Official publication of the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors, Inc. Visit us on our Web site at www.wahigroup.com

# The WAHIInspector Vol. XVIII, No. 1 January 2014 Editor: Nicholas Petrie

# **Upcoming Meetings**

## **Central Wisconsin Chapter**

Wednesday, January 15
Social 6 p.m., dinner/meeting 6:30 p.m.

Palms Supper Club Steak House
5912 Bus. Hwy 51, Schofield

Speaker: Master electrician on electrical controversies.

# Chippewa Valley Chapter

Wednesday, January 8
Dinner 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m.

Jade Garden Restaurant

3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire

Speaker: Dan Green of Water Source Heating
Cooling, on geothermal systems.

Friday, January 17 Christmas Party, 6 p.m. Fanny Hill Supper Club, Eau Claire

### Fox Valley Chapter

Tuesday, January 21

Roundtable 6 p.m., dinner 6:45, speaker 7:15 *Stone Toad* 

1109 S. Oneida Street, Menasha

Speaker: See website for speaker details.

# **Madison Chapter**

Thursday, January 16

Roundtable 6 p.m., dinner/meeting 6:30 p.m., speaker 7 p.m.

Rex's Inkeeper

301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee

Speaker: See website for speaker details.

## Milwaukee Chapter

Tuesday, January 14

Social 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

Klemmer's Banquet Center

10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis

Speaker: Randall Scott of Applewood Plastering Services, on proper plaster repair.

# From the President:

# **Another Great WAHI Seminar**



The Fall Seminar held in Oconomowoc was a huge success. Both the inspection houses and the speakers were outstanding and entertaining.

The Friday morning Peer Review was extremely well-attended. So many people wanted to participate that our extraordinary volunteers had to find and evaluate a second house to accommodate all the inspectors, who ranged from the newly-minted to experienced guys at the

top of their game, including several members of your Board of Directors. Defects found included (but were not limited to) electrical issues, chimney issues, an ocean of plumbing leaks, bath surround issues, a cut joist, and some truly weird stuff too. As inspectors know, every house is unique with its own array of problems. It is truly a privilege to have the chance to compare your findings with a thoughtful panel of your peers.

Friday afternoon, the Education House gave inspectors a chance to hear local experts and contractors discuss and explain the defects in depth. There truly is no better way to give your knowledge and ambition a kick in the pants and get the new year started out right. These events always inspire me to learn more and do more to serve my clients.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers who take a great deal of time out of their schedules to arrange and run the Peer Review and Education House training. Every seminar they step up to make WAHI the best source in the state to obtain your much-needed education credits, and to help you actually learn something in the process.

In the Saturday morning session, Steve Preins delivered a great presentation on report writing. He offered many tips on the "3-D" method of reporting – Describe the issue, Define why it is an issue, and Direct the client in a course of action. He also provided clear and concise report phrasing and tips on rating defects, and reminded inspectors to make sure you report what you can't see, not just what you can.

On Saturday afternoon, Ben Noffke of Noffke Roofing gave one of the best presentations on flat roofing installations and analysis that I have ever attended. He had great pictures which clearly showed the issues he was talking about, from problem installs to best-practice methods. Ben is a third-generation roofer who revealed to us that this was his first presentation, and he truly nailed it.

# **President**

continued from p. 1

I am confident that all members who attended our fall seminar gained valuable information from these presentations.

The seminar's vendor turnout was also one of the largest we have had in recent years, with 15 different vendors providing great direct access for questions about inspection and business topics. Thanks are due as always to our Executive Director Julie Arnstein for her work bringing in the number of vendors, which also helps defray the seminar costs for our members.

The Friday night cocktail party with vendors was well attended, as was the hospitality suite afterward. Special thanks to Cassidy, Paul and Tracy, from Environmental Initiatives, for their Bio Bar, which they have hosted for quite a few years now. I'm guessing more than one WAHI member woke feeling a little moldy.

The board also held its meeting on Friday afternoon. Our lobbyists Janet Swandby and Kathi Kilgore from Swandby/Kilgore Associates spoke about their role in representing our interests regarding the proposed DSPS changes to the inspectors' continuing education requirements. Although their current contract with WAHI is for monitoring and reporting on legislation and does not include direct lobbying, the board voted to retain their lobbying services under a separate contract to help with the DSPS changes, with the knowledge that this was not likely to be an expensive service.

Kathi Kilgore and I met recently with the Assistant Deputy Secretary of DSPS. We presented our concerns with the rule changes and asked for clarification of some of the language. At that meeting, I felt that we would be able to come to a satisfactory agreement on the language being presented by DSPS. Since our meeting, Kathi has had further communications with the DSPS and has submitted those results to us. For more on this, please read Kathi's report later in this issue.

Kathi and I are in constant contact and are scheduling further meetings with the state. We will keep all WAHI members informed of the results.

Also I'd like to remind you that WAHI will be holding state- and chapter-level elections this spring. Please remember that WAHI is your organization, and I encourage each and every member to take ownership by becoming involved in the elections. You can nominate a fellow-member for office, or you can volunteer yourself to run for open positions. The work required for the majority of positions is minimal. The people you will be working with have the same interest as you, and I've found my work with WAHI leadership to both a great deal of fun and rewarding on both a personal and professional level.

I would like to wish all members a safe and prosperous New Year.

Mike von Gunten

# Infrared Training

Don't forget about the great additional training that WAHI is offering in 2014! The Infrared Buildings Application Training (Level 1) will be held from Tuesday, February 4th through Friday, February 7th. The cost is \$850 per person (member rate), a significant reduction from the normal fee for this extensive training. Attendance will be limited to 25, so sign up soon. Although this is clearly methodology and education that is well outside the state standards for home inspectors, this fascinating technology has many uses in many industries including real estate. Members taking the course who already have an infrared camera should bring theirs to the class. The event will be held at the HO-Chunk Conference Center in Baraboo. See page 12 of this newsletter for course details and registration information.

# **Chapter Meeting Highlights**



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15th at Palms Supper Club Steak House, 5912 Bus. Hwy 51 in Schofield. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend a monthly chapter meeting is \$25 with dinner or \$10 without the meal. Contact Rich Duerkop with any questions at 715-241-8222 or e-mail <a href="mailto:americansentry1@charter.net">americansentry1@charter.net</a>. Our speaker will be a master electrician, who will discuss some of the electrical controversies we have been seeing lately.



Brian Kelly from Certainteed Corporation was the speaker at our December meeting. Brian had a very good presentation on the New Horizon shingles along with other Certainteed products. We had numerous photos and discussed general condition and concerns. We also saw some member photos and had an open discussion regarding them. Brian Opelt, our member-atlarge, gave us a review of the information from the State meeting.

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th at Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire. The buffet supper starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 6 p.m. The cost of supper and meeting is \$20 (tip extra). The speaker will be Dan Green from Water Source Heating Cooling of Eau Claire. Dan will discuss geothermal systems, along with general furnace and air conditioning. Dan has spoken at previous meetings and has over 30 years experience in the geo thermal industry.

Our Christmas Party will be Friday, January 17th at the Fanny Hill Supper Club in Eau Claire. Happy hour will be from 6-7 p.m. and dinner at 7. RSVP Pete Saltness at pksaltness@charter.net if you plan to attend.

The chapter normally meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Due to production dates, members may not receive a newsletter issue until very close to our meeting date, or even after. To avoid missing a meeting, please mark your calendar in advance.



In December Paul Birschbach gave a presentation about portions of Wisconsin SPS 316 (formerly Wisconsin Comm 16), the State's electrical code, and the requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors/alarms in homes. Bruce Low gave a "Stump the Inspector" photo presentation of confusing, fun, strange, entertaining, disgusting, hazardous, etc. things he has encountered at inspections.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st at the Stone Toad, 1109 S. Oneida Street in Menasha. Cocktails and roundtable discussion start at 6 p.m., 6:45 dinner, 7:15 speaker, meeting to follow. See the website for speaker details.

continued on p. 4



The Madison chapter meets six times per year on the 3rd Thursday in January, February, May, June, September and October. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 16th at Rex's Inkeeper, 301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee. Roundtable begins at 6 p.m., dinner/meeting at 6:30 p.m. and speaker at 7 p.m. Watch the website for speaker details or contact Chapter Education Chair Ron Miller. Contact Education Chair Ron Miller or President Dennis Kruger with speaker leads



Oklahoma Ave. in West Allis. Social at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25, which includes dinner and the continuing education. Long-time Milwaukee Chapter member Andrew Risch, of Embassy Homes, also works with Special Spaces (see page 17 in this newsletter). Andrew will spend a few minutes sharing the details of an upcoming project Special Spaces is working on in February.

Our educational speaker will be Randall Scott, owner of Applewood Plastering Services. Randall will talk about the different plastering services his company offers and provide insight into what is required for a "proper" plaster repair. He will also answer questions regarding new construction plastering installations, including what is a correct install and what is not.



# Providing the best protection at the best price.

The InspectorPRO insurance program has been specifically designed for property inspectors.

By providing insurance solely to inspectors, InspectorPRO helps members achieve substantial savings on their E&O insurance.

#### General & Professional Liability

Coverage Limits Available:

\$2,000,000

\$1,000,000

\$500,000

\$300,000

\$100,000

Deducables:

\$250 General Liability

\$1,500, \$2,500, or \$5,000 Errors & Omissions

General and Professional Liability are both written by the same carrier.

There are no sublimits on any of our endorsements

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Policy covers both E&O and GL
- 2. Retro-Active coverage included (proof of retro required)
- 3. Realtor and Referring Party Indemnification included
- 4. Multi-inspector coverage available on one policy
- Residential and Commercial inspection coverage included standard
- There are endorsements for the following:
   Mold, Water Testing and Septic, Pool and Spa, Radon, Termite/Pest/WDI And Morel
- 7. Energy Audits, Infrared, 200K Inspections, etc. Included
- 8. Diminishing Deductible
- 9. Aggressive Claims Process
- 10. Financing Available

Call or Go Online Today to Apply

phone: 801.610.2735 www.inspectorPROinsurance.com

# A Note of Thanks

Dear WAHI Members & Affiliates,

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for the cards, and the gift of money which you contributed at the WAHI Fall Seminar for me. I am overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity. All your phone calls, emails and Facebook comments were appreciated; your concern for how I was doing really kept my spirits up.

When it comes to our professional lives, my colleagues stepped up to give me the support I needed, and I will never forget this. I am grateful beyond measure that I am writing this to you, as it was truly a miracle that I did not suffer more tragic injuries from the fall. I guess my angels were with me that morning.

Over the years as a WAHI member I have always seen a strong support system guiding and helping members through personal and professional challenges, and now I can say I have personally experienced it. I will use the money to help pay a few doctor bills that I was

not expecting, as well as the normal bills while I am not working.

I will be unable to resume by business until my next doctor visit on January 17, but I am optimistic things will go well. I will keep you all posted as things progress.

Again, a HUGE THANK YOU for your generosity and the true friendship I have found within the members of WAHI.

#### **Bob Turicik**

Editor's Note: On December 4th, Bob fell off a ladder from about 10' feet at a ranch home. He landed on the concrete apron and hit his head on the asphalt driveway. He suffered a burst fractured T-10 vertebra, fractured right foot and chipped rear tooth. His spine specialist told him that his body absorbed the sudden stop with unbelievable minor injuries. He received with no broken bones and was expected to have a full recovery within a month.



# Member Updates

## **New Home Inspector Members**

#### Barbara Basaj

Sun Spec, LLC 3359 S. Pennsylvania Avenue Milwaukee WI 53207 414-489-0826 barb@sunspec.net

#### **David Nason**

Five Stars Inspection 902 W Wisconsin Ave. Oconomowoc WI 53066 262-443-8958 fivestarsinspection@gmail.com www.fivestarsinspection.com

#### **Colin Sturrock**

Shamrock Bldg. Insp. Consultants LLC 2935 S. Mabbett Ave. Milwaukee WI 53207 262-367-1536; fax 262-367-1548 colin@shamrockwi.com

#### New Associate/Student Member

#### **Trent Stein**

5403 Upland Trail Middleton WI 53562 608-469-0249 trent.stein68@gmail.com

#### **New Affiliate Members**

#### Ben Noffke

Noffke Roofing Co. 10341 N Granville Road Mequon WI 53097 262-242-5320; fax 262-242-6354 ben@noffkeroofing.com www.noffkeroofing.com

#### **Jared Schulze**

American Home Inspectors Training Institute N19 W240175 Riverwood Drive, #200 Waukesha WI 53188 800-441-9411; fax 262-754-3748 questions@ahit.com www.ahit.com

# Comprehensive inspection reports, made easy.

InspectIT® is one of the most advanced home inspection software products on the market today, utilizing a cloud-based environment for flexible access and maximum security. Designed by industry professionals, this home inspection software will help make your job easier and your business more successful.



# With InspectIT, you can:

- Access, modify, & create your reports, contacts.
   & quotations from anywhere, or any device.
- Create reports that match your business.
- Be confident that your data remains safe & secure.
- Receive free, automatic software updates.
- Enjoy free, unlimited support.
- Work on any PC or Android device.



Call 877.211.7483

to learn more or to schedule a free demonstration, or visit www.inspectit.com

# **Editor Seeks Submissions**

By Nick Petrie

When I was 20 and in college, I worked with a group of Michigan old-house remodeling carpenters who started me on the long road to learning about how houses are built, repaired, and improved. I learned that homebuilding and woodworking can truly be an art. I learned the filthiest jokes I'd ever heard, some of which I repeat with joy to this day. But I was most impressed to see these middle-aged guys, who I thought knew absolutely everything, start asking questions when they realized there was a hole in their own learning.

It was a refrain on the job site, "The older I get, the less I know."

At 20, I didn't quite get it, because hey, I still knew everything. But now, deep in my own middle age, I've realized how much more there is to learn in this world. It was true when I ran a remodeling company, and it's even more true now, after twelve years as a home inspector. The older I am, the less I know. About everything.



Every inspector brings something unique to their own practice. My background as an old-house remodeler, your background as an electrican or HVAC tech, someone else's background as a teacher or machinist or manager or engineer. And none of us know all there is about houses, about inspecting, about running a business. But I think that all of you would like to learn more. That's how inspectors are. We're curious. We like to learn.

And most of all, we like to share what we know.

# So I'm inviting you – all of you – to become writers for your WAHI newsletter.

Send an article of any length. Long or short. On any topic.

Maybe you have a small tip to help with driveway presentations. Maybe you carry a useful tool in your bag that you think would help other inspectors do their jobs better. Maybe you heard a phrase years ago that you now use at most inspections to help explain something to a client. If so, WAHI inspectors would like to know. (By the way, my favorite useful phrase is, "Every basement is a swimming pool waiting to fill.")

Maybe you spent fifteen years taking apart furnaces and you have a special method for inspecting them. Tell us! Maybe you were a mason for a decade and have a mental catalog of problems that you look for at every home. We want to know!

You don't have to be a writer. We can touch up your grammar or spelling. You know stuff. We want to know it, too. So write like you talk. Tell us what you know, in your own words.

Become a larger part in this grand WAHI project, the education of home inspectors. Send me anything you like. I promise to read and respond. Send it to Nick at smartmove@wi.rr.com.

Thanks. Your fellow-inspectors will thank you too.

# WAHI has a Facebook Page



Thanks to Public Relations Chair Bob Turicik, WAHI has joined the "new generation" and invites you to join in as well! Facebook is a very user-friendly, cost efficient, speedy way to get the word out to WAHI members. The WAHI Facebook page will be a wonderful venue to make chapter announcements (meeting changes, speakers, location updates, meeting reminders, etc.), board announcements, post State Board meeting minutes, etc.

Please see below for instructions on creating a Facebook account if you do not have one yet, and how to find the WAHI page

How do I sign up for Facebook Account?

To create an account, go to www.facebook.com.

Enter your name, birthday, gender and email

address. Then create a password. After you complete the registration form, Facebook will send you an email. Just click the confirmation link to complete the sign up process.

# How do I find the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors page?

After you have finalized creating your Facebook page, type in Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors in the search box. Request to be "liked." You will get a response when WAHI accepts the request. The WAHI Facebook page is a closed group – only WAHI members can view and participate on the page.

Any questions? Contact Bob Turicik at homereview@wi.rr.com or 920-892-7654.





# Help your customers. Build your business.

Give your customers a perfect guide to home maintenance and repair – and differentiate yourself from the competition! Along with your quality report, provide a copy of this great book with your contact information added. They'll keep it handy, and your name will be on display indefinitely. If you are a new customer, you can purchase your first case of 22 books at \$7.50 per book.

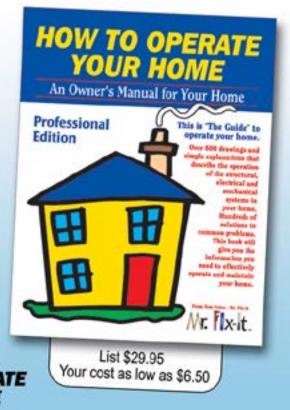
Visit our website at www.htoyh.com to see all of our books and other marketing products that can give your business a boost.

"Your book and newsletter are my only marketing tools. I never depend on Realtors, and I am a very busy home inspector."

-Kirk, Wisconsin

www.htoyh.com (800) 201-3829





# Where to Find E&O Insurance for Inspectors

#### Allen Insurance Group

P.O. Box 1439
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Contact: Bob Person (ext. 172),
Melissa or Heather (ext. 175)
1-800-474-4472
Great service, many choices and fee schedules.
Covers radon also.

#### Citadel Insurance Services, LLC

826 E. State Road, #100 American Fork, UT 84003 Contact: Jason Fiack 801-610-2735; Fax 801-610-2701 www.inspectorproinsurance.com General liability and errors & omissions insurance for home and building inspectors

#### **FREA**

4907 Morena Blvd., #1415 San Diego, CA 92117 800-882-4410 or www.frea.com Offers competitive rates, a low deductible and a package of other benefits. Rates for commercial and residential inspections; not based on volume or revenue.

#### **OREP**

6760 University Ave. #250 San Diego, CA 92115 888-347-5273; Fax: 619-704-0567 info@orep.org www.orep.org Includes premises coverage & most incidental coverages. Competitive rates.

#### Vincent, Urban, Walker and Assoc. Inc.

139 S. Washington St. P.O. Box 8608 Green Bay, WI 54308 Contact: Debbie Catsuros at 920-432-7246 Many types & companies. Services individual inspectors; fee based on volume. Radon also.

### **Zolofra Insurance Agency**

P.O. Box 8787
Red Bank, NJ 07701
Contact Ben Zolofra at 888-858-1777 or ben@zolofrainsurance.com
www.allprocoverage.com
Multiple carriers. Coverage on mold and lead testing, septic, pest & pool inspections, prior acts, workers comp, commercial auto, more.



# **Lobbying Update**

# Possible Continuing Education Rule Changes

By Kathi Kilgore Swandby/Kilgore Associates, Inc.



As you have read in past columns, changes have been proposed by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) pertaining to how continuing education credits can be earned by home inspectors. A very rough draft of a rule proposal was shared with WAHI. The Board and I reviewed the rough draft and had questions and concerns.

WAHI President Mike von Gunten and I met with DSPS staff in mid-December to seek answers to our questions. We raised an issue of concern that home inspectors who teach or attend a specific educational program more than one time during the biennial (two year) registration period will only receive credit for the program once. We explained the popular "Education House" inspection review and training program that takes place at WAHI's Spring and Fall Seminars and how each house is different and should be counted separately. We also explained that, while a general subject like "foundations" or "heating" may be discussed at a chapter meeting or a seminar, there are a number of possible topic areas under each subject that should be counted individually toward the CE requirement. For example, if a home inspector attends a meeting about inspecting "forced air heating systems" and then attends a class about "geothermal heating systems," these should both be counted.

Another issue that we raised from the draft is a provision that would limit the number of CE hours that home inspectors can count from attending "technical or professional society meetings." The provision, as drafted, would limit these credits to 20 hours per biennial registration period. Home inspectors will be

expected to complete at least 40 hours of CE in two years.

Since our meeting, Swandby/Kilgore
Associates, Inc. has received a new rough draft
of a rule proposal and I have forwarded it on
to the WAHI Board for their review. However,
not all of WAHI's concerns have been
addressed and it looks like there may be a need
for another meeting with DSPS staff.

### "Clean Up" Bill Update

Also, DSPS has worked with a few legislators to draft a "clean up" bill for a number of regulated professions to make minor, technical changes in State law. This legislation, Assembly Bill 433 and Senate Bill 345, has one provision that pertains to home inspectors – changing the continuing education requirement from 40 hours every two years instead of the current requirement of 20 hours per year. DSPS wants the continuing education requirement to coincide with the requirement that home inspectors register with the Department every two years.

Senate Bill 345 has been approved by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services unanimously and will likely be taken up by the Senate in January. Assembly Bill 433 has had a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations. It will likely have a vote of the Committee in early January. Public hearings have been held on SB 345 and AB 433.

We will continue to monitor both bills – and all other legislation pending before the Legislature – for their effect on home inspectors.

Contact us at 608-286-9599 or swandby@ swandby.com or Kilgore@swandby.com. We always enjoy hearing from WAHI members.

# Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors Inc. (WAHI) Presents Thermal Imaging Training from the Snell Group Infrared Training - Level One Building Application

# Tuesday February 4 through Friday February 7, 2014 Ho-Chunk Casino and Conference Center

S3214 Highway 12, Baraboo, WI 53913

#### Training Overview:

This four-day course is designed for home inspectors, energy auditors, weatherization contractors and facility maintenance personnel who use thermal imaging or are considering adding the technology to their program. The class will meet the needs of a thermographer looking to inspect residential and small commercial facilities for insulation defects, air leakage problems and moisture related issues including roof systems. Participants will also learn how to apply infrared to inspect electrical systems, in both residential and small commercial, as well as mechanical equipment including motors, bearings, pumps, pipes and HVAC systems.

#### Course Topics and Applications:

- · Infrared camera basics and hands-on practice
- Heat transfer and radiometric theory
- · Principles of building inspections
- · Conduction inspections
- · Air leakage inspections
- Blower doors

- · Building moisture inspections
- · Building standards
- · Roof moisture inspections
- · Facility electrical and mechanical systems
- · Report and Analysis Software

#### Additional Information:

- . Hours of training are 8 AM to 5 PM with a one hour lunch (on own) and short breaks.
- Attendees who own an infrared camera should bring their camera to the training.

# Continuing Education Credit

This training is approved for 32 continuing education credits with ASHI – approval pending with the State of WI.

# Location: Ho-Chunk Casino, S3214 Highway 12, Baraboo, WI

To reserve a room, call 1-800-746-2486. A block of rooms is being held for Monday February 3rd through Friday February 7th at a rate of \$89.00.

Be sure to mention "2674" when making your reservation.

Room block expires on Monday January 20, 2014

----- Please Submit Registration Form -----

Name and Company Nam Address		Ca	7:	
City Phone		State Email	Zip	
Make checks payable to MasterCard or Visa:	: WAHI			Exp:/
Member Non-Member	By January 20th \$850.00 \$1,000.00	After January 20th \$ 895.00 \$1,045.00		Return this form, with payment, to: WAHI, e/o Julie Amstein 4590 S. Raven Lane. New Berlin, WI 53151
				Fax (262) 785-6765 Email: juliewahi@gmail.com Ouestions? (877) 399-WAHI

# WAHI in the News

By Bob Turicik WAHI Public Relations Committee Chair

I am pleased to report that WAHI made it. into the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel **Business Section on** Friday, December 6. For the past 4-5 years I have contacted the local newspaper in the area of every seminar we have had. The intent was to see if they would be interested in running an article about Wisconsin home inspectors and the



One of two WAHI education houses at the 2013 Fall Seminar.

educational programs put on by WAHI. My efforts often fell on deaf ears – until this year!

I reached out to Paul Gores, business writer for the *Journal Sentinel*, regarding our Fall Education House and Training Seminar in Oconomowoc. He contacted and interviewed WAHI President Mike von Gunten. You can read the full article <a href="here">here</a>.

# Important Notice Chapter Meeting Continuing Education Credits

This month, all members will receive a postcard indicating their continuing education credits earned in 2013 from attendance at monthly WAHI chapter meetings. Please put this postcard in a folder marked Continuing Education Credits 2013. Be prepared!

Changes are bound to happen at the Department of Safety and Professional Services in Madison as a result of the state audit. WAHI plans to be ready and encourages the membership to do the same.

The Fox Valley WAHI Chapter recently implemented a program using an Attendance Verification Form (AVF). At the chapter meeting, each attendee completes a form with their information as well as the details of the evening's educational program. At the conclusion of the meeting attendees are given

a password, specific to that meeting. This password is intended to verify that the attendee did not leave the meeting early and truly earned the full credit count. The form is in duplicate – one copy to be kept by the attendee and the other for the chapter records. Starting January 2014 all WAHI chapters will make use of this form and implement this procedure.

After January 2014 WAHI will no longer notify members of their year-long chapter meeting attendance credits at the end of each year. Members will be responsible for maintaining their own record of earned Continuing Education Credits with their copy of the Attendance Verification Form. Members are encouraged to have a folder marked Continuing Education Credits 2014 for their AVFs as well as seminar certificates.



# Zolofra Insurance Agency

P.O. Box 8787 Red Bank, New Jersey 07701 Phone 888.858.1777 Fax 732.334.0405 www.allprocoverage.com

# HOME INSPECTORS INSURANCE

## WHY USE US?

- It starts with service we are here to pick up your call!
- Access to multiple insurance carriers.
- Over 17 years experience. We know the markets and coverages!
- Coverage available also for Mold Testing, Lead Testing, Septic Inspections, Pool/Spa Inspections, Radon, Termites, 203k inspections, construction draw inspections, prior acts and more!
- Low deductibles in case you have a claim. High limits available as well.
- New inspectors, veteran inspectors, with claims or no claims.
- We can also provide you insurance for Workers Compensation, Commercial Auto, etc.
- We are a Trusted Choice Independent Insurance Agency.

# WHY PURCHASE E&O INSURANCE?

 Claims against home inspectors increase every year, whether the market is good or bad, even if you have done everything correctly on your inspections. E&O Insurance will defend you against your toughest clients.

# HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The annual cost of a base policy is \$1,100.00 (includes all taxes and fees).

# TO FIRM UP A QUOTE:

Please take a minute to complete your online application at: http://www.allprocoverage.com/inspectors-contact-form/



Trusted Choice™ agencies are insurance and financial service firms whose access to multiple companies and commitment to quality service enable us to offer our clients competitive pricing, a broad choice of products and unparalleled advocacy

888.858.1777

www.allprocoverage.com

ben@zolofrainsurance.com

# Tips and Tidbits

# WAHI Spring 2014 Training Seminar

Mark your calendars for the Spring 2014 Seminar, Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Meeting on March 14 & 15 in Baraboo at the Ho-Chunk Casino. Stay tuned for more details.

## State Election 2014

The WAHI state election is nearing. All members are asked to consider serving in a position of leadership in the coming year at either the chapter or state level. The membership will elect the state president and vice president — both to two-year terms. The election will be held in early March with the results announced at the Annual Meeting on March 15th. Nominations and Elections Chair Andy Helgeson will begin accepting nominations in January. Please contact Andy at 262-377-0751 or ajhelgeson@wi.rr.com if you are interested in a position or would like to submit a nomination.

# WAHI Legal Support (WLS)

Attorney Roy Wagner, of von Briesen and Roper, continues offer risk-free initial counseling to members with legal concerns. If further legal assistance is requested, the cost of the initial consultation will be included in the bill. Contact Roy at (414) 287-1250 or rwagner@vonbriesen.com. Note: The WLS program is completely independent of the WAHI Arbitration System.

# Wisconsin Realtors Association Convention

Public Relations Chair Bob Turicik is already on to the next WRA convention – January 29-31, 2014 at The Waters of Minocqua. Bob is again coordinating the WAHI booth at the event. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help staff the booth, contact Bob at 920-892-7654 or homereview@wi.rr.com.

# 2013-2014 WAHI Membership Roster

The 2013-2014 membership roster is now on the website and available for viewing and/ or printing. All members are encouraged to check their listing. It reflects the information that WAHI has on file for you. Please submit updates/corrections to Julie Arnstein at juliewahi@gmail.com or info@wahigroup.com

# Ride Along Program

The WAHI Ride Along Program assists new members as they embark on their business. Experienced members interested in sharing their knowledge and experience with a fellow member by allowing them to accompany you on an inspection are asked to contact Julie Arnstein. Julie will add their name to a list given to a member looking for guidance of this type. Contact Julie at (414) 299-9766 or (877) 399-WAHI or juliewahi@gmail.com.

continued on p. 15

The WAHI Inspector is the official publication of the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors. Published monthly, deadlines are the 20th of the month before publication (ie. May 20th for the June issue).

Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors, Inc. c/o 4590 S. Raven Lane New Berlin, WI 53151

414-299-9766 (Milwaukee) 877-399-9244 (Toll-free) 262-785-6765 (Fax)

www.wahigroup.com

Executive Director: Julie Arnstein juliewahi@gmail.com

# Tips and Tidbits

continued from p. 14

# WAHI Arbitration Program

All members are encouraged to make every effort to resolve homeowner/inspector disputes without outside help. When that is not successful, know that the WAHI Dispute Resolution Program is there for you. The process begins when the complainant (homeowner) contacts Resolute Systems, the program administrator, via mail at 1550 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee 53202, e-mail at info@ResoluteSystems.com or their Web site at www.resolutesystems.com.

For information contact Arbitration Committee Chair Dave Strandberg at (608) 255-3966 or dstrand8@tds.net.

## Office Max Discount

The Office Max corporate discount is available to all members of WAHI. Purchase online at www.OfficeMaxSolutions.com. The user name is wahi and the password is member1. In-store purchases require use of a WAHI Retail Con-

nect Card. See the November 2012 issue (page 16) of the newsletter at www.wahigroup.com for a printable card. Office Max will laminate the card for you when you visit the store.

# We Need Your Current Email Address!

Via our website, WAHI sends mass emails containing important announcements and interesting articles/information. Having your correct email address is vital in terms of WAHI communication. Take a look at your listing in the member database on the website and let us know if your info is not up-to-date.

# New Email Address for WAHI Executive Director

Please update your email address book for Julie Arnstein. Effective immediately her new address is juliewahi@gmail.com.

continued on p. 13

# We Solve Drainage Problems

### Do You Have ....

- Basement walls with mold, cracks or are buckled?
- Water seeping into the basement?
- Poor grading that slopes toward the house?
- A continually wet yard?
- Cracked or heaved concrete?

Call NOW to prevent more damage !!

262-255-7882







# Wandsnider

Landscape Architects



Menomonee Falls, WI



- Landscape Design and Construction
- Drainage Solutions
- Bill's Contractor Storage

www.wandsnider.com



## **Member News**

Share your news, joys, recognitions, temporary setbacks (illness or injury), etc. Privacy should be recognized, and information provided must be okayed by the person involved. Send submissions to Julie at juliewahi@wi.rr.com. Deadline is the 20th of the month before the newsletter (ie. March 20th for the April issue).

# **Updating Your Contact Info**

Please visit www.wahigroup.com and find your listing under the members tab on the home page. If you have recently moved or if your information is not correct/complete, please contact Julie at info@wahigroup.com, (877) 399-WAHI or fax at (262) 785- 6765. Updates are listed every month in the WAHI Inspector.

# **Special Spaces**

Andrew Risch, longtime Milwaukee Chapter member and architectural designer for Embassy Homes, is involved with a valuable program. Special Spaces is a non-profit organization that creates dream bedrooms for children with life threatening illnesses. To make this program a success they are seeking volunteers. For information, contact Andrew at 262-241-8510, x111 or Andrew@emabassyhomes.com. You may also be interested in visiting www.specialspacesmilwaukee.org.

# **Chapter Secretaries**

Chapter Secretaries are reminded to include upcoming speaker and topic information when submitting monthly meeting minutes to Julie Arnstein. The information will be included in the newsletter and will also be posted on our Web site at www.wahigroup.com.

# Add a Photo to the WAHI Web Site & Link to Your Site

WAHI's new Web site is up and running. We've been adding member photos and are now ready to add your company Web site to your member profile. Submit photos and web site addresses to juliewahi@gmail.com.

# Communication

All member-to-member or member-to-association disputes must go through the Membership Committee. A member going public with a member or association dispute will be grounds for disciplinary action. The Membership Committee will implement this policy. Contact Committee co-chairs Doug Hoerth (920-375-0723 or finallookinspectionservices@yahoo.com) or Glenn Schmidt (920-923-0440 or geschmidt1@att.net).

# **Chapter Presidents**

Please give your WAHI Board Member-at-Large an opportunity to share information from recent Board meetings. They are the liaison between your chapter and the WAHI Board.

# **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline of the 20th of each month for submissions to the newsletter will be strictly enforced, with the occasional exception when a chapter meeting falls after that date. Chapter secretaries should provide the minutes as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Board of Directors**

**President** Mike Von Gunten (262) 945-2446

**Vice President** Doug Hoerth (920) 375-0723

**Secretary** Julie Arnstein (877) 399-9244

**Treasurer** Tom Greenwaldt (262) 547-3678

#### Members-at-Large

Troy Beasley (414) 737-2721

Dennis Kruger (608) 835-5395

Ron Miller (608) 832-6630

Brian Opelt (715) 937-2002

Nick Petrie (414) 961-1400

Dave Pribyl (920-660-3000)

Kent Schwanke (800) 585-4708

David Strandburg (608) 255-3966

Kyle Zimmermann (715) 387-1815

#### **Executive Director**

Julie Arnstein (877) 399-9244

#### Central Wisc. Chapter

Rich Duerkop, President (715) 241-8222

### Chippewa Valley Chapter

Dave Waraxa, President (608) 534-7709

### Fox Valley Chapter

Kent Schwanke (800) 585-4708

#### **Madison Chapter**

Dennis Kruger, President (608) 835-5395

#### Milwaukee Chapter

Scot McLean, President (414) 228-6573

## **Statewide WAHI Committees**

#### **Affiliates**

See Membership Committee

#### Arbitration

David Strandberg, Chair Roy Wagner

#### **Audit**

Tom Greenwaldt, Chair George Finch • Roger Howard Scott Jarvis • Joe Perlock Dave Stoinski

#### Clearinghouse

(subcommittee of Legislative)

Inactive

#### Education

Tom Kruse, Co-Chair Kent Schwanke, , Co-Chair John Moore • Pete Saltness

#### **Education House**

Kent Schwanke, Chair

#### Legislative

Ron Miller, Chair

#### Membership

Doug Hoerth, Co-Chair Glenn Schmidt, Co-Chair Paul Birschbach • Roger Kautz Jerry Schneider

#### Nominations/Elections

Andy Helgeson, Chair Rich Duerkop • Dennis Kruger Cassidy Kuchenbecker Scot McLean Kent Schwanke • Dave Waraxa

#### **Public Relations**

Bob Turicik, Chair Troy Beasley • Bruce Low Nick Petrie • Chuck Weber

### Rules & Bylaws

Andy Helgeson, Chair Erick Beck • Tom Dempsey Tom Greenwaldt

#### WAHI Legal Support (WLS)

Chair position is vacant Ron Miller • Roy Wagner

#### Web Site

Doug Hoerth, Chair Keith Vanevenhoven