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- First we form habits, then they form us. Conquer your bad habits or they will conquer you.

— Rob Gilbert



Chairperson's Message

by Lori Pippitt

We are quickly moving into March, and our local economy seems to be recovering and picking up speed!

I felt the people attending the Home & Garden show were serious shoppers collecting ideas for projects they plan to do in the next few months.

As work starts to pick up, keep in mind there are many college students graduating and some need to do internships to complete their schooling. Each of us could point out one or two people who helped guide and mentor us when we were starting out. As your work force grows, think about taking a new graduate under your wing and help them become someone you would want to step into your shoes in the future. Remodeling and construction are full of surprises and there is only so much you can learn in a classroom. Hands-on experience and guidance is the best way anyone can learn. Don't we continue to learn from each other every day?

Come see first hand the ideas, plans and drawings for the HOTTEST topic in town...the Arena! Plan to join us on March 10th, 11:30 a.m., at West Gate Bank for an informative meeting on the proposed Arena presented by Dick Campbell. If you are on the fence about your vote, this meeting will answer your questions!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Food Bank House at the Home & Garden Show. We collected 4,752 pounds of food and \$37.30. That much food is the equivalent of 3,712 meals, which would feed 30 people a meal a day for an entire year, or 10 families of a mom and two kids a meal a day for four months. This is a perfect example where each person doing a little adds up to 2.375 TON's!

The Tour of Remodeled Homes is April 24-25, and deadlines for registration are due on March 12. The Tour is a GREAT way to showcase your remodeling work for the public, so feel free to call me (402-475-0650) or Nadine at the HBAL office to get the inside scoop on how the Tour of Remodeled Homes could work for you!

REMODELERS
COUNCIL OF LINCOLN

March Meeting Haymarket Arena Discussion

Presented by Dick Campbell

West Gate Bank

60th & Old Cheney Road
Lower Level

March 10, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$8.00 per person

RSVP to info@hbal.org or 423-4225
by Friday, March 5.

Welcome New Member!

Steve Massey

Elite Kitchens & Flooring

Remodelers Advised to Apply Now for Lead Certification

Remodelers and other contractors who work in homes built before 1978 are being urged to complete the application for firm certification that will be required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Lead Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting rule that goes into effect on April 22.

The agency has up to 90 days to approve a company certification and applying today makes it less likely that the form will be delayed by the bottleneck that is expected as remodelers scramble to meet the deadline.

Remodeling firms that have already submitted their applications report that the EPA is taking as long as two months to approve them, said NAHB environmental policy analyst Matt Watkins. "Remodeling firms should start applying for firm certification ASAP, even if no one in the firm has completed the required training yet," he said.

The new law will require contractors working on projects that disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 to be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. The individual certification is based on eight hours of classroom and hands-on instruction — and is separate from the company certification, which requires a completed application and a fee of \$300.

NAHB continues to meet with EPA officials to resolve ongoing concerns about the new rule, which ultimately may cause certified remodelers to lose business to less-expensive — and less responsible — uncertified remodelers who don't use safe work practices. Worse yet, potential contracted jobs may become do-it-yourself projects, which, if done in homes where lead paint is present, could present a health threat to young children in the home.

Among the concerns:

- Despite the looming deadline, the EPA has not started any outreach, promotion or advertising to let the public know about the new rule. The agency has indicated that it will release a preliminary marketing campaign plan by the end of February.
- The agency is falling behind on approving training programs so that contractors can complete the individual certification requirements. It has estimated that about 200,000 remodelers, painters, electricians, HVAC technicians and others working in the targeted homes and buildings need to be certified by April 22 but only about 120 training companies have been approved so far — leaving the vast majority of the industry uncertified as the compliance date nears.
- Even as it struggles to fulfill the requirements under the existing rule, the EPA has released a revised rule, which it also expects to put in place before the deadline. The rule expands the number of homes that fall under its purview by eliminating the "opt-out" provision for home owners who don't have children under the age of six or who meet other requirements.

"This is a rule that the EPA itself is making almost impossible to comply with," Watkins said. "Our members want to do this work professionally, legally and most important, they want to do it safely. Given that the agency has not responded to our legitimate concerns, I'm not sure how they're going to get there."

For more information, e-mail Calli Schmidt at NAHB, or call her at 800-368-5242 x8132.

Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Program

The following is a list of available training programs in the Lincoln area. These one-day classes will give you the EPA-mandated training needed for you and/or your employees to become Certified Renovators and comply with the Lead Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting rule that goes into effect on April 22.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

SCC Continuing Education Center
301 S. 68th St. Place, Lincoln, NE • Room 302
Register at www.southeast.edu/continuing
Cost: \$175

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

SCC Continuing Education Center
301 S. 68th St. Place, Lincoln, NE • Room 302
Register at www.southeast.edu/continuing
Cost: \$175

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Educational Institute
1450 Centerpark Road, Lincoln, NE
Register at www.eitraining.com or call 423-7530
Cost: \$150

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Educational Institute
1450 Centerpark Road, Lincoln, NE
Register at www.eitraining.com or call 423-7530
Cost: \$150

*Tour of
Remodeled
Homes*

April 24 & 25, 2010

Entry Deadline:
March 12, 2010