

From the desk of Peter J. Fusaro



Congratulations to all the builders and suppliers who won 2017 HOBI Awards!

This year marks the 24th annual HOBI's sponsored by the HBRA of Connecticut, and it is gratifying to see the outstanding caliber of housing our members continue to deliver in good times and bad.

Special thanks to HOBI Awards creator and producer for 24 years, Joanne Carroll, and event director for 10 years, Joanne Hoerrner.



The HOBI Awards is the biggest builder awards event in the country, and this year once again, we had record attendance at the Wednesday November 15th HOBI Dinner.

The 15th Annual Fiano Family Golf Classic was held in July, and George LaCava, co-chairman, Bob Hanbury, and their committee, pulled off another amazingly successful BUILD PAC fundraiser. This event continues to be the largest single BUILD PAC fundraiser in the country!

However, the \$53,340 raised, represents only 40 of our members! If every member of the HBRA gave just \$25 to BUILD PAC or to our critically important state Housing Defense Fund, we would be able to do so much more to move legislation both nationally and right here in Connecticut. Please see the feature article in this issue, and contact George LaCava at george@trilacon.com to contribute to BUILD PAC or Bill Ethier at bethier@hbact.org to contribute to the state Housing Defense Fund.

Special thanks to Bob Hanbury for his years long commitment serving on the CT Codes and Standards Committee and as co-chair of the Fiano Family Golf Classic. Happy Retirement, Bob!

Happy 92nd Birthday to Larry Fiano, the founder and chairman for 13 years of the Fiano Family Golf Classic, which was renamed in his honor!

Congratulations to Eric Person on his appointment as President of the NAHB Executive Officers Council and to Gina Calabro for her national recognition as New EO of the Year. (See article in this issue.)

Thank you, Bill Ferrigno, for building the 2017 HBRA House of the Year in Avon. (Please see House of Year article in this issue.)

This is the second time Bill has stepped up to build a House of the Year for our state association. The proceeds of the 2017 House of the Year, after expenses, will go to the Housing Defense Fund, and Bill Ferrigno is HDF Chairman. The Housing Defense Fund was set up last year to empower our HBRA's legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy efforts in Connecticut.

Please make a CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

There is no more important commitment a builder can make, given the negative business and regulatory climate in Connecticut. The cost of regulation is choking the life out of our housing industry. If we don't become activists in this fight for sensible codes and regulation, our industry will slowly die. Please contact HBRA CEO, Bill Ethier bethier@hbact.org or Housing Defense Fund Chairman Bill Ferrigno at bill@sunlightconstruction.com to learn more about HDF and to contribute.

Finally, continued education is a requisite for success, and there is no better educational event than the International Builders Show with its hundreds of exhibits and seminars. The 2018 IBS will take place in Orlando, Florida on January 9-11. Go to www.buildersshow.com or your local HBRA for information. I hope to see you all there!

All the best,
Peter J Fusaro
CGP,CGB,CAPS,GMB,MCGP
Chairman & President HBRA of CT