



Texas Association of Builders
February 2008

(800) 252-3625

www.TexasBuilders.org

SPECIAL EDITION:

Winter Board Meetings — Here's What Happened.

Thursday, January 17

TAB hosted a record turnout at the Driskill Hotel in Austin January 17 -19. In attendance were 138 directors and representation from 24 HBAs.

The opening luncheon was well attended and a presentation by Metrostudy's Jack Inselmann shed some light on the economic outlook of the home building industry in Texas and its deviation from the rest of the nation. Texas is the leader in job growth, housing starts and appreciation.

The meeting of the Government Relations Committee was highlighted by guest speaker, Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller. The Comptroller delivered a "State of the State" address and led a discussion on the revised franchise tax. Thank you to Ms. Combs for taking time from her busy schedule to impart her first hand experience on issues that affect our industry.

Following an afternoon of meetings, all joined together for a lively reception hosted by Structure Home Warranty that gave everyone a chance to meet and greet. Following the reception, the Local Presidents convened in the Driskill Ballroom for a private dinner hosted by Texas Home Builders Workers' Comp Group (administered by Hotchkiss Insurance Agency).

Friday, January 18

Friday's HOMEPAC Luncheon was a major point of interest as guest speaker Senator Troy Fraser took to the podium. Senator Fraser brought us up-to-date on the Interim Legislative Charges and the active political races and their possible affect on the building industry in Texas. At the conclusion of the luncheon, TAB presented the senator with an award recognizing him as a "Champion of Housing".

Emmy award-winning reporter Jeff Crilley spoke to the local Presidents and Vice Presidents Conference. Mr. Crilley entertained the packed room with interactive education on how to get positive media coverage. The room was filled with actual bubbles which represented the hundreds of e-mails that are sent as a means of communication and are as quickly extinguished with a single click of the delete

key. The message was clear: the "send" key should be replaced with person-to-person contact with members of the media.

Saturday, January 19

After the assembly of the Area Caucus Meetings, the 2008 Winter Board Meeting was called to order by President Andy Hutchison. Nominations of Life Directors Fred Wilson of Lubbock and Scott Sandlin of Fort Worth were approved.

Congratulations to Kay Vinzant with fifteen (15) years and Kim Jacobs with five (5) years of service to their local associations.

The Treasurer's Report contained a positive cash flow and financial position. Sunbelt, TAB and capital expenditure budgets were approved.

The Executive Director's Report included an update on TAB activities including IBS participation, EPA training and HOMEPAC fundraising. Membership retention, Energy Code Training and the 2008 TAB Tour of Texas were announced as TAB initiatives for the upcoming year. Sunbelt had a record year in 2007 and an increase in attendance of 20 percent is expected this year. The inaugural Texas Builder Hall of Honor will take place during the Excellence in Leadership Dinner at the 2008 Sunbelt Builders Show™. Thank you to our board meeting partners: Structure Home Warranty and Texas Home Builders Workers' Comp Group (administered by Hotchkiss Insurance Agency).

The HOMEPAC Committee reported that they had reached 114 percent of its goal and presented 18 local associations with plaques recognizing that they met or exceeded their goals. An open call for HOMEPAC donations was made. Many associations stepped up to the plate including Houston, Dallas and Ft. Worth.

The board approved several requests for Legal Affairs funds support.

Make your reservations now for the Summer Board Meetings June 5 - 7, 2008 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin