

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
MARCH 1, 2013 – REPORT #4

IMPORTANT ISSUES DISCUSSED AT OHBA SPRING MEETING

All in attendance at our meeting received the latest and up to date info regarding many issues of great interest to the industry. President, Al Scott, made sure we all were fully informed on important issues regarding the new building code, land development, prevailing wage requirements on multifamily housing, expansion of the sales tax and builder licensing.

Jeff Woda, chair of the multifamily committee, presented information regarding recent changes to the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates for most of southern Ohio. OHBA member, Leonard Gorsuch, presented data showing the costly impact the new rates have on projects covered by Davis-Bacon laws. All members were urged to participate in the wage rate surveys distributed on a regular basis so to help assure a true rate is determined from a sampling of ALL contractors in the area

Jeff also reported this committee will be working with OHFA on improvements and suggestions to QAP process at OFHA. Also, the committee is fully supportive of the low income housing tax credit.

Land developer chair, Charlie Driscoll, reported we are working with the PUCO on a rule renewal regarding line extension costs with public utilities. He has opened discussions with rural utilities regarding high line extension costs. Rural utilities are not regulated by the PUCO and are free to charge fees at any level they feel appropriate. Further, we will be commenting on the NPDES general construction permit governing construction sites as well.

Codes chair, Jim Zengel, reported the RCAC answered major questions through interpretations on some sections of the new residential code. Some new items were suggested for which OHBA will be requesting determinations. We will have builder rep vacancies available this summer for seats on the RCAC and BBS. If interested, let us know. If you would like copies of the interpretations recently issued, please let us know.

Government affairs chair, Bill Sanderson, reported the new state budget bill contains an expansion of the state sales tax to most services. Real estate construction project services are exempt. The subject of expansion of the tax is quite controversial and we expect changes to it before it may pass. We will be monitoring it closely. Builder licensing legislation is being written in the Senate. OHBA has been invited to participate in the drafting of it. We will be suggesting language from other states which provide a fair and reasonable framework for builders. If you are interested in state licensing laws a helpful web site is located at http://www.nascla.org/licensing_information please feel free to provide us with any comments you want as this is a work in progress and is not slated for any rapid action.