

FAIRFIELD COUNTY HBRA NEWS

This January, the HBRA of Fairfield County launched a membership drive where current members can invite new members to join at a reduced price of \$395 for their first year. Never offered before, the association hopes to draw in new businesses in the industry, especially young builders and companies looking to grow. Currently at 463 members, the HBRA has seen a spike of over 40 new members in the last 2 months. Now is certainly the time to join! Benefits of membership include eligibility for prestigious awards, discounts & rebates, business development, education & certification courses, legislative advocacy in Hartford and Washington, DC and a variety of great events. Call the office for more information at 203.335.7008 or visit the website at www.buildfairfieldcounty.com.



HBRA EASTERN CT NEWS

On Saturday, November 17th, the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Eastern Connecticut celebrated its Annual Gala & Awards Ceremony at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Groton, Connecticut. Nearly 200 attendees gathered for fun, food, induction of the 2019 Board of Directors, and awards.

As the organization rolled out the evening, HBRAECT 2019-2020 President Craig D. Caulkins said that the night was about taking a step back to recognize the accomplishments of its members, and their contributions to the community.

"It's about celebrating the industry," said Caulkins, who noted that the economic gloom of years past is fading. "The industry is booming and now we focus on bringing new, qualified employees to our industry," which is one of his initiatives for the upcoming year.

Caulkins, a 30-year business owner, (Caulkins Design & Building), is no stranger to the challenges facing the industry. As Connecticut's top employers struggle to fill job openings with skilled labor, this also affects small businesses throughout the building industry, Caulkins added that workforce development is a crucial objective for the HBRAECT. "We will be working to implement a long-term strategy to promote construction and trade careers throughout Eastern CT."

The HBRAECT formally installed President Craig D. Caulkins and his Board of Directors for 2019-2020. The board consists of Pete Battaglio, Vice President, Gail Grillo, Associate Vice President, Beth Glynn, Secretary, Jim Williams, Treasurer, Diana Buscetto, Chuck Gimbut, Ev Hyde, Anant Joshi, Rico Mastro-nunzio, Matt Mularski, David Preka, Mark Spinnato, Kathleen Stauffer, Melissa Welch and Nort Wheeler.



L-R David Preka, outgoing President, Craig Caulkins 2019 & 2020 President

Several awards were presented throughout the evening including Richard Wildermuth of Connecticut Valley Homes who won Builder of the Year. Matt Ostrowski, Creative Enclosures, won Remodeler of the Year. Gail Grillo, Marvel Home Decorating, won Associate of the Year. Diana Buscetto and Debbie Yother, Sava Insurance Group, won Volunteer of the Year.



L-R Richard Wildermuth, Catherine Taylor, and Craig Caulkins



L-R Matt Ostrowski and Nort Wheeler



L-R David Preka and Gail Grillo



L-R Debbie Yother and Diana Buscetto

The HBRAECT believes that home ownership is essential in building communities. "At the end of the day," said Caulkins, "we are all working to help people realize the dream of home ownership."

For additional information about the HBRAECT, visit HBRAECT.COM.