



Login for Great Information

TAB's new Web site is up and running. The newly designed site hosts a fresh face and loads of new information and features. A TAB member may now login to the site using their first and last name with no capitalization or space (johndoe) and their NAHB Personal Identification Number (PIN) assigned to them when they joined their local association. This unique login gives a member access to their personal record, *Texas Builder* magazine, Green Building Initiative training and exclusive TAB member information.

Another vital component of the new Web site is TAB's Grassroots Action Center powered by VoterVoice. You can login and check on the status of current bills and amendments, using the member's score card, and learn how your legislators voted on key issues, receive TAB's monthly *Legislative Line* newsletter, and take part in TAB's legislative efforts.

Construction Theft Curbed

Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, Inc. (HIA) announced that in response to an escalating number of thefts at residential construction sites the Great American Insurance Company (GAIC) will reimburse policy holders up to \$10,000 for a reward that is paid to an individual(s) who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a person(s) who committed a crime that resulted in a "loss" to Covered Property that GAIC paid to the insured under their policy Coverage Form.

With the recent downturn in the economy, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of thefts at residential construction sites. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) estimates that losses of materials and appliances at home building sites have increased to over \$1 billion annually in the United States inflating the cost of a home by 1.5% or around \$4,000. Theft from houses that are nearing completion is one of the biggest concerns for contractors and real estate agents today. Not only does it cost money in stolen goods, it's causing liability insurance for builders to quickly rise. That, experts say, hurts the bottom line for builders and ends up being passed on to consumers.

"The incentive to catch construction site criminals and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law will serve as a deterrent and, hopefully, stop some of the losses that definitely impact the cost of insurance," stated Julie Grubb of GIAC.

HIA Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Anne Davis, says "Great American's commitment to get involved at this level shows policy holders they're not alone when facing the issue of trying to protect their job sites."

Sunbelt Photos Online

Remember the good times through pictures. We are pleased to announce that professional photographs that were taken during the Sunbelt Builders Show™ and related events are now available by visiting www.SunbeltBuildersShow.com.

TAB is happy to make these keepsake memories available in conjunction with Jowdy Photography, the official photographer of the 2008 Sunbelt Builders Show™ and Education Conference.

Whether you wish to have that photo of yourself posing with football legend Emmitt Smith or you would like a photo with your much deserved Star Award, they are all available for order just by clicking on the link below.

Housing Wins Election

To build support for housing on Capitol Hill, the nation's home builders launched a targeted voter mobilization campaign in five Senate races and 28 competitive House districts. The effort resulted in wins for 26 of the 33 candidates that NAHB supported.

The voter mobilization program employed sophisticated communications and outreach programs to help identify, educate and mobilize the pro-housing vote.

In local grassroots efforts, NAHB members living in the targeted congressional districts volunteered for the candidates by putting up campaign signs, canvassing neighborhoods and having the candidate speak at home builders association meetings.

Once the voters who worked in housing and housing-related fields were identified and educated on the issues, they were contacted through phone banks, mail, e-mail and person-to-person outreach in the final days before the elections and urged to go to the polls and vote for pro-housing candidates.

In the House, BUILD-PAC posted a 92% success rate, supporting 309 winners in the 337 races to which it contributed.

Governor On Texas Economy

Although the national economy continues to struggle, Texas is not following the national trend. Business Facilities Magazine recently said, "with the 12th largest economy in the world (if it were considered a nation), Texas now leads the U.S. in job creation, gross state product, low unemployment rate, and foreign direct investment. Part of the Lone Star State's success stems from proactive government policies and incentives, low taxes, reasonable regulations, solid infrastructure, and good quality of life." To continue reading this article, please follow the link below.