

SCWBA NEWS Special Edition

DECEMBER 2023

YEAR-IN REVIEW



Thank you to our
2023 News Sponsors

AXLEY
ATTORNEYS

Thank you for a fantastic and successful 2023!

*May 2024 open even more doors for your
businesses and our great association!*

*Happy
Holidays*



YEAR END REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tessa Dongarra
Cabinet Country

As we say goodbye to 2023, remember all the fun times we had together. Our association is unique in the fact that we all know each other. Some a little more than others, which can be good or bad depending on who you are talking to. Let's use that positively in a way that we can feed off of one another with knowledge, understanding, and experience.

At home, I am known as the Queen where I reign supreme,... just ask my husband, Andy. Here I will be known as your President...kind of similar. [haha] But in all sincerity; thank you for letting me be your President again. I take this role very seriously.

I've been a participating member for nearly 20 years. I believe in this association immensely and truly know that it directly affects my own business in very positive ways.

I realize we are all very busy with our own respective businesses, but you can only hold yourself accountable for the efforts you put in and the results you get back. I hope you all consider becoming more involved.

This association is finally getting back on track and moving in a such a positive direction. I can't thank our E.O. Heidi enough for her hard work and dedication to SCWBA. Have you seen what time in the morning you get emails from her? She has transformed so many aspects to catapult us to the next level. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

As we prepare for 2024 remember to cut each other some slack, be positive, forward thinking, participating members. Give feedback and input, and most importantly be kind.

I hope you all have the Merriest Christmas, and the Happiest New Year. Thank you for being the best part of SCWBA.

Tessa Dongarra



You all make a difference!
Thank You!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2023

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

Casandra Wagner (Builder Co-Chair)
Sara Reque (Associate Co-Chair)

Education

Tom Naatz (Builder Chair)

Parade of Homes

Brian Kaiser (Builder Co-Chair)
Tessa Dongarra (Associate Co-Chair)

Golf Committee

Casandra Wagner (Builder Co-Chair)
Amanda Benway (Associate Co-Chair)

Katie Alshouse
Janine Birkhimer
Jackie Borgwardt
Alexis Boston
Becky Carter
Chris Collins
Lucas Comstock
Andy Dongarra
Ashlyn Ellefson
Chris Engstrom
Kevin Ferguson
Pam Heineck
Al Herbst
Joe Kruser
Sarah Landherr
Steve Lauber
Preston Laws
Henry Londo
Christopher Maedke
Stephanie Mawhinney
Amanda McCulloch
Sarah McLean
Kelly McPherson
Andrea Mroz
Ryan Naatz
Adam Perkins
Brian Post
Terri Schultz
Brenda Slatter
Shannon Storlie

Join a 2024 Committee by signing up at: scwba.com/committees

COMMITTEE REPORTS

"A quick thanks to Co-chair Tess, Heidi & especially ... all of the committee members for another successful Parade of Homes (POH). The outcome would not have been possible if not for all of the input & hours put forth by the POH committee volunteers. I am very proud that as a committee, we all achieved our goals; especially that of a refreshed & renewed POH. The later September date(s), consolidation to a one-weekend event & daily themes garnered a "thumbs-up" from the participating Builders & our Community Attendees. I am excitedly awaiting to see 2024's committee expand on the passion & inventive ideas of this past year's team. Good luck to the 2024 POH Committee!"

Brian Kaiser
Parade of Homes Co-Chair

Being the Co-Chair on this year's Parade of Homes was so rewarding. We re-invented many aspects of the tour to bring it new life and the outcome was fantastic! I enjoyed getting to know our committee members and was so impressed with how everyone worked together to achieve great success. Looking forward to 2024!!

Tessa Dongarra
Parade of Homes Co-Chair



It's been a pleasure being part of the success of SCWBA in 2023. Our membership committee has worked tirelessly this year to help organize and engage members in events that exemplify the benefits of your membership with SCWBA. I hope seeing our smiling faces has helped make you feel welcome and that the educational and networking experiences have been beneficial. The membership committee looks forward to seeing you in 2024 for more exciting events!

Sara Reque
Membership Co-Chair

Thank you to the wonderful membership committee! We definitely have the most fun meetings. Thank you all for always helping with our great event. These events would not be possible without the planning, set up, check in and clean up everyone pitches for. Over the last few years, our events have been drawing more people in and next year I'm looking forward to see what other ideas we can come up with to draw in even more people! And special thank you to Sara for always having my back and picking up my slack! I appreciate everything you do!

Casandra Wagner
Membership Co-Chair



Thank you to the amazing golf committee! For the last few years, the golf outing has been getting better and better. This is because of all of you! A special thank you to my co chair Amanda for all your amazing ideas and organization!

Casandra Wagner
Golf Committee Co-Chair

Thank you to all the golf committee members for your time and effort to make this event so successful and FUN! We had lots of golfers/members/guests this past year, due in part to all the phone calls made by our group. Next year we hope to build on our efforts to obtain gift baskets for the PAC fund raffle. Those raffle baskets help us meet that fundraising goal. Big thanks also to Heidi for all her hard work on this event. Her attention to detail is always appreciated! I look forward to another great event in 2024!

Amanda Benway
Golf Committee Co-Chair



The 2023 Student build was another success, with a beautiful home in Hamilton Heights built by students from Parker & Craig High Schools under the supervision of Joe Kruser Builder Director. Thanks to General Contractor Naatz Construction, Ryan Naatz for overseeing the project and the many sub-contractors who donated material and time to the building project to SCWBA. The home was finished in May and sold in June. The home owners generously let us showcase the house in the Parade of Homes. Also, the Education Committee awarded 6 scholarships this year. The 2024 Student build house has begun under the guidance of AP Design Adam Perkins in Arbor Ridge Subdivision.

Tom Naatz
Education Committee Chair



COMING UP IN 2024

MORE DETAILS
TO COME

COMING

Young Professionals Council



Gaining Perspective from every angle!

COMING

New Sponsorship Opportunities



Revised sponsorship packages, additional opportunities, pop-up happy hour for all and more!

COMING

Member Education



More education for Builders, Sub-Contractors, AND Associates!

COMING

Expanded Student Build



Adding Multi-District Engagement!

COMING

Scheduled Rotations



Fairness in participation for Student Build Realtors and Title Companies and other Opportunities!

COMING

Quarterly Membership Meetings



With Learning Opportunities and Membership Format!

COMING

New Awards & Incentives



Most Members on a project, Most Member Referrals and More all with monetary incentives!

2024 Event Calendar

Under Construction

Coming in January!

How can you stay dialed in?

- Read your Emails.
- Join the SCWBA Members Facebook Page.
- Check our Website often.

2023 ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Voted by members and Honored
on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner

Being an Associate Member can be a challenge. You may not do current business with a Builder Member. You might feel intimidated by a fellow member in your same field. Putting yourself out there can be scary at times. All of these are prime reasons for you to get involved. Join a committee and share your expertise. Attend membership meetings and events. Make yourself known as a participating member. Put forth effort to make yourself available and show up and be present. Hold yourself accountable for what you put into your association. All of our 2023 nominees do this and more.

- Amanda Benway, Bank of Milton
- Becky Carter, Land Title & Closing Services
- Tessa Dongarra, Cabinet Country
- Joe Kruser, A+ Insulation
- Stephanie Mawhinney, Knight Barry Title
- Kelly McPherson, Realty Executives Premier
- Sara Reque, First Community Credit Union
- Shannon Storlie, Brabazon/Title Team



Our 2023 winner, voted by our membership, co-chairs our membership committee, leads the Ambassador Program, helps host welcome breakfasts and smaller events, is always welcoming to new and potential members, attends nearly every event, and is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed.

A well deserved congratulations to our 2023 Associate Member of the Year, **Sara Reque** with First Community Credit Union.



2023 BUILDER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Voted by Members and Honored
on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner

Builders are the foundation of our association. We have Builder Members that have been involved in SCWBA for many years. Some have been here long before our younger members were even a twinkle in their parent's eyes. They have been through many industry changes and have had to adapt to the ever evolving construction world. They are constantly learning new trends and codes and graciously informing the rest of us. We appreciate each of you for many reasons. Like our Associate Members some of you are members of numerous committees, the Parade of Homes, and the Student Build Program. The following nominees all deserve recognition.

- Ben Egge, Egge Construction
- Lucas Comstock, JC Builders
- Kevin Ferguson, Ferguson Custom Homes
- Brian Kaiser, Kaiser Design/Build
- Tom Naatz, Naatz Construction
- Ryan Naatz, Naatz Construction
- Adam Perkins, AP Designs
- Brian Post, Post Builders
- Doug Scott, Advantage Homes
- Casandra Wagner, Wagner Construction



Our 2023 winner, consistently participates in the Parade of Homes, is a State Life Director, attends State functions and contributes locally relevant input so we can be heard at every level. He previously oversaw advocacy efforts and is passionate about the PAC fund initiatives, leading the silent auction fundraiser for many years.

Congratulations to our 2023 Builder Member of the Year, **Doug Scott** with Advantage Homes.



2023 E.O. AWARDS

Honored on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner

Excellence is not solely achieved by the people and the flashy images everyone sees, front and center, but also by what happens behind the scenes (the heavy lifting) derived from passion and humility. The E.O. Award recognizes Associates and Builders that have each supported the efforts of the E.O., often times behind the scenes where there is minimal recognition, in order to help ensure success in the mission delivery of SCWBA.

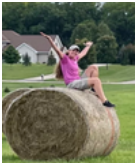
Our Executive Officer awarded four Associate Members and three Builder Members with Emerging Leader Awards. Congratulations to the following Emerging Leaders:

Emerging Associates

- Sarah Landherr
- Stephanie Mawhinney
- Kelly McPherson
- Shannon Storlie

Emerging Builders

- Lucas Comstock
- Ryan Naatz
- Brian Post



For consecutive years of outstanding SCWBA service in various capacities directly supporting the efforts of the Executive Officer.

Our Executive Officer awarded the following honorees with Outstanding Member Awards:

Outstanding Associate:

Becky Carter, Land Title and Closing Services



Outstanding Builder:

Tom Naatz, Naatz Construction





2023 HIGH HONOR AWARDS

Honored on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner

For having served on and chairing various committees, having served on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee multiple times, as former and current President...accepting all of the responsibilities associated with the role. For being a positive and strong leader within our organization. Having done all of this for consecutive years, through even the most challenging of times we are proud to award the 2023 Leadership Award to **Tessa Dongarra**, with Cabinet Country!



This year's Education Award Honoree attends most of our membership meetings and events. He works for one of our long-standing members, giving generously to our Student Build each year, donating thousands of dollars in materials each year as well as consistently sponsoring additional association events. He was instrumental in product research and presentation at our 2023 Building Green Round Table Event. Congratulations to our 2023 Education Award Recipient, **Tony Guthrie** with ABC Supply!



This year's President's Award was a no-brainer. She never misses a meeting or event. She's been a Past President, sits on our Board of Directors, gives worthwhile and thought provoking feedback, she co-chairs our membership committee and the golf outing and serves as a wonderful Ambassador to new members. She helps in every way she can, including always staying to clean up after events. Congratulations to 2023 President's Award Recipient, **Casandra Wagner** with Wagner Construction!

2023 STATE AWARD NOMINATION

Announced on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner



We are proud to announce that one of your fellow members has been nominated by the WBA, along with the support of your Executive Officer, for a “Member of the Year” award.

For service as a State Director, attending meetings and making impactful discussion contributions, and for dedicated and engaged service to your local association, we have nominated Andy Dongarra (Johnson Financial Group) for WBA Associate Member of the Year.

Congratulations Andy!

“Hello everyone,

I wanted to express how honored I am to be named as one of the State Directors by our Board of Directors again for 2024. Having a voice for SCWBA at the state level is a very important thing. Norm Paulson and myself attend and vote on our collective behalf. My door is always open for feedback, comments, suggestions, and opinions that you wish to share with the WBA. I am also very honored to have been nominated by the WBA for Associate of the Year. Just being nominated for such an award at the state level is an honor that I take to the heart. I look forward to a fantastic year ahead and wish you all nothing but success and happiness in 2024.”

Thank you!

Andy Dongarra



2023 NATIONAL AWARD NOMINATION

Announced on December 12th
at our Annual Dinner



SCWBA member, Lucas Comstock (JC Builders), has been nominated for the 2023 NAHB Young Professionals Award. For contributions to your local association, helping with the formation of a Young Professionals Council as a builder member, ensuring that foundation remain for generations to come. we are happy to recognize you as one of our 2023 nominees. Congratulations Lucas!

"I am deeply humbled and grateful for the recognition and outpouring of support from the membership.

Those of you who personally spoke with me at the awards dinner, thank you for your kind words and heartfelt congratulations on the honors given to me that night.

Also thank you to those who I was not able to speak with and/or were not able to attend but took the time to vote and appoint me to represent you as a builder director for our 2024 board of directors.

I am sincerely honored and excited to bring a fresh set of eyes to our association in serving on our board, Not only to bring new ideas and viewpoints but to also uphold and build upon the incredible foundation laid by our long standing members and leaders. Your years of unwavering service to this community and association do not go unnoticed

Being recognized as an emerging leader and the nomination for the NAHB young professional of the year was honestly an unexpected honor that I will hold close to heart this coming year in guiding my thoughts, ideas, and actions in leading by example for the upcoming generations of builders and associates in attempting to fill the very large shoes our mentors will be leaving us to fill.

Coming into the closing of this year, we all as a whole have a lot to be proud and thankful for and I look forward to being a continued part of that by assisting to guide our association into the future."

Thank you all,
Lucas Comstock





YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

Welcome Letter from our Brand New Council

Hello, and Happy Holidays to all!!

We wanted to start off by extending a sincere and heartfelt thank you to each and every member and furthermore our board of directors. Your support in the creation of our new Young Professionals Council is greatly appreciated.

We have hit the ground running after being cleared to create this council and have already had a few official meetings, as well as much conversation and preparation outside of those meetings to set our mission, outline areas within the association we could assist, and set a few goals for the coming year to positively impact our association and our community.

“To provide the next generation of leaders in the home building industry an opportunity to engage in SCWBA. To develop their network, find their people, and sustain lifelong friendships in the industry” is the mission we have outlined for this council. We unanimously feel there is much room for improvement in the networking and sense of community within the next generation of builders and associates. This network and community is the core of our association and one of the greatest member benefits and we are striving to provide opportunities and functions to bridge that gap between our young professionals as well as connecting the next generation to our long standing members to tap into their years of business experience and knowledge before that opportunity is gone.

To put those words into action we have proposed and are actively planning to start with official quarterly general membership meetings. These events are a joint effort between the membership committee and the young professionals council. The first being in March of 2024 with a theme of “Transitions and Exit Strategies”. We are planning to have a speaker and/or a presentation then Q&A during dinner with a short organized and direct meeting to follow. These presentations are proposed to start a conversation and provide information and strategies to our membership, not be a long drawn out training. We will have information available on the quarterly topic for those that are interested in pursuing it further and in more detail.

A couple other responsibilities we are setting out to assist with are;

- To organize and host a Round Table training event that is effective and beneficial to all of the membership. This is to be an improved upon annual event starting in 2025.
- To act as an advisory council to the board of directors to ensure our association is staying current and relevant to the next generation, and to bring a fresh outlook and perspective, making suggestions to further the reach of our association.

For any young professional (up to age 45) looking to get involved with this council and assist with growing this network and making these events happen, we would love for you to join us. Please reach out to either of us or Heidi for more information.

Thank you again, we look forward to serving you!!

Your Young Professionals Council Co-Chairs

Alexis Boston [aboston@bankofmilton.com] and Lucas Comstock [jcbuilds4u.lucas@gmail.com]

OUTGOING 2023 BOARD

~ Thank you for your service!

MEGAN OLEARY
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



Tessa Dongarra
President



Kevin Fanning
President Elect



Eric Scherdell
Treasurer/Secretary



Casandra Wagner
Past President



Heidi Van Kirk
SCWBA, EO



Adam Perkins
Builder Director



Eric Richards
Builder Director



Joe Kruser
Associate Director



Becky Carter
Associate Director



Tom Naatz
State Life Director



Andy Dongarra
State Director



Norm Paulson
State Director



Doug Scott
State Life Director



Bob Sarow
State Life Director



Scott Engelberger
State Life Director

INCOMING 2024 BOARD

~ Welcome and Congratulations!

PRESIDENT..... Tessa Dongarra, Cabinet Country
 PRESIDENT ELECT..... Kevin Fanning, Fanning Construction
 VICE PRESIDENT..... Chris Engstrom, Advantage Homes
 TREASURER..... Eric Scherdell, Summit Accounting
 BUILDER DIRECTOR..... Adam Perkins, AP Designs
 BUILDER DIRECTOR..... Lucas Comstock, JC Builders
 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR..... Jackie Borgwardt, Johnson Financial Group
 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR..... Joe Kruser, A+ Insulation
 STATE DIRECTOR (B)..... Norm Paulson, Paulson Kimball Construction
 STATE DIRECTOR (A)..... Andy Dongarra, Johnson Financial Group
 STATE LIFE DIRECTOR..... Doug Scott, Advantage Homes
 STATE LIFE DIRECTOR..... Tom Naatz, Naatz Construction
 STATE LIFE DIRECTOR..... Bob Sarow, Wellnitz & Sarow
 STATE LIFE DIRECTOR..... Scott Engelberger, Fireplace Professionals



I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

Special thanks to our outgoing Board of Directors and welcome to our incoming Board.

Below are just a few of my favorite photo highlights from our amazing 2023 Association year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~Heidi Van Kirk, SCWBA E.O.

