

MEETING NEWS

General Membership Meeting
 Wednesday October 15, 2008

Grillin' Steak House & Lounge ♦ 192 N Stoney Brook Road ♦ Appleton, WI

After spending some time networking with your peers, you will hear an informative presentation from Kate Dugan, Executive Director, for Rebuilding Together Fox Valley.

Rebuilding Together Fox Valley (RTFV) is the local affiliate of the National organization Rebuilding Together. RTFV is a volunteer organization whose mission is to preserve and revitalize homes and communities, assuring that low income homeowners, specifically seniors and those with disabilities can continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. They are known throughout the country for National Rebuilding Day or Project Day, a day in early May when volunteers and communities come together to rehabilitate multiple homes of low-income homeowners in one day.

Rebuilding Together Fox Valley was born in 1999 when a Kaukauna couple got a group of friends together to start a local chapter. The group included our President, Lee Nimmer. The group obtained non-profit status in 2000 and did their first Project Day in the spring of 2001. The Fox Valley affiliate has come a long way since then. In 2008 they did 13 homes, and in 2009 they are shooting for 15! RTFV covers the Fox Cities on the north to Kaukauna and on the south to Neenah, and everything in between. They have been offering services year round now for the last two years.

So why is this important to the Fox Valley NARI? With 8,000 low income homeowners who meet RTFV guidelines, doing projects only once a year is not going to cut it! RTFV and Fox Valley NARI make great partners and mutual supporters!

Kate will educate us on RTFV in regards to who they are and where they have been. Her major focus will be on their future, where they are going and their goals. In short they aspire to be the "go to" agency when people think of rehabilitating homes. Kate will further share the vision of our partnership and how you and your business can get involved. Kate has been RTFV's Executive Director since April 2008 following a 21 year career with AT&T and owning Collector's Gallery in Oshkosh. For more information visit: www.rebuildingtogether.org and www.rebuildingtogetherfoxvalley.org

Menu: Plated dinner consisting of salad and dinner rolls; garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and the chef's specialty Cider Roasted Chicken and optional dessert.

Networking: 6:00 pm
 Dinner: 6:30 pm
 Program: Immediately following

Unless otherwise noted membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Grillin' Steak House & Lounge. Networking begins at 6:00 pm with dinner and program 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 Board of Director Nominations Sought

Members can nominate themselves or another association member that has an interest in serving on the Fox Valley NARI Chapter Board of Directors. We are looking for member representatives who are committed to not only home improvement and remodeling, but also in helping the association grow. Please submit nominations at the October and November General Membership meetings or to President, Lee Nimmer, by November 30, 2008. Elections will occur at the December General Membership Meeting.

Increase in Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

The rate will increase to 58.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008. This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008. In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2008. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

"Rising gas prices are having a major impact on individual Americans. Given the increase in prices, the IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the real cost of operating an automobile," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We want the reimbursement rate to be fair to taxpayers." While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as depreciation and insurance and other fixed and variable costs.

The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

The new six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase by eight (8) cents to 27 cents a mile, up from 19 cents for the first six months of 2008. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile. Taxpayers always have the option of calculation the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates. www.irs.gov

PRESIDENT'S INSIGHT

Lee Nimmer



Change is a buzzword that is being thrown around by politicians rather loosely lately. Change is inevitable. We all know from personal experience, nothing stays the same. If it did, we would probably be in a constant state of boredom and probably very unproductive, no problem solving, no incentive. Anyone in the remodeling business knows that change is good. Change creates new business opportunities. Change provides income. Change, when used as a verb, can also mean "to give up in return for something else or to modify and become different." At NARI Fox Valley, change is happening with our Board of Directors. I have become the interim president, Paul Welhouse the interim Vice President and Jim Willey, interim Treasurer until our elections in December for the 2009 term. I personally am excited about the change and know it will have a very positive impact on our local chapter. Please see our call for 2009 Board nominations in this month's newsletter and seriously consider being a board member. It's rewarding, it's fun and it just plain feels good to help develop and make decisions that impact this great organizations future.

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

Thank you,
Lee

So you think you can shoot?

It's the annual Fox Valley NARI Sporting Clays outing! Seasoned shooters come test your skill! Just learning the sport - even better! Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Chapter members and meet their team members, family and friends in this unique event.

Our host will be J & H Game Farm. A family operated hunt club since 1968 managed by Jim and Joanne Johnson. It is a family entertainment location for experienced and learning hunters/shooters! Enjoy 750 acres of stunning nature in various terrain including marsh and brush areas.

Join us Saturday November 1, 2008. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for anyone under 18 years of age. Costs include, continental breakfast, a 50 target round of sporting clays (bring your own gun and shells) and a buffet lunch following. There will also be an optional Wobble Flurry shoot for an additional \$3 per person. Please arrive by 9:00 am for registration and breakfast. The shoot begins at 9:30 am followed by optional Wobble Flurry and then lunch.

During lunch there will be prizes awarded in various categories for men, women and youth, plus door prizes and a raffle. We are looking for sponsors interested in donating prizes for the outing and raffle or sponsoring a shooting station for \$30. If you are interested in participating in the outing, donating or sponsoring, please contact Ryan and Kelly Petersen of Keith Petersen Plumbing, Inc. at 920-687-9272 or by email at petersenplumbing@sbcglobal.net.

We look forward to seeing you there!

J & H Game Farm
W5810 J & H Road
Shiocton, WI 54170
715-758-8134
www.Jhgamefarm.com

Located 1 1/2 miles west of Navarino off Hwy 156

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October	Energy Awareness Month	
October 15	Board of Director Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge	4:30 pm
	General Membership Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge Featured Presenter: Kate Dugan, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Fox Valley	6:00 pm
October 15 – 16	National Green Builders Products Expo, Las Vegas, NV	
October 25 – 28	Women's Leadership Academy, Presented by NCCER and National Association of Women in Construction, Clemson University, SC	
October 31	Happy Halloween!	
November 1	Annual Fox Valley NARI Sporting Clays outing at J & H Game Farm	9:00 am
November 4	Election Day – VOTE!	
November 11	Veterans Day – Give thanks!	
November 12	Board of Director Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge	4:30 pm
	General Membership Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge	6:00 pm
November 18 – 20	International Pool Spa Patio Expo, Las Vegas, NV	
November 27	Happy Thanksgiving!	
December 17	Board of Director Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge	4:30 pm
	General Membership Meeting, Grillin' Steak House & Lounge Board of Directors Election	6:00 pm
December 25	Merry Christmas!	
December 31	New Year's Eve – Happy New Year!	

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NARI NATIONAL

The voice of the remodeling industry

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

- ◆ Congress Passes the ADA Amendments Act of 2008
- ◆ New EPA Lead Regulations Timeline for Compliance
- ◆ New "Vanity" Domain Names Set to Become Available Early Next Year

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

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Our environment, social and business responsibilities

Sustainability – More than just “Going Green”

Going, becoming or being more “green” associated with being environmentally responsible is a growing topic not only for your business, but your customers too. But being “green” goes further than assisting your remodeling customers or your own business with conserving energy and the planet. The term “Green” only taps into the one of three core areas of sustainability - environment or environmental impact. The greater issue is true sustainability which involves not only the environment, but your business impact on society and your employees and/or partners. As a business, “sustainability” or meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is a balancing act on the obligations of your company, environment and society or communities you serve. It is becoming more critical for business to add value in all three areas simultaneously as an integrated system as opposed to sequential steps.

Sustainability strategies can generate innovation across all parts of your business and supply chain. However, to be successful mindsets needs to change in order to unlock these opportunities. Imagine safe neighborhoods, non-polluted air, non-contaminated soil and waters, safe foods, affordable, efficient and environmentally-sound transportation options all created through communities where diverse sectors of society work together towards shared solutions to community challenges. The vision of sustainability is broad and far-reaching. It will require leadership by example, meaningful action as well as words of encouragement. The goal of this new section in the Fox Valley NARI News is to provide information on sustainability – environment, social and business responsibilities – and foster change among our Chapter members, employees, suppliers and partners at all levels. Independently and together the remodeling industry in the Fox Valley can take steps towards a sustainable community for generations to come. You are encouraged to share your business success stories on your initiatives in creating sustainability in the community.

NARI offers green remodeling homeowners a guide to conserve energy and conserve the planet.

Des Plaines, Illinois, Oct. 7, 2008—October is Energy Awareness Month, and the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) offers some green remodeling tips to homeowners anxious to save money on energy bills.

Homeowners who choose to remodel green can lower energy consumption by 30% to 50%. The U.S. Department of Energy believes if current buildings were green-improved, they would use \$20 billion less energy per year. The reason is that green remodeling emphasizes energy efficiency within the home, using modifications such as energy-efficient appliances, programmable thermostats and airtight, low-emissivity windows.

“Homeowners should consult with their remodeler when considering any type of home improvement project. Remodelers can suggest ways of conserving energy -- such as using dimmable light switches -- or even reducing water usage by installing kitchen and bathroom fixtures that are low flow, yet efficient,” says Renée Rewiski, president of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. “Manufacturers are working with remodelers to bring consumers the products and materials they need to make homes safe, comfortable, and attractive. That is, after all, the purpose of any remodel.”

If you’re thinking about remodeling a room already, that is the prime opportunity to undertake other upgrades to conserve the energy in your home, including adding insulation to the walls and ceiling and air sealing. If you’re adding onto your home, make sure you have the air conditioner checked to make sure it’s still the right size for the area it will be covering.

Simple maintenance also can help make your home more energy efficient. Gaps around the plumbing that connect to the house from the outside can be sealed with expanding foam, which comes in convenient, easy-to-use cans. Cleaning or replacing the air filter once a month maximizes the efficiency of the heating system, as does cleaning out ducts, warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators.

NARI understands the importance of energy efficiency as an overall strategy to greening the home and offers its green remodeling education program to the remodeling industry as part of the association’s overall education program. NARI currently has 50 Green Certified Professionals, who have completed 16 hours of green education as well as passed an intensive exam about the principles of green remodeling. www.RemodelToday.com