



**Ric Thompson
President**

July 2020

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Hey there all!

I hope this finds all of you healthy and as busy as you want to be. For many areas of the state, the market is pretty crazy right now, giving those comfortable doing Inspections an opportunity to stay out on the road!

I thought I would take this opportunity to update everyone on what the Board of Directors and the WAHI committees are working on during this “crazy COVID time.” As I stated at our spring seminar, the Board set a number of goals at our March Board Meeting (see the Members Only page of the WAHI website for the minutes from that meeting):

- Develop WAHI-approved reporting software
- Explore online educational offerings through WAHI
- Tap into the expertise of our members who teach home inspection training courses and build a curriculum for WAHI to provide pre-registration education

Step one regarding a WAHI report, was to form a committee to review several of the software options currently available. We have been in contact with a few software providers and are moving forward with the hope of having something by the November seminar.

The Covid pandemic has given us an opportunity to explore different platforms for online education. A big “THANK YOU” goes out to Cassidy Kuchenbecker of Environmental Initiatives of North America for his continued dedication to our association by providing 2 GREAT YouTube presentations for us. Some chapters “met” via Zoom. This experience has opened up discussion about potential economic growth for our association while keeping topics relevant for each chapter. I am excited to see what we can provide given the options and tools at our disposal.

WAHI has always taken great pride in providing the best education in the industry to our members. By adding pre-registration education to our arsenal we will raise what is already the “gold standard” in educating home inspectors in Wisconsin. Not only will we quality-control the substance of the education, we will also grow our association as new inspectors will get a firsthand experience of what WAHI can provide. I am stoked to see that come about!

I would not be doing my job if I did not bring up membership renewal. Now is the time of year that we re-up to be a member of the **best group** of inspectors the State of Wisconsin has to offer! Get your renewal in and be able to proudly call yourself a WAHI member. Words cannot describe the quality of the benefits available to a WAHI member, now and in the future!

Feel free to contact me any time - I am here to help. And as always, be safe out there!

Ric Thompson, WAHI President

The Coronavirus recommendations continue to advise against gathering in **large** groups, but some chapters are able to resume in-person meetings. See below for chapter specifics.



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 15
Social at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:30 pm
[Sconni's Alehouse & Eatery, 1239 Schofield Ave, Schofield, WI 54467](#)
Education: WAHI President, Ric Thompson
Ric will update the chapter on WAHI activity and answer questions.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact the Chapter Education Chair, Tyler Groshek at 715.212.7341



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 1
Site Visit at 6:00 pm - [810 Chauncey St, Eau Claire, 54701](#)
Education: Solar Home
Chapter President Terry Elliott arranged a "field trip" to a home set up with enough solar power the owner can sell unused power back to the grid. Zeus Stark, of Next Step Energy, and Mark Wise, the homeowner, will explain the PV system, how it's connected to the grid, address maintenance and safety issues and answer questions. Dinner will not be available for this meeting. Cost to attend is \$10.00

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, David Welch at 715.382.6058



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 21
Social at 5:30 pm & Roundtable/Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:00 pm
[Waverly Beach, N8870 Fire Lane 2, Menasha, WI 54952](#)
Education: To be determined

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Scott Hansen at 920.716.3025



NEXT MEETING: Due to the current COVID-19 rules and social distancing guidelines in Madison and Dane County, the chapter is unable to meet in-person at this time. Stay tuned for updates via email, Facebook, and future newsletter

Calling all Madison members! We need your help to find speakers for our future meetings - we accept a wide range of topics. Please contact Chapter Education Chair, Ron Miller at 608.235.9836



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 14
Check-in at 5:30 pm, Dinner/Meeting/Education at 6:00 pm
Education: The New Normal - The Impact of COVID-19
In addition, Affiliate members in attendance will be given an opportunity to share details on their products and services.

For speaker information, or to provide a suggestion/lead, please contact Chapter Education Chair, Ryan Eigenfeld at 414.795.9018

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAHI?

This is a brief recap of activity in the past month and a preview of what lay ahead. If anyone would ever like further information on something mentioned in this piece, just let me know... julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766

June 2020

- **Continuing Education:** In April, May and June WAHI was able to provide our members the quality continuing education they have come to expect via Zoom and the never-ending generosity of longtime Affiliate member Cassidy Kuchenbecker of Environmental Initiatives of North America who provided 2 YouTube presentations for our members. Thank you to all involved for your efforts to pull these credit worthy programs together!
- **Membership Renewal:** The WAHI membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th. If you have not yet submitted your dues, do so by end of day Wednesday, July 1st to avoid a \$25.00 late fee. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact me - julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766. WAHI has a plan in place to help you during this uncharted time while keeping our association strong as well.
- **WAHI Contact Info:** WAHI leadership made the decision to do away with some outdated means of communication. WAHI will no longer have a toll-free number or a fax line. Both seemed to be an unnecessary expense in 2020 and both were mostly getting used for sales pitches and nuisance calls.
- **COVID-19 Safety Practices:** I was contacted by a very unhappy seller - she plans to contact DSPS with her complaint. I am happy to report it was not a WAHI member who conducted the inspection of her home but I feel it is a situation worth sharing. The inspector wore no gloves or mask and no hand sanitizer was visible. This seller is in her 60's and has a very important commitment soon that will involve close contact with family members. For that reason, she is limiting her exposure and making every effort to keep herself healthy. Regardless of your position on the virus, I encourage our members to be respectful of the position your buyer and the seller have. We are not out of the woods on this yet and while it may feel that way to some, we must remain mindful and respectful of those your job impacts.



Julie Arnstein
Executive Director

You can **add your photo and/or a link to your website** to your WAHI profile!

Submit photo and/or company website info. to: julie@wahigroup.com

July 2020 and Beyond

- **WAHI Projects:** The Board of Directors, the Long-Term Planning Committee and the Education Committee are all hard at work! A summary page, a Wisconsin home inspection report, online education and increasing WAHI awareness are all being explored to benefit our members. For now, see Ric's article on page one of this newsletter and stay tuned!
- **Affiliate Membership Drive/Contest:** See details on page 4 in this newsletter. Due to the Coronavirus, we have extended the contest dates and will announce the winning chapter at the spring 2021 seminar!
- **2020 Fall Education House and Training Seminar:** Our Education Committee is hard at work planning our fall training event November 13th and 14th in Stevens Point! We have our fingers crossed that we will be able to conduct our fall Education House and Training Seminar in the usual "WAHI way" (in-person) but time will tell – stay tuned!

WHICH CHAPTER will be the WINNER of the WAHI AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE?

As of the WAHI Spring 2020 Education House and Training Seminar WAHI will be conducting an **Affiliate Membership Drive**. The goal of this effort is to increase our pool of qualified contractors and product or service providers. To bring out everyone's **competitive spirit**, we have decided to make this a **contest!** The original contest end date of November 13th has been extended to the WAHI Spring 2021 seminar weekend due to COVID-19.

The rules are simple...

1. Each chapter will need to increase their affiliate membership by at least 5% of their total chapter membership as of March 5th. Based on counts at that time:
 - Central chapter will need at least 3 new affiliate members
 - Chippewa Valley chapter will need at least 3 new affiliate members
 - Fox Valley chapter will need at least 4 new affiliate members
 - Madison chapter will need at least 4 new affiliate members
 - Milwaukee chapter will need at least 8 new affiliate members
2. The new Affiliate member must be a paying member, not the recipient of a complimentary membership for speaking at a chapter meeting or seminar.
3. Direct interested parties to the Member Benefits page on the WAHI website to complete an online application - <https://wahigroup.com/Member-Benefits>

The chapter with the largest percentage of new affiliate members, over the minimum, will be deemed the winner!

The “prize” for the winning chapter is a complimentary chapter meeting - paid for out of the WAHI state coffers - AND more importantly, will be known as THE BEST CHAPTER IN WAHI, complete with bragging rights!

Watch for “progress reports” in the newsletter each month to see which chapter is in the lead. **Let the games begin and may the BEST chapter win!**



Ron Miller
Membership Chair

**Please contact me with
any questions:**

**608-235-9836
or
ronmiller547@gmail.com**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's NOT too late to renew your membership in WAHI and avoid the late fee – renew by July 1st!

WAHI leadership understands that the Coronavirus pandemic affected everyone differently. Some members may be experiencing financial hardship due to a decline in inspections and/or service calls or the personal decision to adhere more strictly to social distancing recommendations.

If you are interested in remaining a member of WAHI (and we certainly hope that is the case!) but need more time to pay your renewal, please contact me to discuss payment options - julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766.

WAHI takes great pride as the only home inspector association in the state and across the country that focuses solely on the requirements and the needs of home inspectors and related industry professionals in Wisconsin. We support you as a member of WAHI, we need your support as well.



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NEW MEMBERS

Dave Kogan (Statewide)

Affiliate Member offering support to home inspectors across the country
American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI)
847.954.3187
davek@ashi.org
www.homeinspector.org

Mark Schmid (Madison)

Home Inspector Member
Focus Home Inspection
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OFFICE DEPOT/MAX

Office Max and Office Depot merged some time ago. The Office Max discount program offered to WAHI members no longer exists – the savings became spotty as the merger was coming together and then finalized.

Office Depot has come to WAHI with a new, improved program.

See page 14 for information on their in-store program and page 15 for a program overview and the contact person to establish an online account.

From one of our Central Chapter members - "I needed 2,000 copies made – they quoted me \$160.00. AFTER I presented my WAHI card, the cost dropped to \$50.00! What an AWESOME savings!"

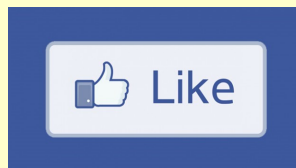
From one of our Madison Chapter members - "I recently had printing done at my local Office Depot/Max. Cost before WAHI discount = \$137.00."

Stay in touch with the WAHI Facebook page!

Our WAHI Facebook community provides the perfect opportunity to post minutes, make chapter announcements, post meeting changes, start a dialog/ask questions of other inspectors or just see what your fellow WAHI members have been up to.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Turicik
920.892.7654
homeview@wi.rr.com



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HOW TO AVOID WATER DAMAGE GL CLAIMS

By Stephanie Jaynes, Marketing Director at InspectorPro Insurance

Why is water damage so common?

Water damage is the [most common general liability claim](#) against home inspectors. Inspectors tend to cause this damage for one of three reasons:

1. They forget to shut off a water supply line.
2. They trip on, step on, or bump a water line.
3. An appliance that uses water fails during testing.

What you can do.

Anticipate issues.

If there are any indications of past issues, consider stating so in your report and not performing the test. If you're the one turning the water on, check the plumbing connections beforehand. And, before leaving, be sure to check that the water is off, in all places you could have left it on. You could also photograph fixtures as you leave to illustrate they were off.

Document everything.

To avoid "he said, she said" arguments concerning failed inspection tests causing water damage, Ryan Schmidt of [Broadneck Home Inspections, LLC](#) in Maryland recommends thoroughly photographing and filming your inspections. Documenting everything you see provides important evidence of not just water damage that may occur; photos and videos can also prove what was and what wasn't visible at the time of the inspection.

Stay put.

According to Alan Grubb of [4U Home, Inc.](#), it's important to stay put regardless of how water is draining when you first begin because drainage can change. Structure your inspection so that you stay in the same room of whatever sink, tub, or shower you're testing.

There are very limited exceptions to the stay put rule. If you use them properly, water sensors can provide inspectors with adequate notice before an overflow. We also recommend periodically checking the appliances you're testing so that, if there's an issue, you can stop the cycle and address it.

Stop the leak.

"The problem is, [if] you leave the water on or you get a leak, within a minute or two, it can travel very far, very fast and cause a lot damage in a little bit of time," said Michael Spaargaren of [First Choice Inspectors](#) in Illinois.

Whenever possible, shut off the source of water. That way, you can mitigate some of the water damage. Bill Hawkins of [Hawkeye Inspection Service, LLC](#) in Indiana suggests knowing where to turn off the water before you even have to. That way, if you encounter an emergency situation, you're prepared.

Protect your business against general liability claims.

Even when you do your best, you still can make mistakes. That's why it's essential to carry general liability insurance to protect your business from bodily injury and property damage claims.



READ MORE

To learn more about InspectorPro Insurance, please see our ad on page 12 of this newsletter.

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.

For information, please contact:

WAHI Arbitration Chair David Nason
262.443.8958 or bestinspectionsllc@gmail.com

WAHI was recently asked, and answered, a question presented by a Home Inspector member on the "cusp" of retirement.

Must a home inspector continue his/her WAHI membership for the 2 year liability period following retirement to take advantage of the arbitration system in the event of a claim? If so, at what level...Home Inspector member or Retired member?

While WAHI would appreciate your continued support and involvement as a Retired member, it is not required. Currently, if a Home Inspector member has not renewed their state license they are eligible to renew their membership in WAHI at the Retired status.



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Affiliate members Attorney Roy Wagner and Attorney Lauren Triebenbach of Michael Best and Friedrich offer a risk-free, INITIAL consultation to WAHI members with legal concerns. WAHI members have the right to contact any attorney of their choice. Should a WAHI member decide to work with Roy or Lauren, the steps below, provided by Lauren, provide an explanation of their services.

1. If you receive an email, letter, text, or pleading from a customer, please contact our office. Lauren is generally more accessible than Roy, but feel free to call either of us.
2. We will ask that you provide us with the communication you received plus your inspection agreement and report. If there are other communications related to the claim, we will ask for those too.
3. After we review your documents, we will schedule a time to talk to you. Calls generally last 15-30 minutes. We will discuss with you your options, which could include working it out on your own, engaging us to respond on your behalf, or tendering the claim to your insurance company. The strategy we discuss will be based on your specific claim, whether litigation or arbitration has already been initiated, and whether your inspection agreement specifies arbitration as the method of dispute resolution.
4. If you don't hire us, you don't get a bill. If you do hire us, the time spent reviewing the case will be included in the final billing.
5. Knowledge is power. We want inspectors to know their options so they can the decision that's best for them and their business.

Visit the WAHI Affiliate Member page to contact Lauren or Roy: <https://wahigroup.com/Affiliate-Members/>



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MEMBERS ONLY INTERACTIVE FORUM

It has come to our attention that many of you may be unaware the WAHI website hosts an interactive forum on the Members Only page. We encourage all members to check it out!

This is a very useful tool for communicating directly with fellow members and with our large membership, chances are very good that you will find someone who has a shared experience similar to yours or an answer to your question!

To access the forum section of the website you need to log-in to the website.

See [page 5](#) for step-by-step instructions to log-in to your profile and make use of this additional "tool" and benefit WAHI offers to their members.



UPDATE YOUR PROFILE IN 5 EASY STEPS

1. Go to www.wahigroup.com.
2. From the Home Page - upper right corner, **select "LOG IN."**
ENTER your email address on file with WAHI and password.
*If you have questions, contact Julie at julie@wahigroup.com.
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 updates, **select "SAVE"** in the gray rectangular box at the bottom of the page.

DISPUTE PROCESS

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.

**For more information on this process,
contact Membership Committee Chair:**

**Ron Miller
608.235.9836
ronmiller547@gmail.com**



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See page 8 for an informative article provided by InspectorPro

WAHI WELCOME COMMITTEE

Our Welcome Committee is intended to do just that....*welcome* our new members into WAHI. As a new member, expect a call from a member from your chapter. If you are a "newer" member – maybe you joined a while ago but haven't yet attended a meeting - feel free to reach out to a committee member from your chapter and make arrangements to meet at the next or an upcoming meeting.

We want our new members to feel "welcome", feel a connection with the group... and the members listed below are the right people to do that!

CENTRAL

Mike Carson - 715.212.4051 or carsonhomeinspector@gmail.com
Kyle Zimmerman - 715.387.1815 or kyle@royaltinspections.com

CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Jon Hempel - 715.210.3217 or jhempel@newageinspection.com
Marc Steig - 715.797.1475 or inspectormarc3@gmail.com

FOX VALLEY

Dave Brading - 920.889.2120 or dave.brading@yahoo.com
Bob Turicik - 920.946.0433 or homereview@wi.rr.com

MADISON

Sean Martinsen - 608.206.1108 or sktailhook@yahoo.com
Rich Reinart - 608.535.9206 or thehomeinspectorllcwi@gmail.com

MILWAUKEE

Brian Derewicz - 262.343.1614 or briandthehomeinspector@gmail.com
Nick Hammetter - 414.412.2637 or humblehomeinspector@gmail.com
Andy Helgeson - 414.315.0266 or helge4674@outlook.com
Scott LeMarr - 262.424.5587 or scott@honesthomeinspections.com
Brittany Thomas - 414.486.2367 or thomasradontesting@gmail.com
Mike von Gunten - 262.945.2446 or mike@lahigroup.com

Thank you all for stepping up to serve on one of the **most important** committees within the WAHI organization!

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Brian Derewicz
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Welcome

See page 13 in this newsletter

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