



The WAHI Inspector

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From the President: A WAHI Welcome Message



Hello fellow WAHI members!

It is an honor to be at your service! The leadership you've chosen wants to make this association the best in the State. Our goal is to ensure that we're providing real value to our members so none of you would think of doing business without membership in WAHI and the benefits we provide.

A prime example of this is our Inspection Agreement, which includes the recently updated Arbitration clause. I've been performing professional home inspections for over 25 years and I can tell you with confidence that the WAHI Inspection Agreement has drastically reduced our liability from years ago. This is why we are stressing the importance that each Chapter maintains, and more importantly increase, their local Affiliate members and thus potential contractor arbitrators. We need everyone's help in getting qualified, trained arbitrators in each Chapter. Without these individuals, if you have a dispute with a client and there isn't a group of arbitrators available, your liability will likely revert to litigation, and no one wants to go there! Our Affiliate members are the perfect candidates to be trained as Arbitrators. I see this as an honor to be chosen and trained to be an Arbitrator. If you have relationships with qualified contractors in almost any area of service related to the home inspection industry, please invite them (bring them!) to your local meeting and encourage they join WAHI as an Affiliate member.

After many years in the home inspection profession and about a couple decades of service to WAHI, our state Treasurer, Tom Greenwaldt, has decided to retire. Tom has been a steady, reliable, informed, trusted leader for WAHI. The Board wants to publicly thank Tom for his service - we will miss him. The treasurer's position is an appointed position on the Board - you received several notices seeking members interested in the position. From several candidates, the Board has appointed Tom Kruse, whom most of you know - Tom served as State President and has been a co-chair on the Education Committee in recent years. Tom has a strong background dealing with finances in his work with his local school board and other positions in his home town of La Crosse. We welcome Tom and thank him for his ongoing desire to serve WAHI with his skills.

Our Special Election has concluded and I want to congratulate Ron Miller as a Member at Large on the State Board. Thank you, Ron, for your willingness to serve WAHI again - we welcome you back on the Board!

Several members of the Board met with Secretary Ross of the Department of Safety and Professional Services and his staff in Madison this winter. The members of WAHI should be proud to know the high regard Secretary Ross holds for WAHI. He shared a story of a hands-on experience with a bad inspection, and praised WAHI on the quality of education he has personally seen while visiting Chapters and Seminars. While his schedule did not permit, he had wanted to attend the Education House at the Spring Seminar, but some of his staff did get the opportunity. The past leadership of WAHI should be congratulated on the ongoing work to make WAHI such a valuable resource that the government department which oversees our profession has nothing but praise for WAHI.

On a final note, the Board of Directors wants involvement from all members. There are so many opportunities to be involved in WAHI, from the various Chapter committees and positions, to the many State committees and positions. This is an easy group to get involved with, from your first contact with our Executive Director, Julie Arnstein, who bends over backwards to help the members, to the elected members at the Chapters and at the State level. I welcome comments, feedback, and suggestions from all of our members at any time.

~ Live long and prosper - Andy Helgeson, President

Our April speaker was Terry McCann from Larry McCann Construction. Larry discussed different aspects of residential construction and building of decks.



★
Central
Chapter

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 18
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: Affiliate Member and Contractor Arbitrator, Ron Feit, Master Plumber from France Sales and Service

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



★ Chippewa
Valley
Chapter

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 4
Buffet Dinner at 5:30 p.m. & Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire
Speaker: Greg Weiss, HVAC Supervisor from Certified, Inc.
Greg will be giving a presentation on air condition systems, heating systems and boilers.
We encourage members to bring photos to present/discuss.

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



Fox
Valley ★
Chapter

Our April speaker was Paul Birschbach, Home and Building (Code) Inspector and his presentation was regarding deck construction codes and standards, and SPS-3221, Appendix B.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 17
Social at 6:00 p.m. & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Stone Toad, 1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha
Speaker: Paul Pienkos, M.D. with Prevea Cardiology
Dr. Pienkos will focus on health and wellness. He is a great speaker - you don't want to miss the May meeting!

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.



Madison
Chapter
★

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 19
Roundtable at 6:00 p.m. & Meeting/Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Rocky Rococo's Pizza, 1753 Thierer Rd., Madison
Speaker: Secretary, David Ross, from Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)
Secretary Ross will provide a DSPS update and offer a question and answer period.
All Madison members are encouraged to attend - bring your questions and concerns - there will be door prizes also!

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



Milwaukee
Chapter
★

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 10
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
Speaker: Affiliate member, Barry Hintz, owner of AdvantaClean of Suburban Milwaukee
Barry will share his experiences as a mold remediator and explain process(es) and equipment used to do his work.

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

What's Happening in WAHI?

By Executive Director, Julie Arnstein

Here is the 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, 414.299.9766 or 877.399.WAHI



April 2016

- Board news...Tom Kruse was appointed Treasurer to fill retiring member Tom Greenwaldt's position and Ron Miller was elected Member at Large to fill the seat vacated by Andy Helgeson.
- I think it is worth mentioning that Tom Greenwaldt has served as WAHI Treasurer since 2007 (wow!). Prior to that he served as a Member at Large on the Board, prior to that he served as Nominations and Elections Chair and prior to that he served on the State Board as Vice President - Tom has been a leadership position since I started working with WAHI in 1999. Tom has been an incredible asset to the organization - he will be missed on a personal level and for the impact he has had on the association these many years. With all of that said, Tom - enjoy your retirement (I know you are already 😊) - you've earned it!
- Okay, I know I am repeating myself but this is a very important subject for you as an individual member and for the stability of our Arbitration program. The Board has asked the Arbitration Committee to make early December 2016 a goal for an Arbitration Training event. This training would be for new candidates and very possibly a refresher course for those who went through the training several years ago. There is **a lot of work to be done** prior to scheduling a training and that **falls on each and every member in WAHI**. All members **must** reach out to new affiliate members and suitable candidates to serve as participants in our Arbitration program. Arbitration Committee Chair, Mark Thomas, made numerous pleas to all Chapter-Elected Members at Large on the Board of Directors, as well as all attendees during his fall 2015 seminar presentation on Risk Management and again at our Spring 2016 seminar in Milwaukee. In order for WAHI to have a successful Arbitration program we need more qualified affiliate members, at each chapter, who can then be trained to serve as a Contractor Arbitrator. A solid program needs to be in place should the need for arbitration arise. It is every WAHI member's responsibility to assist in this goal.
- Andy Helgeson and I have been testing out some online meeting options. We have it narrowed down to one that we plan to demo to the Board at the May 3rd meeting. Not only will this be a useful tool for the Board to conduct business, but the account would be available for Committee and Chapter leadership use as well. We talked through lots of applications; this could be very beneficial to the association. Stay tuned!

May and Beyond...

- As you know (via email) the Board of Directors will meet in Mauston, Tuesday May 3rd for the first meeting of the newly elected and appointed Board. President, Andy Helgeson, has set an agenda of looking at WAHI *here and now* as well as WAHI's future in this fast paced world we live in. He plans to share his thoughts on short and long term goals - seeking feedback/direction from the Board members as well as their goals.
- Our Education Committee is already looking ahead to our WAHI Fall 2016 Education House and Training Seminar. We are scheduled for Friday November 4th and Saturday November 5th, at The Wilderness Resort in the WI Dells/Baraboo area. Save the date!
- Membership renewal is around the corner. Notices will go out late May/early June automatically via the website. There were a few glitches in the system last year - wrong date on the invoice and members who had already renewed received another notice which caused a bit of confusion and concern but I think we're in good shape this time - have gone over everything with a fine-tooth comb...none the less, fingers crossed! Be sure to submit your renewal by July 1st to avoid a late fee of \$25.00.

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Our Special Election has concluded! Longtime Madison member, Ron Miller will serve as a State Elected Member at Large for next year.

Thank you to all who participated in this election - we reached our Bylaws requirement of 30%.

STATE TREASURER

The Board has appointed a replacement for outgoing (retiring) Treasurer, Tom Greenwaldt.

Chippewa Valley member, Tom Kruse, Will fill the position. Tom Kruse was one of three candidates who expressed interest in the position.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Be sure to submit your renewal by July 1st to avoid a late fee of \$25.00.

Any Questions?
Contact Julie at julie@wahigroup.com



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Click **HERE** to download "*The Online Guide to Booking More Inspections*" by Josh Fulfer.

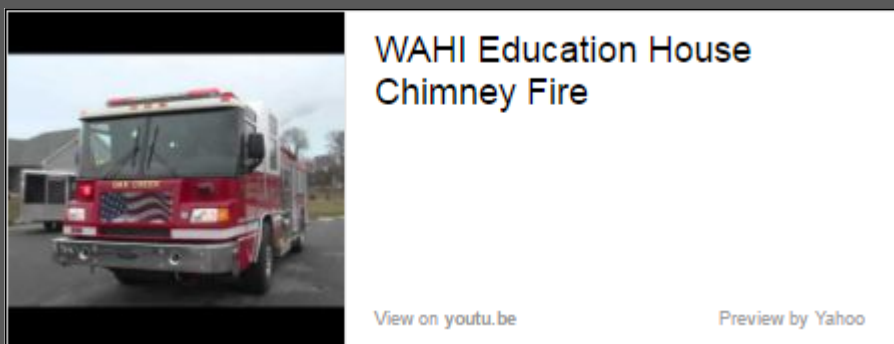
Also, in conjunction with the recent WAHI conference, Josh is offering free website evaluations to all WAHI members. Email your website url to josh@kvfmarketing.com if you'd like a free, no-strings, evaluation of your website. See my ad on this page.

A Note of Thanks from our Education House Committee Chair:

Our spring Education House was one of the best yet! I'd like to thank our affiliate members who provided presentations at the House: Milestone Plumbing, J&B Construction, Smoke Stacks and also Milwaukee Chapter Home Inspector Members, John Moore and Roger Kautz. A big thanks to Chris Rhodes (Milwaukee), the House Captain, as well as Mike Von Gunten (Milwaukee), Chad Beck (Milwaukee) and Erik Mikkelsen (Fox Valley) for helping run the house. We focused on hands-on training, and we received a lot of positive feedback. I welcome any ideas on topics you would like to see addressed in the future.

Kurt Soens, President and owner of Smoke Stacks, Inc., Jeff Schmittinger, President of Wisconsin Chimney Technicians, and Eric Yanasak, part owner/employee of Smoke Stacks Inc. did a live presentation featuring a chimney flue fire, and the Milwaukee Chapter funded the recording of this presentation to share with all members of WAHI. The Education House Committee hopes to produce additional videos in the future for member use as a means to promote their businesses and educate their clients.

What you will see in the video below (click on picture) is a demonstration of a chimney fire conducted at our Spring 2016 Education House in Oak Creek, WI. This demo was performed with the advance permission of the Oak Creek Fire Department. The fuel used to coat the flue tiles is an accurate representation of real soot with similar fuel burning characteristics. In addition to the intense flames that are visible and the resulting flue tile damage, note how quickly the fire moves up the flue. What we hope you take away from this video is the understanding of how easy it is to have flue tile damage after a chimney fire. (Kurt Soens)



Thank you for your participation at the Spring 2016 Education House - see you in the fall!

Sincerely,
James Smead

"Thank you. We sure do appreciate everyone at OREP. Worry free service year after year!"

— Alan, HousePro Home Inspections

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— Henry "Sonny" Toman





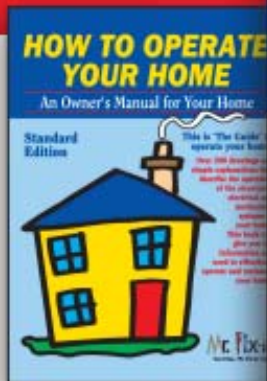
The only chimney company in WI to win the BBB Torch Award for Business Ethics and Integrity.

Imagine you are inspecting an approximately 25 year old home and it's valued at over a million dollars. There are 9 or 10 fireplaces on the property (sorry, I forgot if it was 9 or 10) and all are full masonry. From inside the home, all fireplace stonework facades are beautiful; most have gas logs in them. Each fireplace has common brick in it - even the fireboxes with their common brick, look beautiful. Finally, there is an open, natural masonry fireplace in the garage.

What would you look for in this situation? The first easy thing to note is the natural open fireplace in the garage, it is not allowed, nor up to code. If someone spilled a gas can or experienced a propane leak in the garage and there was a fire going in the fireplace with sparks flying, there could be an explosion. This is why, to my knowledge, if someone has a natural gas heater in a garage space, they typically have to be so many feet off of the floor along with other requirements.

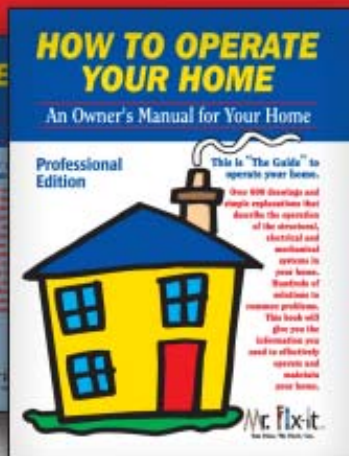
The other thing to note is there was no firebrick in the fireplace and that does not meet code, even when this house was built. How did that get by the city inspector? The home buyer wound up calling the city inspector and was told by the inspector he was not concerned about it. I have to wonder if it was this same city inspector that approved the original drawings of the home.

In this case, I wrote up all fireplaces as not being up to code and explained my concern was the possibility of future expenses should he have to rebuild all of these fireplaces correctly when he decides to sell house in future. My standard for inspection is not only spotting existing expenditures/issues, but also potential future ones.



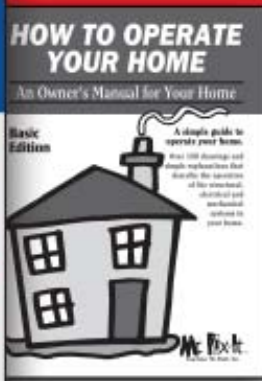
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We encourage members to keep in contact and make sure their information is current!



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

If your information has changed, please see page 9 of this newsletter to log-in and update your profile or contact Julie at:

julie@wahigroup.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.



If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Turicik
920-892-7654
homeview@wi.rr.com

INSTRUCTIONS TO UPDATE YOUR 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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Mark Gilbertson (Madison)
Home Inspector Member
Truer Inspections
608-212-4395
mark@truerllc.com

Greg Nedlund (Madison)
Home Inspector Member
Nedland Inspections
608-201-2578
nedlandinspections@gmail.com

Kevin Verch (Central)
Home Inspector Member
TCK Home Inspection, LLC.
920-385-1785
tckhomeinspection@gmail.com

Jay Graupp (Milwaukee)
Home Inspector Member
Shamrock Building
Inspection Consultants, LLC.
262-367-1536
jay@shamrockwi.com

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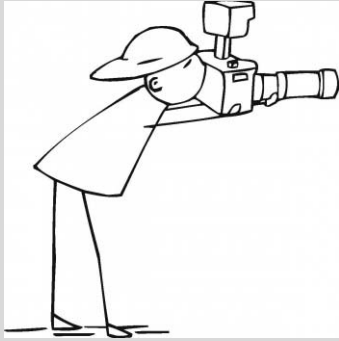
Longtime Milwaukee Chapter member and Embassy Homes architectural designer, Andrew Risch, is involved in the Special Spaces organization.

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

Add a photo to the WAHI website and link it to your business site!



WAHI's website member database has a NEW and IMPROVED multi-choice search option.

Submit photo and/or company website info. to:

julie@wahigroup.com

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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Charlie's House

A couple of our members attended ASHI Inspection World 2016. They were very impressed with an organization they discovered, Charlie's House, and felt the information would be valuable to you and your clients:

On November 1, 2007, Charlie Horn, a 2-year-old Kansas City boy, was killed when he attempted to climb a 30" dresser in his home. It was through this tragedy that Charlie's House was born.

What started as a memorial and an outpouring of public support has grown into a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization with safety at its core - dedicated to keeping the community informed and engaged when it comes to preventing injuries to children in and around the home.

As part of this mission, Charlie's House participates in and sponsors community-wide events to provide home safety information. Plans are also underway to raise funds for a safety demonstration house that will provide adults with real-life demonstrations, examples and resources on children's safety.

For further information visit their website - <http://charlieshouse.org/>

Don't miss out on this great opportunity for savings!



[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 13).

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

julie@wahigroup.com

OUTGOING EMAILS THROUGH OUR WAHI WEBSITE



The new WAHI website can send out mass emails, 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 emails from WAHI as legitimate and safe.

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 414-395-0639 or email her at 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 Wagner at
(414) 287-1250 or
rwagner@vonbriesen.com**



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Secretary & Executive Director Julie Arnstein (877) 399-9244	David Strandburg (608) 255-3966
Treasurer Tom Kruse (608) 782-8831	Mike von Gunten (262) 945-2446
Past President Doug Hoerth (920) 375-0723	Kyle Zimmerman (715) 387-1815
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