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President's message: People of importance listen to RIBA

July 07, 2010 - Rhode Island

June 1st certainly marked a tribute to the respect and influence commanded by the Rhode Island Builders Association when three candidates for governor took the time to attend our board of directors meeting to share their ideas on the future of this state, and to listen to our ideas in return. We heard substantial agreement on what the problems are, but several different approaches to solutions.

The evening pointed to two important facts you should know.

One: These candidates seem genuinely interested in what we have to say. If they don't hear our ideas, all they might hear are the ideas of the forces that stand for anti-growth and over regulation.

Two: Whether they agree with what we have to say or not, people of importance listen to RIBA. Officials throughout state and local government read The Rhode Island Builder Report, and people all over southeastern New England listen to RIBA's You're Home radio talk show every Saturday on WPRO 630 AM. RIBA represents over 1,100 companies and nearly 40,000 voters.

A message you need to hear

The message for you is two-fold as well: Make your concerns known to your lawmakers, and make that message even more effective by joining and staying involved with RIBA. All our voices together will be far more effective than yours ever could be alone!

There are far more reasons than that to join and get active in RIBA. As a member, you automatically belong to the powerful National Association of Home Builders, which offers a strong voice in Washington, crucial educational courses and professional designations, free advice for all areas of your business, and much more. NAHB is a vital and powerful resource for builders, remodelers, suppliers and any other professional who works with the shelter industry.

RIBA does the same on the state level. Along with lobbying at the state house, the association offers the courses and seminars you need not only to stay ahead of your competitors but, in some cases, simply to comply with the law.

And don't forget networking and just having fun. RIBA offers several events throughout the year that bring members together to enjoy each other's company. Events like the annual baseball outing to Fenway Park, the annual outing and clambake, and the annual golf classic provide opportunities for members to get to know one another and to establish or strengthen business relationships. Many a GC has found a good new sub at one of these events!

There are our unbeatable health insurance plans, and the ongoing expansion of our workers' compensation program.

If you're a RIBA member now, get involved! Come to the board of directors meeting on September 7th to see how our leaders do things and hear about the top issues that affect our industry and you. Become a leader yourself! Join us in the struggle for legislation that will help and not harm our businesses. And, of course, encourage the law-abiding contractors you know to get serious about

their businesses and join RIBA.

If you don't belong to RIBA, join! Considering the benefits, dues are a bargain, and it could be the best investment you make in your business this year!

For information, visit www.ribuilders.org or call Nancy Jenkinson at RIBA, (401) 438-7400.

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