

MEETING NEWS

General Membership Meeting
The Home Depot – New Product Viewing and Demonstration
 Wednesday November 18, 2009

Grillin' Steakhouse and Lounge
 192 N Stoney Brook Road, Appleton, WI



Regardless what profession you are in, everyone is looking for the right items to do their work smarter, better and overall more efficient. As the remodeler one key component to success is the right tools and equipment. Technology keeps advancing allowing us to better apply our knowledge and skills to be more successful every day in producing quality craftsmanship.

Join us as NARI member The Home Depot, represented by Glen Stueber, provides you a look and demonstration of the latest quality products, tools and equipment on the market today. There will be a variety of things to see from tools, flooring and wall treatments to mention a few. Also joining The Home Depot will be a representative from DeWalt. As the leading manufacturer of high powered industrial power, cordless and woodworking tools you won't want to miss what DeWalt has new to offer.



Come prepared to see, touch and ask all the questions you want about current products, tools and equipment. In addition to the product demonstration there will be a presentation about the latest products and tools and what is on the horizon for remodelers.

This is also a great time to inquire about The Home Depot Contractor Services program. Whether you are a current member with questions or looking for information about becoming a member, Glen will be able to advise about The Home Depot Contractor Services program. From overall lower prices, volume discounts, and delivery estimation and rental services, The Home Depot has your best interests in mind.

This dinner meeting is open to all members, their business partners and guests. Advanced reservations are required. Please RSVP your attendance and that of any other business partners or guests to Lee Nimmer no later than the end of business on Friday, November 13. Payment can be paid upon registration at the meeting. Make checks payable to Fox Valley NARI. Lee Nimmer can be reached at 920-766-3900 or by email at lnimmer@amfam.com

Gathering: 6:00 pm – Dinner and Networking: 6:30 pm – Program Immediately Following

MISSION

Promote professionalism, education and ethics within the remodeling industry throughout the Fox Cities

VISION

Committed to providing innovative vision and exemplary leadership in support of industry excellence

FOX VALLEY NARI CHAPTER

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Fox Valley NARI Chapter 2010 Board of Directors Elections Approaching

Thank you to those who nominated someone or who volunteered to serve the Fox Valley NARI Chapter in 2010. Nominations are still open so please consider offering your services!

Make the most of your NARI membership by being involved. Our Chapter Board elections are fast approaching and will be held at the December General Membership Meeting. We will be looking for volunteers to run for Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Directors. The Fox Valley NARI Chapter needs your knowledge and skills to drive our chapter forward! As a growing organization we need strong leadership and board members willing to roll up their sleeves and help continue our development and execute our mission.

The Board meets monthly, typically the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. As a board member we also ask your participation on at least one committee and to support the General Membership Meetings. Board members need to devote time to learn about NARI and the Fox Valley Chapter to share our mission and values to the community acting as spokesperson and membership recruiter. The Fox Valley NARI Chapter has no paid staff is fully volunteer run.

If you have any questions about the Board of Directors regarding time commitment, responsibilities or anything else, please either seek out a current board member at the next General Membership Meeting or feel free to contact any one via the contact information listed to the left on this page.

Please seriously consider nominating someone or volunteering yourself! Our Chapter success and future depends on you! If you are unable to run for Office or the Board, there are plenty other ways you can volunteer your services to help the Fox Valley NARI! Please ask any board member how!

Prospective Member Packets

Do you know someone or a business that would benefit from a NARI membership and would be a great member for our Chapter? If so, please provide them with a prospective member packet. The packet includes NARI National and Fox Valley Chapter information that explains what NARI is about and the benefits of membership. The packet is a great talking piece for you to discuss the organization with prospective members. Packets are available at the monthly General Membership Meetings or contact any Board member listed to the left and they would be happy to get packets to you. We appreciate your recruiting efforts!

PRESIDENT'S INSIGHT

Lee Nimmer



The U.S. economy is pulling out of its deepest and longest recession since the Great Depression. Some economists expect a powerful recovery, others a sustained but muted one. Some even say it will be neither: a fleeting rebound quickly followed by a second slump. For Americans beleaguered by almost two years of economic pain, the contours of the recovery will determine how many people linger without jobs, whether cutbacks to public services are restored and how quickly savings and investments gain value.

Economists trying to predict the shape of the recovery look for parallels in previous recessions. But the current downturn, which started in December 2007, has echoes from a multitude of economic slowdowns. But what distinguishes this recession from most others before it is a severe credit contraction whose effects, some economists believe, are likely to linger for years. Whatever the structure of the recovery, many consumers won't detect a change in their own circumstances. So many jobs have been lost that the unemployment rate will remain high when the economy begins to rebound. Large swaths of still-jobless Americans will have exhausted their severance payments and unemployment benefits, putting them under further strain even as the overall economy picks up again. And once consumers find new work, their depleted savings will leave them more vulnerable if they were to face another job loss in the next few years.

Some sectors of the economy -- and regions of the country -- are likely to recover earlier than others. The manufacturing and housing sectors, for instance, have contracted so deeply that they are likely to start recovering soon. But the troubled financial sector still is in the process of contracting as banks reshape their balance sheets, putting its recovery further down the road.

All of you are champions, and I know you have a passion. Don't ask for recognition, demand it. Tell new prospects and clients of the values and benefits they will receive by hiring a NARI contractor. Tell them about the culture, the camaraderie, the networking, the education and the awards. Tell them the organization depends on dedicated members committed to raising the level of professionalism within the remodeling industry.

All of you are heroes as small business owners and operators. We may be small, but we are large in many ways. We are the matrix and the king pin of the nation's economic dynamics (at least for now). When I interact in my community, I see you and people like you. I know our business sizes, our goals, our grosses, our nets, our cultures are substantially different, but in essence, we all do the same thing. We have clients, vendors, employees, insurance, and on and on, the same basic issues and challenges day in and day out. But at the end of the day, we're the same NARI members working hard to make the remodeling industry a better place, and I'm proud to be one of you.

I hope to see all of you at our next General Membership meeting!

Lee Nimmer
President

NARI NATIONAL

The voice of the remodeling industry

Recent News: www.nari.org/media/releases

◆ Fred Case – NARI's First Master Certified Remodeler, 11/2/09

The Master Certified Remodeler designation is the latest certification given by NARI, to exemplify the highest standards of the remodeling industry. Recipients must hold an active Certified Remodeler (CR) designation for at least 10 years and must hold a leadership position within their local NARI chapter or community, in addition to several other requirements.

NARI's core purpose is to advance and promote the remodeling industry's professionalism, product and vital public purpose. To learn more and what your membership can do for you visit: www.remodeltoday.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 10	Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors Meeting Plum Hill Café	5:30 pm
November 11	Veterans Day – Support our troops give thanks!	
November 18	General Membership Meeting – The Home Depot New Product Demonstration - Grillin' A Steak House and More	6:00 pm
November 26	Happy Thanksgiving!	
November 30	CotY entry request must be completed	
December 1	CotY actual entries due	
December 8	Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors Meeting	5:30 pm
December 16	General Membership Meeting – Board of Directors Election and Holiday Celebration - Grillin' A Steak House and More	6:00 pm
December 25	Merry Christmas!	
December 31	New Year's Eve	



Mark Your Calendar! The December General Membership Meeting is an important meeting to our chapter and we request your attendance. The business portion of the meeting will be the election of the 2010 Board of Directors. These will be the members leading the organization on your behalf for the next year. Your vote in selecting the best leadership team is important. After business we celebrate the year and the season with fellow members, business partners, friends and family. Once again we will have camaraderie around the grill as we cook our own meals. There will be entertainment and other fun. We encourage you to bring business partners, family member, friends or life partner.

Unless otherwise noted, General Membership Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Grillin' Steakhouse and Lounge. Networking begins at 6:00 pm with dinner and program following.

It's Your Chapter – Tell Us What You Want!

Over the past year, the Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors has been undergoing a revitalization effort of our NARI Chapter. One key component to having a successful Chapter is by providing value to our members. This means creating new programs, stopping unproductive activities, restructuring as needed and allocating the Chapter volunteer and financial resources appropriately. The Board is only a fraction of our membership and we can't make the required business decisions without input from our members.

In an effort to better understand the expectations and wishes of our members and for us to provide you the value you want and need out of our Chapter, the Board of Directors is asking each member to complete the questionnaire on the following page. Since our membership is small your participation is vital for accurate and meaningful results. Of course, your feedback will be kept confidential.

Please take a few minutes to print and complete the questionnaire on the following page. Please either bring the completed survey to the November 18 General Membership Meeting or mail it to Fox Valley NARI, P.O. Box 1152, Appleton, WI 54912-1152 before November 27. Your time and opinions are appreciated!



FOX VALLEY NARI CHAPTER SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to print and complete the following questionnaire. Feel free to write on the back or attach an additional page to complete your replies completely. Please either bring the completed survey to the November 18 General Membership Meeting or mail it to Fox Valley NARI, P.O. Box 1152, Appleton, WI 54912-1152 before November 27.

What is the primary reason you joined the association? _____

Do you attend the monthly general membership meetings? All Most Some No

If you do not attend all or most, what changes need to take place for you to attend more often? _____

What programs or topics would you like to see covered at our general membership meetings? _____

Do you find the monthly e-newsletter _____ and/or the Chapter website _____ helpful and/or of value? (Check those you think are helpful/provide value).

What changes need to take place for you to find the e-newsletter and/or website helpful or of value? _____

What is the Chapter doing well in providing you benefit/value as a member? _____

What could the Chapter do better to provide you with more benefit/value as a member? _____

What other suggestions or thoughts do you have for the Chapter? _____

NARI Fox Valley Member:

Company Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

May we contact you for further information or clarification on your replies? Yes No

Thank you for your time and opinions!
Fox Valley NARI Board of Directors

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome!



Studio Kitchens, located in Appleton's City Center, is the Fox Valley's premier kitchen and bath design resource. The company's talented design staff represents over 40 years of combined experience in creating inspirational kitchen and bath environments and has earned numerous design awards for their work.

Studio Kitchens offers quality custom cabinetry manufactured by Wood-Mode, and Crystal Cabinet Works. Each of these respected manufacturers offers a variety of cabinet lines to meet various design needs and budgets and both offer limited lifetime warranties. The designers at Studio Kitchens carefully consider the requests of their clients to determine the best fit from these offerings to suit each individual project.

Studio Kitchens is also committed to creating "Green" interior spaces. The company offers cabinetry and countertops incorporating recycled materials, engineered veneers, rapidly renewable materials, FSC certified materials, and reclaimed lumber. Many of these materials contain no added urea formaldehyde, are CARB compliant, and can qualify for LEED credits on both residential and commercial projects.

Studio Kitchens has become a valued business partner for numerous Remodelers, Homebuilders and General Contractors in the Fox Valley. The company has earned a reputation as a valued design resource offering the highest quality products and service. Studio Kitchens provides their business partners with professional, courteous service that enhances the relationship between contractor and client.

Studio Kitchens is located at 10 East College Ave, in Appleton's City Center. The showroom is open weekdays from 9:00 – 5:30, Saturdays from 10:00 – 2:00, and evenings by appointment. Their website is www.studiokitchens.com and phone number is 920-731-3344.

2010 Fox Valley NARI Level Best Awards and NARI CotY Awards

Each year the remodeling industry recognizes the outstanding work of NARI member contractors at the chapter level through our Level Best Awards and regionally and nationally through the NARI Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards. Competition is open to first time entrants and seasoned participants, from one-person shops to the largest remodeling firms. Past winners state that winning awards in these competitions have been a major factor in enhancing their image in the industry and with prospective customers.

The Fox Valley NARI Level Best Awards are open to NARI members and the entry deadline is January 15, 2010. Projects must have been completed within a maximum of 18 months of the deadline. There are 12 available categories for entry and members can enter more than one category. One winner is selected from each category and will be announced at our February 2010 General Membership Meeting. In addition winners will be featured in the March 2010 issue of the Fox Cities Magazine in time for the start of the remodeling season. For \$75 per entry, you have the opportunity to be viewed in the Fox Cities Magazine with over 50,000 readers and on our website where perspective customers can learn about your talents!

Visit www.remodelfoxvalley.com to see previous year winners and obtain a complete 2010 Level Best Awards entry packet. The entry packet contains a full set of contest rules, categories and entry/promotional agreement.

Deadline fast approaching! If you are also interested in the National CotY Awards, visit www.nari.org and click on the Awards tab for official rules and entry forms. Note the CotY entry request must be completed by November 30, 2009 and actual entries are due December 1, 2009.

We look forward to receiving your entry for the 2010 Level Best Awards. Good luck!

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

NARI Educational Programs

Universal Remodeling – Creating Comfortable and Accessible Homes

Summary

NARI's Universal Remodeling education program will provide you with the tools to sell and conduct remodeling projects that are based on Universal Design principles. These types of projects are attractive not only to those who wish to age-in-place but also families with special needs and families that are forward thinking. You will learn the seven principles of Universal Design, how to interview clients with an understanding and consideration of their special needs, and finally the how-to of building these projects. Enroll now! Participation is limited to the first 22 students. We look forward to "seeing" you in class.

The primary texts included as part of the course materials are *Universal Design for the Home: Great-Looking, Great-Living Design for All Ages, Abilities, and Circumstances* by Wendy A. Jordan. A spiral bound program book outlining each chapter, along with several supporting references, and a Universal Design video presented by The Ohio State University.

Enrollment for the next three sessions starting November 17 and January 26, 2010 is open now! Program consists of four weekly meetings from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm CT, conducted via Webinar

Cost: \$295 for NARI Members and \$395 for Non-Members

http://www.nari.org/education/universal_remodeling.asp - Click here for information and application



Go Green with NARI

Summary

Green remodeling is one of the hottest (and hotly debated) topics in the industry. NARI has rolled out a green remodeling education program. NARI's green remodeling program is multi-faceted, focusing on energy efficiency and conservation, indoor air quality, efficient use of resources, recycling of demolition material and renewable energy sources, among other topics. The program will run for 12 weeks with a 2-hour class weekly. Each class will address specific topics such as building science application, green remodeling guidelines, solar applications, appliance selection and marketing a green business. This class can be the first step in moving your company into the business of green remodeling. The course is designed to provide you with a solid foundation in Green Remodeling and allow you to start practicing today. The primary texts will be included as part of the course materials along with a CD-ROM that contains links to additional references and resource materials as well as links to green product suppliers. Course size will be limited to 22 people to enable active participation by all attendees.

Next Series Begins January 6, 2010 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm CT - Registration Now Open!

Cost: \$495 – NARI Members and \$695 - Non-Members

E-mail info@nari.org to be put on the email list and/or waiting list. All applications should be faxed or mailed to the NARI office: NARI, 780 Lee St., Suite 200, Des Plaines, IL 60016, Fax (847) 298-9225.

All programs above and more are available at the NARI Learning Center – www.nari.org/learning or www.nari.org/education

SUSTAINABILITY

Our environment, social and business responsibilities

Good Work Practices During Remodeling

Article from the US Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov

Regardless of what part of the house your remodeling project takes place in, there are good work practices that you can use to help minimize or prevent indoor air and other indoor environmental problems. Most of these points are common practices that we all should be adhering to today. A refresher course never hurts. Are you practicing these good work points?

1. **Correct the underlying cause of any problem.** For example, if you are repairing a damaged paint surface, look to see what might have caused the damage, e.g., moisture from the inside (such as condensation), or from the outside (as with roof leaks), rubbing or impact of painted surfaces, or structural damage.
2. **Assume Paint in Homes Built Before 1978 Contains Lead.** Unless a lead-based paint inspection shows otherwise, you should treat paint in homes built before 1978 as if contains lead. *Exposing anyone to lead dust, especially children, is harmful.* Obtain further information on lead from the EPA if this applies to your project.
3. **Do Not Disturb Asbestos.** If a project requires disturbing areas that contain asbestos, use an asbestos professional or contact your health department for advice before proceeding.
4. **Avoid Exposure to Mold or Bacteria.** Basic Mold Cleanup. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposure include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints. The key to mold control is moisture control. It is important to dry damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth. If mold is a problem in the home, work with the home owner to clean up the mold and get rid of the excess water or moisture. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water, and dry completely. Absorbent materials (such as ceiling tiles and carpet) that become moldy may have to be replaced. More information is available on EPA's mold page - www.epa.gov/mold. If a project is likely to expose large areas of microbial growth, consult with an environmental professional about adequate protective measures.
5. **Avoid Creating Dust** (and Contain Dust That Can't Be Avoided). Many remodeling activities, from demolition to removing wood casings, have the potential to create dust. Use low-dust work practices (for example, mist surfaces with water before sanding or scraping). Cover the area under work with durable protective sheeting (e.g., a plastic or poly tarp). Use barriers to keep dust contained to immediate work area.
6. **Provide Ventilation.** Exhaust ventilation (e.g., a fan blowing *out*) from the work area will help remove dust and other pollutants AND, by creating a pressure barrier, will help keep pollutants from spreading to other parts of the house. After applying paints or finishes, installing flooring (such as carpeting), or other activities likely to "off-gas" pollutants, continue to provide maximum ventilation to the space. The typical recommendation is to provide maximum ventilation both during installation and for at least 72 hours after installation is completed.
7. **Protect Occupants from Exposure to Odors and Pollutants.** Keep occupants, especially children, away from the work area. Clean up the work site before homeowners return. Workers should wear proper protection, keep clean, and avoid taking dust home with them as well! Use barriers (e.g., taped plastic sheeting over doors and other openings) and local exhaust ventilation to prevent pollutants from spreading through the home. When possible, allow materials containing VOCs to off-gas outside before bringing them into the home. Likewise, when possible, apply finishes such as paint and sealers to building materials outside, and bring them into the home after they are dry.
8. **Use Appropriate Storage and Disposal Practices for Paints, Solvents, Clean-up Materials, and Asbestos-Containing Materials.** Seal containers carefully after use. Keep paint containers in storage areas, preferably equipped with exhaust ventilation, but not near heating, ventilation, or air-conditioning equipment rooms. Use an appropriate waste disposal method to dispose of any paints containing lead or mercury. Follow appropriate regulations for disposal of asbestos-containing materials.
9. **Follow Manufacturers' Instructions.** As a minimum, follow the manufacturers' recommendations regarding proper use, ventilation requirements, and other health and safety guidelines for all products and materials, including paints, sealants, adhesives, and appliances. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)--which are intended to provide both workers and emergency personnel with the proper procedures for handling or working with a variety of substances--are available from manufacturers MSDSs include information such as toxicity, health effects, first aid, reactivity, storage, disposal, protective equipment, and spill/leak procedures. These are of particular use if a spill or other accident occurs. MSDSs are also a possible starting point for evaluating a manufacturer's health and safety claims. To learn more, use an internet search engine to search for "MSDS".