



The WAHI Inspector

From the President: **Seasonal Changes**



Greetings All!

As of September 23, fall is upon us. I can't make up my mind if I love this time of year or if I really get bummed about summer coming to an end. I love the cooler temperatures, the changing colors, corn mazes, Halloween, attempting to find my golf ball in the leaves when I hit my ball on the fairway, walking my dogs (and not sweating) and not mowing my lawn every 5 days. Not to mention the kids are back in school and my teacher friends are all complaining about being back at work - most of my family were teachers so I can pick on them! But, this is also when business slows, coats come out of closets, snow blowers get tuned up and the raking begins.

This time of year also makes me think about how I go about my job. How I need to be more cautious from now until spring. With my multi-inspector company, I also think about my employees. We typically have a staff meeting about this time of year to review important safety precautions - proper ladder placement and paying closer attention when walking on roofs (and flat surfaces for that matter) that may be covered with frost or slippery leaves. In addition to safety, we address the seasonal changes that affect our inspection process - when do we stop testing air conditioners, are the wasps still attacking, etc. I have only been stung three times this summer, which is a record low for me!

(continued on page 2)

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2015 WAHI Fall Training Seminar

Join us November 6th and 7th at the Wilderness in Wisconsin Dells!

Friday - Education House and Vendor Cocktail Party

Saturday - Training Seminar

Saturday speakers are Steve Preins of Quality Education Group on new technology in residential construction, WAHI members Tom Feiza, Andy Helgeson and Arbitration Committee Chair Mark Thomas sharing the details, benefits and importance of the WAHI Arbitration Program and Josh Fulfer of KVF Marketing on getting increased exposure through your website and social media.

See the WAHI website for registration and further details.

President's Letter (cont'd)

Inside issues in the fall pose additional considerations, mostly about pest intrusion. This weather brings in mice, bugs and/or bats. We always review crawlspace and attic "etiquette" so everyone is more attentive to *who* might be joining us! What kind of droppings are we seeing? Do we need to enter the crawlspace/attic or is safer (and smarter) not to? We also talk about the winter safety - should we go on the roof, what angle to approach, what is the best access, etc.

My company has had an unbelievably great safety record. In over 25 years of inspecting, I have never been hurt on the job (knock on wood) and have only had two minor mishaps with my employees. I consider this more than just luck. Luck runs out, but being aware and making safety a priority are a huge factor in our success. I also feel that by holding our group meeting it allows for discussion and an opportunity to share experiences and recommendations.

In summary, I suggest all WAHI chapters make safety and the changing seasons an educational topic this fall. This topic makes for a great round table discussion.

So now, as I attempt to get on the golf course a few more times before the end of the year, I wish all of you a happy and safe transition into the winter.

Sincerely,
Kent

WISCONSIN RADON CONFERENCE

Build your skills in dealing with radon in your profession and grow your small business with tips from presenters and networking with others!

This conference provides an opportunity for radon experts, real estate professionals, home inspectors, health departments, and builders to learn more about radon issues in Wisconsin. The conference counts towards 4 hours of NRPP Category II Continuing Education credits.

WHEN: October 22, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Heidel House in Green Lake, WI*

REGISTER BY: October 15, 2015

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/training.htm>

and

<http://www.heidelhouse.com>



A special thanks to our September speaker, Buck Birkhoz from Bob's Electric, who was able to fill in for our originally scheduled speaker. He explained the liability concerns with terminology in some inspection reports. He also discussed ways to update ungrounded receptacles, grounding and gas line bonding in houses.

NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, October 21**
 Social at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner/Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
 Meeting and meal is \$30; meeting is only \$10.
Palms Supper Club Steak House, 5912 Business Hwy 51, Schofield
***Speaker: A representative from Home Insulation.**
**The speaker was rescheduled from September.*

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter President, Richard Duerkop at 715-241-8222.



A special thanks to our September speaker, Chuck Daul from Air MD Restoration, who was able to fill in for our originally scheduled speaker. He gave a great presentation on mold and mold remediation.

NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, October 7**
 Buffet Dinner at 5:30 p.m. & Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire
Speaker: Jason Barnes, Certified Inc.*
**Jason was rescheduled from September.* He will be discussing sewage lift stations, cross-connections and drain tile system and pumps. We encourage members to bring photos for the presentation.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Pete Saltness at 715-829-7348.



At our September meeting, Wayne Allan led an in-depth discussion about foundations that was very informative. John Day also spoke about roofing with special focus on shingles, ridge venting, soffit venting, and roof penetrations.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, October 20**
 Social at 6:00 p.m. & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Stone Toad, 1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha
Speaker: To be determined.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Scott Hansen at 920-716-3025.

The Madison Chapter meets only the following months: January, February, May, June, September and October.



Our September speaker, Marty Bethke, held a question and answer session on well septic and plumbing compliance issues and functionality. Marty also covered who is authorized to inspect a well and septic system per Wisconsin code, how often pumping is required, how to the correct size for a home, general costs and tests that can be performed.

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday, October 15**
 Roundtable at 6:00 p.m. & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Rocky Rococo's Pizza, 1753 Thierer Rd., Madison
Speaker: To be determined.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter President, Denny Kruger at 608-835-5395.



NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, October 13**
 Social at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Klemmer's Banquet Center 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis
Speakers: Scott Campbell (Affiliate Member), Lifetime Radon Solutions
 Scott will share important information regarding radon testing and mitigation systems.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Steven Knoebel at 414-828-4217.

WI REALTORS ASSOCIATION (WRA) CONVENTION



A big **THANK YOU** to our WAHI Public Relations Committee Chair, Bob Turicik, for again coordinating the booth at the WRA Convention in the Wisconsin Dells. To Bob and all of his volunteers: WAHI appreciates your willingness to get the "WAHI word" out - Dan Glaubig, Jill Hauk, Ken Helbing, Dave Hoffman, Denny Kruger, Bruce Low, Michael Marzion, Erik Mickelson, Mike Nelson, James Smead, and Bob Turicik.





Gary Bauer (Madison)
Home Inspector Member
Bauer Home Inspection, LLC
608-449-5462
Gary.bauer2021@gmail.com

Kevin Sullivan (Madison)
Home Inspector Member
Com Link, Inc.
608-825-7226
kevin.comlink@charter.net

Kent's Chapter Meeting Challenge – Now through November 30, 2015!

I am hoping you have not forgotten the challenge I presented to all WAHI members in my May 2015 President's Article. Just in case it has slipped your minds already...I am offering a \$50 gas card to the WAHI member who visits the most chapter meetings outside of their own chapter from the dates of May 1, 2015 - November 30, 2015. The only condition - you **MUST** have a minimum of three other chapter visits (it can be the same chapter). There are over 30 chapter meetings between now and November 30th.

I encourage you to visit other chapter meetings. What do you have to lose? Nothing! What do you have to gain? A LOT! At a minimum, you will meet new members and who knows what they may offer to help you become a better inspector.

Over the course of my 17+ year membership in WAHI, I have visited Fox Valley (my chapter) over 90 times, Milwaukee over 45 times, Madison over 10 times, Central at least 8 times and Chippewa Valley 4 times. I have learned new ideas, different points of view and gained new perspectives. These chapter experiences have been invaluable to my business decisions - ranging from report writing to business/company policies. It's amazing how different each chapter looks at various issues.

I ask you, I encourage you, I challenge you to do this. I suspect less than 5% of the membership has attended another chapter meeting. For that matter, I bet it is less than that who has attended multiple outside chapter meetings. Challenge yourself, experience other points of view, become better for the effort...and possibly win the \$50.00 gas card!

WAHI BOARD MEETING



The next board meeting will be Friday, November 6, 2015 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in conjunction with the WAHI Fall 2015 Education House and Training Seminar at The Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort in Baraboo, WI. All WAHI members are welcome - please contact Julie Arnstein by Monday, November 1st if you would like to attend – julie@wahigroup.com or 877.399.WAHI. If you are unable to attend, but have a concern/thought you would like the board to address, please contact your Chapter Elected Member at Large.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2015 have been posted on The WAHI website:

- Log-in as instructed on page 9 of this newsletter – Website 101
- From the Home Page, go to the far right – “hover” your mouse on the 3 horizontal lines
- As you “hover”, 3 options will appear in the drop down menu – select Members Only
- Scroll down to the bottom section of the page to view Board Meeting Minutes

The July 28, 2015 minutes are posted at the very bottom of the 3rd column.

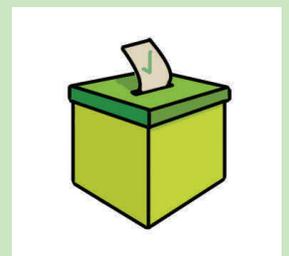
CALLING ALL WAHI MEMBERS – Enter our contest for your chance to win \$146 million dollars!

Well, maybe that’s not true.....but even better than winning the lottery, you can become an **Officer of WAHI!**

Elections alternate each year between the positions of President and Vice-President and the Board of Director Member at Large positions. The upcoming spring (March) election will be to elect the President and Vice-President positions. If you, or someone you know, has the qualifications and desire, Julie or myself, would like to talk to you.

The preliminary election process will be in January/February so you have time to get your questions answered and make your decision whether to be on the ballot.

WAHI Board service is very rewarding – we encourage any interest you have. Please give us a call or email - Andy Helgeson, Nominations/Elections Committee Chair, 414-315-0266 or Helge4674@outlook.com or Julie Arnstein, Executive Director, 877-399-9244 or julie@wahigroup.com





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CHAPTER SECRETARIES

You are reminded to include upcoming speakers and topic information when you submit monthly meeting minutes to Julie Arnstein at julie@wahigroup.com.

The information will be included in the monthly newsletter and will also be posted on our website at:

www.wahigroup.com



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A: I can't tell you how many people I know have had a hot ember/ash go down into the ash dump of their masonry fireplace, which led to the ignition of unburned embers in the ash pit. This can lead to all of the unburned combustibles in the ash dump catching on fire. In many cases the homeowners' insurance company gets involved for the clean up, as the house can fill with smoke.

Some solid advice, you as home inspectors could give, is to make sure homeowners know to **keep these doors closed**. If in doubt, place any over-sized piece of metal to go over the top of the ash dump doors to insure they don't have this problem down the road.

Happy Inspecting!

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.

The process begins when the complainant (homeowner) contacts the Program Administrator at Resolute Systems by one of the following ways:

Mail: 1550 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53020

Email: info@ResoluteSystems.com

Website: www.resolutesystems.com

For more information, please contact Arbitration Committee Chair, **Mark Thomas** at (414) 486-2367 or mark@thomasbuildingconsulting.com

COMMUNICATION

All member-to-member or member-to-association disputes must go through the Membership Committee. A member going public, with disputes of these types, risks disciplinary action.

The Membership Committee will implement this policy.

Contact Joy Douthwaite-Bott at
414-243-5895 or
joy@thoroughinspectionservices.com

WAHI Legal Support



Attorney Roy Wagner of von Briesen and Roper continues to 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.

INSTRUCTIONS TO UPDATE YOUR WAHI PROFILE IN 5 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to www.wahigroup.com.
2. From the Home Page - upper right corner, select "LOGIN."
ENTER your email address on file with WAHI * and password.
*If you have multiple email addresses and are uncertain of your WAHI email address, contact Julie at julie@wahigroup.com - she can provide your WAHI address or update it for you.
3. 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 changes/updates, select "SAVE" in the gray rectangular box at the bottom of the page.



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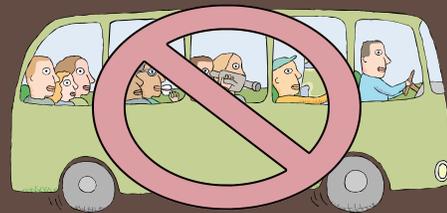
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WAHI Ride Along

The WAHI Board of Directors has decided to discontinue the Ride Along Program, effective immediately. This was, and remains, a valuable learning opportunity for new inspectors. However, concern has been raised regarding liability issues that come into play with a WAHI program of this nature. Members who wish to offer this to a fellow member on a personal level may certainly do so but it would not be WAHI sanctioned. Our thanks to all of the WAHI members who have offered their time and experience to a new member!



Effective immediately! Executive Director,
Julie Arnstein has a new email address:

julie@wahigroup.com

Please update your address book
and/or contact list; however, emails
sent to juliewahi@gmail.com will
still be received for several months.

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— Alan, HousePro Home Inspections

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**Coverages vary in FL, HI, LA, NY, VT. Ask your OREP agent for details.*

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— Henry "Sonny" Toman

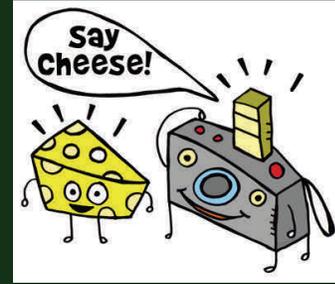
OUTGOING EMAILS THROUGH OUR WAHI WEBSITE

As you know, WAHI has a new website!

The new WAHI website can send out mass emails, (emails to a large number of recipients), and this is great because we can reach all of our members at once!

However, some mass emails get rejected by email accounts because they believe them to be spam. In order to ensure you receive WAHI emails in your inbox, and they don't return as undeliverable or filter to your junk/spam folders, **the WAHI Website Committee is asking all members to please add wahinews@wahigroup.com to their email address book or contact list.**

Taking time to do this one easy steps, tells your email account to recognize any from WAHI as legitimate and safe.



Add a Photo to the WAHI Website and Link to Your Business Site

WAHI's website member database has a new and improved multi-choice search option.

Submit photo and/or company web addresses to:

julie@wahigroup.com



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SPECIAL SPACES FOR KIDS

Longtime Milwaukee Chapter member and Embassy Homes architectural designer, Andrew Risch, is involved in the Special Spaces organization.

Special spaces, is a non-profit that creates dream bedrooms for children with life threatening illnesses.

The program is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to give of your time and talents, please contact Andrew at 262-841-8510 x111 or Andrew@embassyhomes.com

specialspacesmilwaukee.org



Stay in touch with **WAHI's Facebook page.**

Our page gives you the perfect opportunity to make chapter announcements, post minutes or meeting changes or just see what your fellow members have been up to.



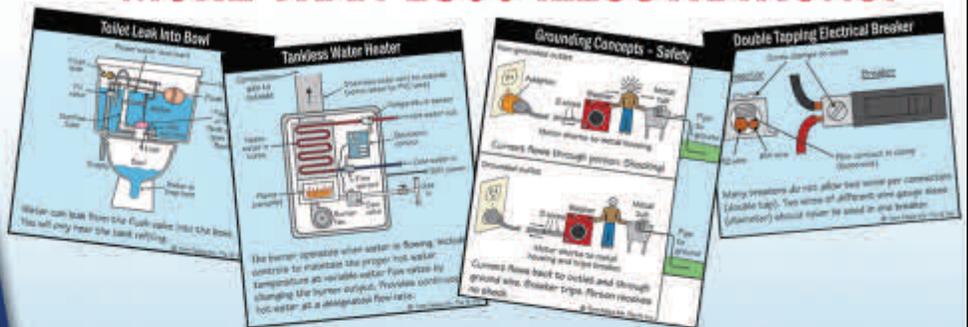
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OfficeMax

**Office Max has joined forces
with Office Depot.**

Office Max/Office Depot revised their online program – stay tuned, more details to come. Based on these changes, we would encourage members to shop in-store to take advantage of any discounts offered (see page 15).

Please let Julie know if any of your frequently purchased items are not included in the program.

julie@wahigroup.com

WAHI Fall Seminar

Mark your calendars for our next training event:

**November 6-7 2015
Wisconsin Dells, WI**

See website for further details.

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