



May 2019 Vol. 23, Issue 5 www.wahigroup.com



**Ric Thompson
President**



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Welcome to my inauguration speech!

I would like to begin by thanking Andy for his time as President and the table he has set for me to succeed as your next President! Andy has been more than willing to answer any questions I have had as we transition to new leadership.

The thank you portion of this letter wouldn't be complete without thanking Julie as well! Julie has done everything she can to make it very obvious that this is a team event. Having her to work with has already proven to be invaluable as I begin in this role.

Finally, the support of the Board of Directors has been nothing short of exceptional! From the board meeting at our last seminar to now, each and every one of the members has made it very evident that there will be no lack of support on their part.

As Spring is a time of growth, WAHI is no exception! Many wheels are turning that will make our association and your membership better and more valuable. From the new arbitration process to a review of our Standards of Practice to the implementation of the Long Term Planning Committee, changes are coming that we should all be excited about!

Our change in the arbitration process is all but official. Our legal team is tweaking our Inspection Agreement to fit the new arbitration program along with some changes suggested by CDRS and Capital Claims Management. Once that is done, a new agreement will be sent out for us to use.

As the Spring market hits it's full stride, take the time to promote the use of WAHI inspectors. One of the goals of the Long Term Planning Committee is to make WAHI more visible in the Real Estate market. We can be tools of that by promoting the fact that WAHI is to home inspectors as WRA is to Realtors. You would be surprised how many Realtors don't know that WAHI exists and the benefits that we provide to our members, education being #1. When you make your visits to the offices in your market, promote that you are a WAHI member! The more they hear that, the more curious they will become, which results in agents being informed about WAHI. This, all added together, turns into marketing for you as a WAHI member and that puts you ahead of the non-members. When you compare it to WRA membership, Realtors will "get it"!

Thank you all for this opportunity to lead such a great organization! I look forward to the next 2 years and the growth that is on the horizon for WAHI!

Happy spring everyone and be safe out there!
Ric Thompson



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 15
Social at 6:00 pm & Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:30 pm
[Sconni's Alehouse & Eatery, 1239 Schofield Ave, Schofield, WI 54467](#)
Education: Roundtable discussion on report writing

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



NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1
Buffet Dinner at 5:30 pm & Meeting/Education at 6:00 pm
[Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire](#)
Education: Roundtable discussion on the new WAHI Inspection Agreement, arbitration, LLCs and other legal issues. Members of the WAHI State Board of Directors will be joining us too!

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



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 21
Social at 5:30 pm & Roundtable/Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:00 pm
[The Stone Toad, 1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha](#)
Roundtable Discussion: Specific topic yet to be determined. Bring pictures on your smart phone or jump drive to load onto the projector!
Education: Chapter President, Dave Pribyl
Dave attended the April arbitration training in Milwaukee and will share details on the NEW WAHI Arbitration Program.

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



NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 16
Roundtable at 5:30 pm & Meeting/Dinner/Education at 6:00 pm
[Great Dane Pub and Brewing, 2980 Cahill Main, Fitchburg](#)
Education: Derek Hilton, Janesville Door Co.
Derek will discuss garage doors and openers.

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, May 14
Social time starts at 5:30 pm, Buffet Dinner available from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Meeting/Education at 7:00 pm
[The Pallas Restaurant, 1657 S 108th St, Milwaukee](#)
Education: Fred Hoppe, Hoppe Tree Service
Fred will discuss urban trees...separating fact from fiction!

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

April 2019

- **Arbitration Training through Construction Dispute Resolution Services (CDRS):** Training for the new program was conducted as planned April 11, 12 and 13 in Milwaukee. WAHI (and CDRS) now have qualified arbitrators around the state. Changes to the existing WAHI Inspection Agreement are still being discussed. For now, continue to use the existing agreement and watch your email for important announcements and the updated document.
- **Long Range Planning Committee Meeting:** The future of WAHI is in good hands with the WAHI members participating on this committee - Tom Beatty, Mike Carson, Terry Elliott, Andy Helgeson, Rich Reinart and Ric Thompson. This group truly believes in the value of WAHI, has energy, excellent ideas to increase WAHI awareness and a clear commitment to follow through and make those "ideas" happen. This is a committee WAHI and our members will benefit from greatly!

May 2019 and Beyond...

- **Board Meeting:** May 1st kicks off Ric Thompson at the helm! We all look forward to Ric's leadership - his dedication to WAHI is very apparent! The Board is meeting in Eau Claire ahead of the Chippewa Valley meeting held that same evening. We hope to see some Chippewa Valley members at the Board meeting!
- **Meeting with DSPS Leadership:** WAHI Legislative Committee Chair David Strandberg, State President Ric Thompson, Past President Andy Helgeson, myself and our lobbyist, Kathi Kilgore, are meeting with the new leadership on Thursday, May 16th. This will be a brief "meet and greet" opportunity but we look forward to establishing a positive relationship with this new administration as we have in the past.
- **WAHI Facebook Page:** If you are not yet a "friend" of the WAHI Facebook page get your friend request in! This is a very valuable member-benefit. Unlike some Facebook pages which are filled with political jabs, vacation photos ("Wish you were here!") and where people are dining at the moment, the WAHI Facebook page is a great opportunity to ask questions, answer questions, share information and post pictures of the oddities you occasionally (or frequently!) see out there! Contact Public Relations Chair and Facebook Administrator Bob Turicik if you need guidance - homereview@wi.rr.com or 920-946-0433.
- **Fall 2019 Education House and Training Seminar:** Save the date...Friday, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th at Chula Vista in the WI Dells!
- **2020 Education House and Training Seminar:** The WAHI Board is looking at Eau Claire, La Crosse and Steven's Point for our spring event and the WI Dells again in fall - stay tuned!



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

BOARD MEETING

The Board is hittin' the road for the next Board meeting! We will be visiting the Chippewa Valley Chapter by holding the board meeting the same afternoon as their monthly chapter meeting – Wednesday May 1st.

All WAHI members are welcome but we especially encourage Chippewa Valley members to attend! Come see how the Board functions to lead the association. Contact Executive Director Julie Arnstein if you plan to attend to ensure sufficient seating and handouts - julie@wahigroup.com or 414.299.9766.

Save the Date....

November 8th and 9th

WAHI Fall 2019 Education House and Training Seminar in the WI Dells!



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CHAPTER ELECTIONS: LEADERSHIP UPDATE FROM CENTRAL

Last month we announced that Greg Harvey would be taking over for Nate Peterson as the Central Chapter Treasurer, however, Greg has decided on a career change and will no longer be able to serve in that role. I am **HAPPY** to report that Blake Teschner quickly stepped up to fill the vacancy. 😊 Thank you Blake!



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OFFICE DEPOT

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!"

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A VERY special thanks to the following members who volunteered to serve on this VERY important committee - Andy Helgeson (Chair), Tom Beatty, Mike Carson, Terry Elliott, Rich Reinart and Ric Thompson.

This committee will determine goals that outline the path for the association's future and develop a strategic plan to define the objectives and actions necessary to achieve those goals.

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seanc@aisofwausau.com
www.advantagewausau.com

Travis Farrar (Central)

Affiliate Member

Independent Basement Inspections
715.432.4767

travis@thebasementinspectors.com
www.thebasementinspectors.com

Scott Keller (Fox Valley)

Associate/Student Member

920.279.7690

srkckk@yahoo.com

Ken Naujock (Milwaukee)

Affiliate Member

Radon Gone WI, LLC.

262.227.4956

radongonellc@gmail.com

Phil Norton (Fox Valley)

Home Inspector Member

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920.2306047

ericahnorton@gmail.com

Jason Schmidt (Fox Valley)

Affiliate Member

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See page 9 for an informative article provided by InspectorPro

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU: A HOME INSPECTOR'S INSURANCE STORY

By Randy Sipe, Home Inspector with [InspectorPro Insurance](#)

This past October, home inspector Randy Sipe approached us, his insurance provider, to ask if he could write an article for our readers. After nearly 20 years of inspecting claims-free, Sipe had received a meritless allegation. Sipe wanted to share his firsthand experience with a frivolous lawsuit to encourage his peers—particularly those who believe they're impervious to claims—to carry insurance. Below is his account.

I knew I did the best job I could do. I followed the Standards of Practice and, with my years of experience, I still received a claim—and it can happen to you.

It's not about the job you did or whether you were right or wrong. You can—and likely will—be sucked into a claim regardless. It will be the most emotional roller coaster ride of your professional life.

Why am I telling you this? Because it can happen to you. The inspection, the call, the lawsuit that followed, the aftermath—this was my experience. I hope my story will help you understand how claims can happen to you and make you more prepared to face the journey.

When I started inspecting homes almost 20 years ago, I went to an inspection training school. In the business part of the course, we discussed E&O insurance. We talked about that common misconception that, if you carry E&O, you put a target on your back. My instructor didn't carry insurance because of that mystical target. So, when he received a meritless claim against his business, he spent \$60,000 defending the claim before he was done. He had to financially and mentally fight the allegation on his own for several years.

Contrary to popular belief, E&O insurance alone does not put a target on your back. Being a home inspector is what puts a target on your back. And, even if you do your job, you can still get a claim. It can happen to you, and it did happen to me.

Finish Randy's story by clicking the "Read More" button below.



[READ MORE](#)

To learn more about InspectorPro Insurance, please see our ad on page 8 of this newsletter.

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 below 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.



WAHI 101: 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 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.

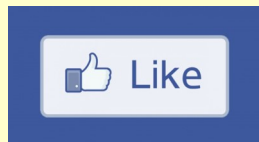
WAHI ARBITRATION PROGRAM

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: Executive Director Julie Arnstein at 414.299.9766 or julie@wahigroup.com

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 at 920.892.7654 or homeview@wi.rr.com



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WAHI Legal Support

Attorneys Roy Wagner and Lauren Triebenbach, of von Briesen and Roper, continue 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 us at 414.287.1250
rwagner@vonbriesen.com or ltrieben@vonbriesen.com

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 at 608.235.9836 or ronmiller547@gmail.com



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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

Joel Markeson - 715.225.0385 or jpmarkuson@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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Attorney Roy Wagner

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Welcome

See page 13 in this newsletter

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