, November 5th and Saturday, November 6th we will be at Chula Vista in the WI Dells. Time will tell where we are regarding C-19 at that time but whatever it is, we will be prepared! If need be, this event will be conducted in the same COVID-conscious manner that was done in Stevens Point and Neenah.



Julie Arnstein Executive Director

You can add your photo and/or a link to your website to your WAHI profile!

See page 12 in this newsletter for step by step instructions OR submit additions to me at: julie@wahigroup.com

CHAPTER MEETINGS ONLINE

An IMPORTANT Announcement regarding Chapter Meetings Online

WAHI has been, and still is, a believer in our approach to education - what I call the "WAHI way"! We still see great value in holding our seminars and chapter meetings in person, with the speaker right there in the room for full interaction, Affiliate members and vendors in attendance to develop relationships of confidence and trust, and last but certainly not least, your fellow inspectors, many sole proprietors like you, to share experience, insight and lessons learned along the way!

But, with all of that said, we recognize the need for online programming from WAHI, the ONLY continuing education provider **focused solely** on WI inspectors, WI Standards of Practice and WI rules and regulations (State Statutes)! Long before COVID entered our lives, we knew that some of our members found it difficult to attend their local chapter meetings for a variety of reasons.

Since COVID, many of our chapters have been recording and/or live streaming their meetings. As a courtesy to our members, as we coped with these strange, uncertain times, we offered continuing education credits for those meetings at no charge. This process has been by trial and error, while not perfect, the chapters did the best they could. We recognize how critical it is for speakers to speak clearly and at a reasonable volume for the value of the presentation to effectively reach our at-home viewers.

Any member not comfortable or unable to attend a meeting in-person may continue to connect with their chapter online (and we encourage that!), however, to earn the 2 continuing education credits there will be a charge of \$20.00 - to be paid through your local chapter treasurer, in most cases. You will be notified by email if your chapter has a different plan in place. WAHI will also be posting one "highlighted" chapter meeting per month on the WAHI YouTube channel — for now, payment and certificates for that will be handled by WAHI Executive Director Julie Arnstein. Watch your email for specific details each month.

There are online service providers who can streamline this process but for now, we are "testing the water" to explore the response from our members and determine our best route going forward.

On behalf of WAHI, I thank you for your continued support of our educational programming and your patience as we embarked on this new path.



WHICH CHAPTER will be the WINNER of the WAHI AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE?

As of the WAHI Spring 2020 Education House and Training Seminar WAHI will be conducting an **Affiliate Membership Drive**. The goal of this effort is to increase our pool of qualified contractors and product or service providers. To bring out everyone's **competitive spirit**, we have decided to make this a **contest**! The contest end date has been extended to the WAHI Fall 2021 seminar weekend due to COVID-19.

The rules are simple...

- 1. Each chapter will need to increase their affiliate membership by at least 5% of their total chapter membership as of March 5th. Based on counts at that time:
 - Central chapter will need at least 3 new affiliate members
 - Chippewa Valley chapter will need at least 3 new affiliate members
 - Fox Valley chapter will need at least 4 new affiliate members
 - Madison chapter will need at least 4 new affiliate members
 - Milwaukee chapter will need at least 8 new affiliate members
- 2. The new Affiliate member must be a paying member, not the recipient of a complimentary membership for speaking at a chapter meeting or seminar.
- 3. Direct interested parties to the Member Benefits page on the WAHI website to complete an online application https://wahigroup.com/Member-Benefits

The chapter with the largest percentage of new affiliate members, <u>over</u> <u>the minimum</u>, will be deemed the winner!

The "prize" for the winning chapter is a complimentary chapter meeting - paid for out of the WAHI state coffers - AND more importantly, will be known as THE BEST CHAPTER IN WAHI, complete with bragging rights!

Watch for "progress reports" in the newsletter each month to see which chapter is in the lead. Let the games begin and may the BEST chapter win!



Ron Miller Membership Chair

Please contact me with any questions:

608-235-9836 or ronmiller547@gmail.com

STATE BOARD

Thank you WAHI members who participated in the state election this year! If you did, you know that Ric Thompson ran to serve another term as President unopposed but that did not matter, we still needed to reach our quorum for the election to be deemed valid...and we did, thanks to you!

On our State Board of Directors, we say goodbye and a sincere thank you to Brian Derewicz (Milwaukee), Brian Opelt (Chippewa Valley) and David Strandberg (Madison) - all having served as their Chapter-Elected Member at Large. Those positions will be filled by David Nason (Milwaukee), Ken Smith (Madison) and Dave Welch (Chippewa Valley). David, Ken and Dave – welcome to the Board! I am confident you will find it to be a rewarding experience.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Thank you to our many returning chapter officers and to those new to their position. WAHI would not be the successful, respected organization we are today without our members sharing their time and talent to serve in leadership roles.

Central

President Mike Carson Vice President Dave Lange Secretary Paul Zenker Treasurer Blake Teschner Education Chair TBD

Chippewa Valley

President Terry Elliott
Vice President Jon Hempel
Secretary Dan Kegley
Treasurer James Davis
Education Chair Dan Kegley

Fox Valley

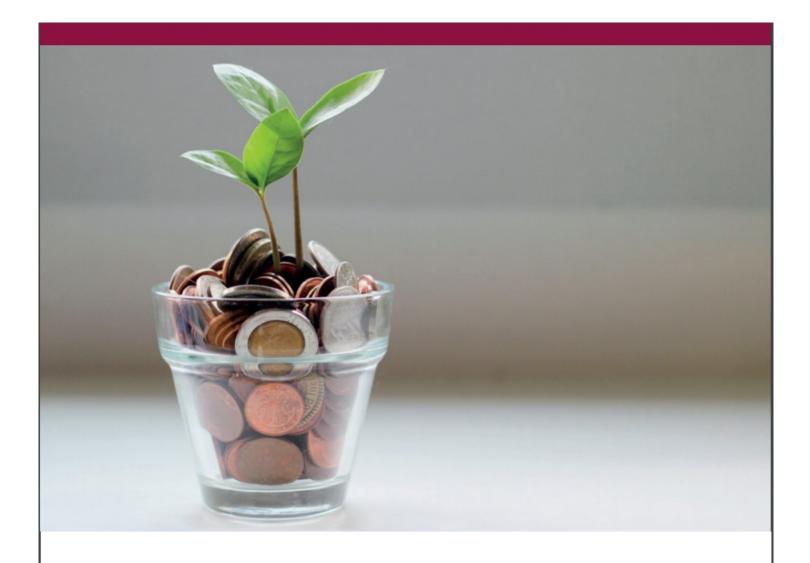
President Ric Thompson Vice President Tom Beatty Secretary Matt Hankey Treasurer Kevin Verch

Madison

President Sean Martinson Vice President Misty Russell Secretary Trent Stein Treasurer Misty Russell Education Chair Ron Miller

Milwaukee

President Jim Oezer
Vice President Joe Chitko
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Treasurer Dave Corby
Education Chair Ryan Eigenfeld



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See page 13 for an informative article provided by InspectorPro

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE - SEEKING FEEDBACK!

In early 2019 the WAHI Arbitration Committee went through the process to find a new arbitration provider for our members. In April 2019, several WAHI members attended arbitrator training, and in May 2019, WAHI distributed a new Inspection Agreement to the membership naming Construction Dispute Resolution Services (CDRS) as the arbitration provider.

The primary reason for seeking out a new provider was to improve the arbitration process by only using arbitrators who are experienced in the construction and inspection industries and, in order to maintain impartiality, no connection to WAHI. After meeting with other industry professionals, the Committee decided to proceed with CDRS. The level of professionalism and training provided by CDRS were very important in the Committee's decision. The ability to have some oversight and obtain feedback was also important to the Committee to ensure that the program is serving the WAHI membership well.

The Committee has learned that there have been some home inspector cases brought before CDRS for resolution. For privacy reasons, the Committee is not given the personal or business names of the parties involved with the arbitration, only that the arbitration occurred, the complaint details and the decision made.

In order to maintain oversight of the program from the home inspectors perspective, the Committee is asking any inspector member involved in arbitration to provide feedback. The member may remain anonymous, if they desire, and can provide the amount of feedback they are comfortable with. Any information about the process will be very beneficial to WAHI and our members.



David Nason Arbitration Committee Chair See David's contact information below.

WAHI ARBITRATION PROGRAM

Not every homeowner/inspector interaction goes smoothly. Although all members are encouraged to make every effort to resolve disputes on their own, we know that is not always successful. WAHI's Dispute Resolution Program is here for you during those difficult times.

For information, please contact:

WAHI Arbitration Chair David Nason 262.443.8958 or bestinspectionsllc@gmail.com

WAHI was recently asked, and answered, a question presented by a Home Inspector member on the "cusp" of retirement.

Must a home inspector continue his/her WAHI membership for the 2 year liability period following retirement to take advantage of the arbitration system in the event of a claim? If so, at what level...Home Inspector member or Retired member?

While WAHI would appreciate your continued support and involvement as a Retired member, it is not required. Currently, if a Home Inspector member has not renewed their state license they are eligible to renew their membership in WAHI at the Retired status.

NEW MEMBERS

David Harley (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member offering services in moisture control, water and mold remediation and air duct cleaning AdvantaClean of Badgerland 262.437.7330 dave.harley@advantaclean www.advantaclean.com/meguon-wi

Caleb Maier (Madison)

Affiliate Member offering roofing services
Roof Maxx
608.335.9465
cmaier@roofmaxx.com
www.RoofMaxx.com

Fabio Mora Arrieta (Madison)

Affiliate Member offering painting, drywall, roofing, gutters and siding
The Facility Solutions Company, LLC. 608.630.4509
info@facilitysolutionsco.com
www.facilitysolutionsco.com

Noah Siegmann (Milwaukee)

Home Inspector Member Independent 920.344.6839 noahsiegmann@gmail.com

Ryan Hesselberg (Central)

Home Inspector Member
Hess Home Inspection
608.385.2795
hesshomeinspection@gmail.com

Kevin Malovrh (Central)

Affiliate Member offering insurance coverage ADVANTAGE Insurance Services, LLC. 715.849.2500 kevinm@aisofwausau.com www.advantageinsurancewausau.com

Paul Rischmiller (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member offering full service, sustainable landscaping
DEL - Diverse Environmental Landscapes
414.380.3900
paul@delandscapes.net
www.landscapewithDEL.com

Leonard Wilson (Milwaukee)

Associate/Student Member 678.629.1770 urfaded@gmail.com

OFFICE DEPOT/MAX

Office Max and Office Depot merged some time ago. The Office Max discount program offered to WAHI members no longer exists – the savings became spotty as the merger was coming together and then finalized.

Office Depot has come to WAHI with a new, improved program. See page 16 for information on their in-store program and page 17 for a program overview and the contact person to establish an online account.

From one of our Central Chapter members - "I needed 2,000 copies made – they quoted me \$160.00. AFTER I presented my WAHI card, the cost dropped to \$50.00! What an AWESOME savings!"

From one of our Madison Chapter members - "I recently had printing done at my local Office Depot/Max. Cost before WAHI discount = \$137.00.

AFTER the WAHI discount was applied = \$36.00!!! WOW!"

MEMBERS ONLY INTERACTIVE

It has come to our attention that many of you may be unaware the WAHI website hosts an interactive forum on the Members Only page.

We encourage all members to check it out!

This is a very useful tool for communicating directly with fellow members and with our large membership, chances are very good that you will find someone who has a shared experience similar to yours or an answer to your question!

To access the forum section of the website you need to log-in to the website.

See page 12 for step-by-step instructions to log-in to your profile and make use of this additional "tool" and benefit WAHI offers to their members.

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SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

A realtor contacted me regarding a WAHI inspector who turned off 2 video cameras in a home he was inspecting. The agent was calling for clarification as she was not certain what the rules are concerning recording devices. At the time of the inspection, the inspector explained he disengaged the 2 cameras in order to be compliant with the State Statutes - he explained that if his actions and any commentary were recorded and viewed by a party of than his client he would be in violation of State Statute 440.975 (7)(b):

- (7) A home inspector may not do any of the following:
 - (b) Deliver a home inspection report to any person other than the client without the client's consent.

In the inspector's mind, by being filmed, he was "delivering" contents of his report to someone other than his client. I reached out to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to see how they would view this situation should someone file a complaint.

The Department would not view it as the inspector did. They said that video surveillance does not fall under sharing contents of the inspection and/or an inspection report. State Statute 440.975 (3) reads as follows:

After completing a home inspection, a home inspector shall submit a <u>WRITTEN</u> report to a client that does all of the following: etc. etc.(See 440.975 (3) (a-d) for remaining details)

In January 2020, Senate Bill 247 passed and a portion reads as follows:

995.60 (2) USE OF SURVEILLANCE DEVICES. Except as provided under sub. (3), an owner of real estate may use a surveillance device in or on the real estate to observe or record an individual who is present in or on the real estate for a private showing, open house, or other viewing of the real estate in connection with the owner's attempt to sell the real estate.

At the WAHI Spring 2019 Training Seminar, a speaker touched on surveillance cameras. He suggested attendees seek legal advice regarding privacy/disclosure rules in our state and/or add a disclaimer to their report. Something along the lines of:

We will make every reasonable effort to keep the results of the inspection confidential and will provide a report to you only (unless otherwise directed by you in writing). However, we have no control over home security surveillance systems that may be present and activated during the inspection, and it is possible that other parties might observe the inspection without our knowledge.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns – julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766



Stay in touch with the WAHI Facebook page!

Our WAHI Facebook community provides the perfect opportunity to post minutes, make chapter announcements, post meeting changes, start a dialog/ask questions of other inspectors or just see what your fellow WAHI members have been up to.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Turicik 920.892.7654 homeview@wi.rr.com



UPDATE YOUR WAHI PROFILE IN 5 EASY STEPS

- 1. Go to <u>www.wahigroup.com</u>.
- 2. From the Home Page upper right corner, select "LOG IN."

ENTER your email address on file with WAHI and password.

- *If you have questions, contact Julie at julie@wahigroup.com.
- Once logged in, the upper right corner shows your name,
 - "Change Password" and "Log Out." CLICK on your name.
- 4. You should now be on the "My Profile" page. Select "EDIT PROFILE" in the gray rectangular box.
- 5. After making your updates, **select "SAVE"** in the gray rectangular box at the bottom of the page.



RISK MANAGEMENT ARTICLE

SHOULD BUYERS AND SELLERS ATTEND INSPECTIONS?

By Aubri Devashrayee, Content Marketing Coordinator at InspectorPro Insurance

The Schools of Thought

Home inspectors have many thoughts when it comes to clients attending their inspections. Most often, buyers will be your inspection clients, but, on occasion, sellers can also be your clients. So, should your buyer and seller clients attend your inspections? Popular opinions usually fall into three categories, in which clients:

- shouldn't attend home inspections,
- should attend home inspections, or
- should attend a walk-through at the end of an inspection.

We explore these schools of thought, determine which method best mitigates liability, and lay out how you can effectively manage your risk.



Buyers and sellers shouldn't attend home inspections.

Some of the inspectors we interviewed were against clients attending their inspections. When asked why, they cited the following reasons.

1. Distracting the Inspector

According to Peter Pitts from On Site Inspections in Ohio, "The number one problem with clients [being] there throughout the entire inspection is distractions."

Anthony Cooper from <u>Cooper Inspections</u>, <u>LLC</u> in Ohio prefers clients not be present because, when he's alone, he can better concentrate, which helps him manage his risk.

"I have time to do a thorough inspection without being sidetracked by questions that will be answered in the report," Cooper said.

Both inspectors have a point. There are errors and omissions (E&O) claims examples where inspectors missed a vital defect because clients were distracting them. For example, we sometimes see this with <u>foundation issues</u>, since they are easy to miss and even easier to cover up.

2. Responsibility for the Clients' Safety

When clients are on site, inspectors must assume a certain amount of responsibility for their safety. This is particularly true when inspecting the attic, roof, and electrical panel.

"A client run[ning] ahead and damage[ing] something unintentionally or get[ting] hurt...[is] not what we want to see happen," said John Rodkey from <u>JMR Inspections</u> in Massachusetts.

Let's say a client does get hurt during an inspection. What then? The inspector must let his insurance provider know about the incident and possibly prepare for a general liability (GL) claim, since bodily injury resulted from the inspection.

While GL claims aren't as common as E&O claims, they can be more costly. According to <u>The Hartford</u>, a general liability claim can average more than \$75,000 per case to defend and settle when a lawsuit is involved.

3. Circumstances, like COVID-19

There are some unique situations where it is better for buyers and sellers to not attend inspections, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read the full-length article by clicking "Read More" below.

READ MORE

See our ad on page 7!

WAHI LEGAL SUPPORT

Affiliate member Attorney Lauren Triebenbach of Michael Best and Friedrich offers a risk-free, INITIAL consultation to WAHI members with legal concerns. WAHI members have the right to contact any attorney of their choice. Should a WAHI member decide to work with Lauren, the steps below, provided by Lauren, provide an explanation of her services.

- 1. If you receive an email, letter, text, or pleading from a customer, please contact my office.
- 2. I will ask that you provide me with the communication you received plus your inspectionagreement and report. If there are other communications related to the claim, I will ask for those too.
- 3. After I review your documents, I will schedule a time to talk to you. Calls generally last 15-30 minutes. I will discuss with you your options, which could include working it out on your own, engaging me to respond on your behalf, or tendering the claim to your insurance company. The strategy I discuss will be based on your specific claim, whether litigation or arbitration has already been initiated, and whether your inspection agreement specifies arbitration as the method of dispute resolution.
- 4. If you don't hire me, you don't get a bill. If you do hire me, the time spent reviewing the case will be included in the final billing.
- 5. Knowledge is power. I want inspectors to know their options so they can the decision that's best for them and their business.

Visit the WAHI Affiliate Member page to contact Lauren: https://wahigroup.com/Affiiate-Members/



WAHI WELCOME COMMITTEE

Our Welcome Committee is intended to do just that....welcome our new members into WAHI. As a new member, expect a call from a member from your chapter. If you are a "newer" member – maybe you joined a while ago but haven't yet attended a meeting - feel free to reach out to a committee member from your chapter and make arrangements to meet at the next or an upcoming meeting.

We want our new members to feel "welcome", feel a connection with the group... and the members listed below are the right people to do that!

CENTRAL

Mike Carson - 715.212.4051 or carsonhomeinspector@gmail.com

CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Jon Hempel - 715.210.3217 or jhempel@newageinspection.com Marc Steig - 715.797.1475 or inspectormarc3@gmail.com

FOX VALLEY

Dave Brading - 920.889.2120 or dave.brading@yahoo.com Bob Turicik - 920.946.0433 or homereview@wi.rr.com

MADISON

Sean Martinsen - 608.206.1108 or sktailhook@yahoo.com Rich Reinart - 608.535.9206 or thehomeinspectorllcwi@gmail.com

MILWAUKEE

Brian Derewicz - 262.343.1614 or briandthehomeinspector@gmail.com
Ryan Eigenfeld - 414.795.9018 or flarsbar@gmail.com
Nick Hammetter - 414.412.2637 or humblehomeinspector@gmail.com
Andy Helgeson - 414.315.0266 or helge4674@outlook.com
Mike von Gunten - 262.945.2446 or mvgbvg@wi.rr.com

Thank you all for stepping up to serve on one of the **most important** committees within the WAHI organization!



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Contact your Account Manager for more information.

Contact: Paul Gomez

Phone: (855) 337-6811 ext. 12809 Email:

paul.gomez1@officedepot.com

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For assistance with gaining on-line access, please contact:

Paul Gomez

WAHI National Program Manager | Office Depot

Tel: (855) 337-6811, Ext 12809 | paul.gomez1@officedepot.com

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Andy Helgeson 262.377.0751

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David Nason 262.443.8958

Dave Pribyl 920,660,3000 Ken Smith 608.352.0530

Marc Steig 715.797.1474

Mike von Gunten 262.945.2446

Dave Welch 715.382.6058

Chapter Presidents

Central Mike Carson 715.212.4051

Chippewa Valley Terry Elliot 715.577.4211

Fox Valley Ric Thompson 920.410.6682

Madison Sean Martinson 608.206.1108

Milwaukee Jim Oezer 262.636.9909 WAHI COMMITTEES

Arbitration David Nason, Chair Ron Nohre

Audit

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