



# The WAHI Inspector

## From the President: **WAHI MEMBER CHALLENGE - VISIT OTHER CHAPTERS**

Happy Spring!

I submitted my May President's article two days late (sorry Julie), but I'm actually glad that I waited! Between April 20-22, during my travels to 6 home inspections, a 57,000 sq. ft. commercial inspection (with 19 furnaces/space heaters) and 5 radon setups/pickups, I experienced temperatures as low as 23° up to 44°, snow and rain showers 23 times, typical rain at least 6 times and winds that almost blew me off two roofs. On a rare occasion, I actually saw some sunshine too. Can you say spring in Wisconsin?



I have decided to offer a challenge to all of you. I will give a \$50 gas card to the WAHI member who visits the most chapter meetings outside of their own chapter from 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 35 other chapter meetings you have the opportunity to attend.

I encourage you to experience other chapter meetings, not just once and not just one chapter. What do you have to lose? Nothing at all! What do you have to gain? A lot....more than you can imagine! At a minimum, you can meet new fellow members – and who knows what they may offer to help you become a better inspector.

How do I know this? Over the course of my 17+ year membership in WAHI (per my unofficial records), I 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. With almost every visit, I have learned new ideas, different points of view and gained a new perspective on how to determine what is, or is not, an issue during an inspection. These chapter experiences have been invaluable to my business decisions.

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## 2015 FALL TRAINING SEMINAR NOVEMBER 6 & 7

The speaker for the April Meeting was Ron Feit from France Sales and Service in Schofield. He gave a great talk on what to look for when inspecting dishwashers and the correct way they should be installed. He also explained the use of backflow preventers.



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Wednesday, May 20**  
Social at 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner/Meeting at 6:30 p.m.  
**Palms Supper Club Steak House**  
**5912 Business Hwy 51, Schofield**

*Speaker:* **Wayne Allen from Sure Dry Basement Systems.**

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2015**  
Roundtable at 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
**Rocky Rococo's Pizza**  
**1753 Thierer Rd., Madison**

The Madison Chapter will be holding chapter elections at the May meeting. Contact Chapter President Denny Kruger with any questions or interest in serving in a leadership role - 608.575.0371. The chapter is especially in need of someone to fill the position of Education Chair.



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Wednesday, May 6**  
Buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting at 6:00 p.m.  
**Jade Garden Restaurant**  
**3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire**

*Speaker:* **Greg Weiss of Certified Inc. Altoona.** Greg will be presenting information on central and split system air conditioners, boilers and high efficient furnaces.

April's speakers were Dave Gauger and Jim Hoffman from RaiseRite Concrete Lifting, Inc. They provided us with an understanding of the methods for, and capabilities of, concrete lifting and mud jacking.



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Tuesday, May 12**  
Social at 6:00 p.m.,  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
**Klemmer's Banquet Center**  
**10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis**

*Speaker:* **Tom Feiza of Mr. Fix-It, Inc.** Tom is a long-time home inspector and affiliate member. His presentation will be the "Home Inspector vs. Engineer/Scientist... Who Wins?"



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Tuesday, May 19**  
Social at 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
**Stone Toad**  
**1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha**

*Speaker:* **A representative of affiliate member ABT Foundation Solutions, Inc.** will present information on foundation failure, repair and waterproofing.

Please visit the last page of  
The WAHI Inspector newsletter  
for updated statewide office  
holders and committee members.

This ranges from report writing, to formulating comments, verbiage in reports, as well as deciding how and what our company policies should be. I own a multiple inspector company and we operate in 4 of the 5 chapter territories; I cannot tell you how different each chapter looks at their issues, problems and positives.

One of the best lessons I learned during a recent visit to the Chippewa Valley Chapter was to introduce the State Standards of Practice to your chapter speaker at the beginning of their presentation. Or better yet, before the speaker designs their presentation. Pete Saltness is the Education Chair for Chippewa Valley. Pete is one of my favorite people in WAHI, and someone I consider a valuable friend. He serves on the Education Committee and has spent countless hours volunteering for the association. Pete read aloud the parameters of the State Standards of Practice and how we are to perform our jobs. The speaker was exceedingly impressed in learning what is required of home inspectors. He was then able to answer our questions properly to help us do our jobs. This is just one example of what you can learn by attending other chapter meetings. Hearing other area's viewpoints, understanding the reasoning behind decisions they make in the field, as well as, learning other company policies is invaluable.

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 have attended multiple outside chapter meetings. Challenge yourself, experience other points of view, and become better for the effort.

On a final note, to the newly elected State Members at Large, all Milwaukee members – You have been elected by members from around the state. You now represent all WAHI members from all of the chapters. Your responsibility is to represent all members equally, fairly, and to make decisions based on what is best for WAHI as a whole, not the chapter you are from. I challenge the four of you the most, to visit and learn what the other chapters want, need, and bring to our statewide association.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kent Schwanke

## 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](mailto:Andrew@embassyhomes.com).

[specialspacesmilwaukee.org](http://specialspacesmilwaukee.org)



**We encourage members to keep in contact and make sure their information is current!**

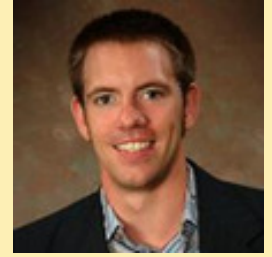
**We want other members and potential clients to be able to contact you.**

**Also, we send interesting, timely emails that you may miss our on if your contact information is out of date.**

**Please contact Julie if your information has changed:**

**[Julie@wahigroup.com](mailto:Julie@wahigroup.com)**

# SPECIAL THANKS



As you know, WAHI recently held the State Election. What you probably don't know is the effort Affiliate member, Cassidy Kuchenbecker of Environmental Initiatives of WI, LLC, has put in to make that process a success. Cassidy has been a key contributing member of the Nominations and Elections Committee since we started the electronic voting process three years ago.

This year he noticed a consistency with a few calls he received from members having "technical difficulties." Cassidy investigated the problem, determined the solution and then contacted any additional members he anticipated may run into the same issue. Did I mention he did this over the weekend? He did!

Cassidy has a thriving business and a young daughter, yet he still manages to give of his time (and talents!) to WAHI. In past years, Cassidy was very instrumental in setting up our WAHI Forum and a contributor to the website. And let's not forget the BioBar at the WAHI seminars!

Cassidy – thank you for your service to WAHI. We wish you continued success in your business and hope that we, as an association, have contributed to that success, as you have contributed to ours!



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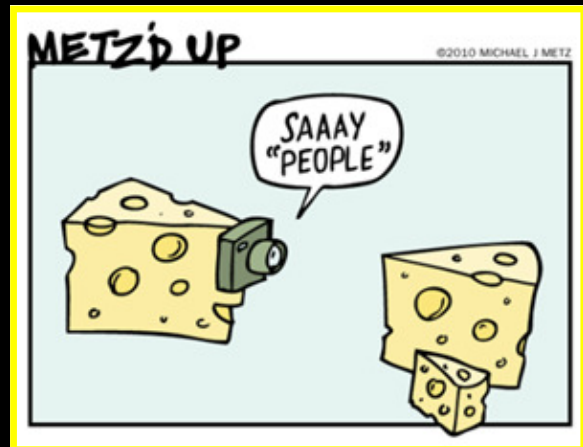
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# WAHI WEBSITE 101

## INSTRUCTIONS TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE IN 5 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to [www.wahigroup.com](http://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](mailto: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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# BARABOO RECAP



~ By WAHI Education Committee Co-Chair, Tom Kruse

I hope everyone enjoyed the seminar last month. WAHI is a professional organization with high standards and expectations. Despite our planning efforts, we still had some issues with Ho-Chunk and their AV department. Unfortunately, this is not the first time so we are looking at an alternate location for spring 2016.

People volunteer in organizations they believe in and want to see thrive. People also want to be associated with an organization that is purpose driven, I know I do. WAHI began as an idea of founding member Mark Thomas. It has grown in leaps and bounds since that grassroots effort so many years ago. The website, the dedicated Board of Directors and chapter leadership, our lobbyist in Madison, the Arbitration and Legal Support programs/resources, the WAHI Inspector (monthly newsletter) are just some of the benefits you all have come to expect. WAHI is proud to know that national home inspection organizations have shown interest in WAHI and our arbitration program.

What else does WAHI provide? Education! Our educational programs are the heart and soul of WAHI. I have served WAHI in a leadership role at the chapter and state level. I have a degree in middle school education, which I often find very handy when interacting with some of my WAHI peers, especially the classroom management part (I hope you are laughing right now!). I find my role coordinating educational programs most enjoyable. The Education Committee, which I co-chair with John Moore, works exceptionally hard to bring relevant, affordable continuing education to our peers. We don't always hit a home run, but we definitely bat over 500. I am very proud of our team. We have most of the speakers lined up for the Fall 2015 Training Seminar in the Wisconsin Dells – the dates are November 6 and 7 at The Wilderness. We would like to line up a marketing person. If anyone has a lead, please send contact info. to Julie Arnstein at [Julie@wahigroup.com](mailto:Julie@wahigroup.com) or 414.299.9766. Our education team will follow-up.

Speaking of marketing, I use WAHI as a marketing resource all the time. I constantly tell clients and realtors about WAHI - what I do in WAHI, what the association is all about, and the asset WAHI is to the real estate industry. People can identify with education and volunteerism. Volunteering is great stealth marketing too. If you aren't volunteering, you probably won't stand out as much. Another benefit of volunteering, especially in this organization, is that you will **always** learn something new....which is really cool!

Because I am directly involved in obtaining, screening and prepping the speakers, as well as helping with the Education House, I feel compelled to express in writing, or with a microphone, how fortunate we home inspectors are to have WAHI. All four of our Spring 2015 seminar speakers were well prepared and professional. We added a short RV inspection presentation. I asked several members what they thought of the RV inspection information. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed the topic and thought it worth follow-up. The evaluation forms confirmed the same.

As a member who touts the accolades of WAHI to any and all, I do have to say I was disappointed when well over half of the attendees at the seminar left prior to the conclusion of the last speaker. I was embarrassed. I did extend an apology to our smoke alarm speaker Skip Walker. On the positive note, those who stayed until the end received valuable safety information to share with customers. The info will again, make your company stand out as safety conscious. I will be sharing the info in my company newsletter, as well as including it in my inspection report.

(continued on pg. 7)

(Baraboo Recap, continued from pg. 6)

At each seminar I like to take time to visit each vendor and personally thank them for their time, effort and support of WAHI. It's important for me, as a member of the Education Committee, to let the vendors know we do not take them for granted. Bob and Sally (RV Inspection Connection) said their "inquiry bowl" of interested parties was full. Bob added he had done many shows over a long weekend and never received as much interest!

For those interested in the vermiculite information, I have included the speakers contact info here:

Ed Cottingham

317 Wingo Way, Suite 303, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

(843) 388-4321

[info@zaitrust.com](mailto:info@zaitrust.com) / [www.zaitrust.com](http://www.zaitrust.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006346155347>

WAHI is always looking for new ideas and new energy. Longtime members bring experience and history; new members bring freshness and enthusiasm. I challenge any of you "on the fence" to lend a hand. WAHI welcomes new faces and perspectives. And from a business standpoint, who would turn down a little stealth marketing...???



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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](mailto:julie@wahigroup.com).

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



[www.wahigroup.com](http://www.wahigroup.com).



## 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!

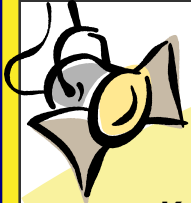


**HELP  
WANTED**

WAHI is in search of a replacement for the editor of our monthly newsletter, *The WAHI Inspector*. Nick Petrie has filled this position for WAHI since June 2009. He did an excellent job; thank you very much Nick!

This position requires a few minutes each month to share in the final proofing of the newsletter with Executive Director Julie Arnstein, as well as previewing articles submitted by home inspectors and affiliate members. It's important to have a home inspector member in this position - as you would expect the articles submitted are of a technical nature.

In Nick we had the added bonus of his writing skills, however, do not let that scare you off – many who have come before him did not have that background and they served the association in this position very well. Please let Julie know if you have interest or would like further information – [julie@wahigroup.com](mailto:julie@wahigroup.com) or 877.399.WAHI.



# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Katie Maynard (Fox Valley)**  
*Affiliate Member*  
 Offering Chimney Service  
 The Chimney Guy, LLC.  
 920-830-1920  
 katie@chimneyguy.com

**Ronald Petro (Madison)**  
*Home Inspector Member*  
 A to Z Home Inspection Services, LLC.  
 608-669-7453  
 atozhomeinspectionsservices@gmail.com

**Isaac Peck (Central)**  
*Affiliate Member*  
 Offering Insurance Coverage  
 Orep  
 888-347-5273  
 isaac@orep.org

**Nate Sorenson (Central)**  
*Associate/Student Member*  
 715-298-4026  
 sorenson16@hotmail.com

**Justin Sponem (Milwaukee)**  
*Home Inspector Member*  
 920-723-6012  
 jsponem@yahoo.com

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# 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](mailto:info@ResoluteSystems.com)

Website: [www.resolutesystems.com](http://www.resolutesystems.com)

For more information, please contact Arbitration Committee Chair, **David Strandberg** at (608) 255-3966 or [dstrand8@tds.net](mailto:dstrand8@tds.net).

## 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 Doug Hoerth at 920-375-0723 or email him at [finallookinspectionsservices@yahoo.com](mailto:finallookinspectionsservices@yahoo.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](mailto:rwagner@vonbriesen.com).



Stay in touch with  
[WAHI's Facebook page.](#)

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



Please contact  
**Bob Turicik**  
with questions  
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discounts offered (see page 16).**

**Please let Julie know if any of your fre-  
quently purchased items are not includ-  
ed in the program.**

**[julie@wahigroup.com](mailto:julie@wahigroup.com)**

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## **BEWARE OF THE OPEN ASH DUMP DOOR!**

**A helpful hint you can give your clients about their masonry fireplace is to beware of the ash dump door in the floor of the fireplace if it is slightly ajar or opens easily. I just encountered another customer of mine telling me that after they dumped their ashes down the ash dump door, they didn't close the door tightly enough when they were done. Next time they had a fire, a hot ember from the fireplace went down into the ash box area, and started some unburned embers on fire and their house filled up with smoke as a result.**

**THE FIX: GET AN OVERSIZED, HEAVY PIECE OF METAL TO GO OVER THE TOP OF THE ASH DUMP DOOR.**

**The next State Board Meeting will be Thursday May 28, 2015 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Park Oasis Restaurant in Mauston, WI.** All WAHI members are welcome to attend. Please contact Julie Arnstein by Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in attending - [julie@wahigroup.com](mailto: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.

The Board Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2015 have been posted on the WAHI website:

- Log-in as instructed on page 5 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 March 13, 2015 minutes are posted at the very bottom of the first (left) column.



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## OUTGOING EMAILS THROUGH OUR WAHI WEBSITE



As you know, WAHI has a new website! The new WAHI website has the capability to 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 make sure you receive your 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](mailto:wahinews@wahigroup.com) to their email address book or contact list.**

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

**[www.wahigroup.com](http://www.wahigroup.com)**

Get your calendars out and "save the dates" of our 2015 Fall training event held at The Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The event dates are set for the weekend of November 6 and 7, 2015. We will again offer our education house and classroom training. More details to follow.



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

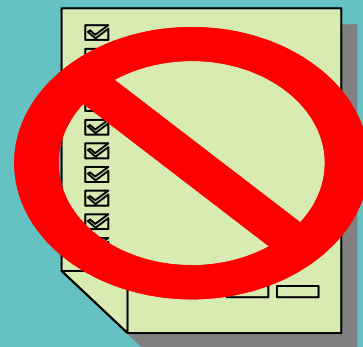
**[julie@wahigroup.com](mailto:julie@wahigroup.com)**

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

## 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

By now you have heard about our new, very user-friendly, web-based Membership Management Program! This program exceeds all past WAHI website database systems!

As a result, the WAHI Board of Directors has decided to forgo posting a printable 2014-2015 membership roster at this time.







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<b>Secretary &amp; Executive Director</b> , Julie Arnstein (877) 399-9244	Kyle Zimmerman (715) 387-1815
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# WAHI COMMITTEES

<b>Arbitration</b> David Strandberg, Chair Dave Pribyl • Roy Wagner Kyle Zimmerman	<b>Membership</b> <i>Pending</i> , Chair Roger Kautz Scot McLean Brian Opelt David Pribyl Kyle Zimmerman <i>Seeking Affiliate members</i>
<b>Audit</b> Tom Greenwaldt, Chair James Davis • George Finch Danny Kruger • Nathan Peterson Dave Stoinski	<b>Nominations/Elections</b> Andy Helgeson, Chair Dave Brading • Rich Duerkop • Dennis Kruger Cassidy Kuchenbecker James Smead • Dave Welch
<b>Education</b> Tom Kruse, Co-Chair John Moore, Co-Chair Pete Saltness • Kent Schwanke James Smead • Mike von Gunten <i>Seeking members from Madison and Central Chapters</i>	<b>Public Relations</b> Bob Turicik, Chair Troy Beasley • Bruce Low Nick Petrie • Chuck Weber
<b>Education House</b> James Smead, Chair Mike von Gunten	<b>Rules &amp; Bylaws</b> Andy Helgeson, Chair Tom Dempsey Tom Greenwaldt
<b>Legal Support</b> <i>Chair position is vacant</i> Ron Miller • Attorney Roy Wagner <i>Seeking 3 more members</i>	<b>Website</b> Doug Hoerth, Chair Keith Vanevenhoven
<b>Legislative</b> Ron Miller, Chair	

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